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Legendary Ipwal mangrove dead or dying due to poor dredge management

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 14, 2020

Ipwal, Sokehs— John Weilbacher, Soulik en Ipwal says that if something is not done soon about the dredge site in his village he will be forced to file a lawsuit against the government. He says that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the necessary government agencies issued a permit for the dredge site but that the permit was issued in April, several months before the law

governing that process was passed. He says that since the dike went up, the lush mangrove forests have been dying due to the waterway being blocked by the dike servicing the dredging operation.

Henry Susaia, Director of EPA said this morning that in November the EPA recommended that the dredge site operators open up the dike to allow water to flow into the west side of the mangrove, which is in fact dying according to a report by the Natural Resources Management Office conducted in November.

On visiting the site late last week and photographing the site we noticed no change in

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Pohnpei legislators adopt resolution requesting Governor to dismiss Director of Health Services and appoint a new Director

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 12, 2020

Pohnpei—On December 4, 2020, the Pohnpei State Legislature adopted a resolution requesting Governor Reed Oliver to begin the process of "restor(ing) the confidence of the people of Pohnpei in their Department of Health Services, beginning with replacing the current Director, Wincener J. David.

The lengthy resolution outlined the Legislature's

motivations for the recommended action. It says that it is incumbent upon the Administration to meet the requirements of the Constitution for continual improvement in health care. "Towards this end, the Department of Health Services has always endeavored to retain a highly qualified corps of medical professionals, including fully trained physicians who are experienced in the specialties of hospital care... unfortunately, recent events have proven that the present Director of the

Department of Health Services is not up to the task," it says.

The resolution claims that the departure of Internist, Dr. Payne Perman and Ophthalmologist, Dr. Padwick Gallen resulted from the current Director's reluctance to negotiate reasonable contracts for the two doctors. The resolution also claims that during the late part of the last fiscal year and the

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Pohnpei Auditor questions PTA's ability to continue as a "going concern" after audit of 2019

Auditor says it has initiated investigation into possible criminal charges

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 13, 2020

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) issued a qualified opinion on the financial statements of the beleaguered Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019. The qualified opinion was due to lack of oversight, insufficient revenues, and its inability to pay for a long overdue liability to the State Government.

"The situation indicates that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on PTA's ability to continue as a going concern," it said. "Also PTA did not disclose to the auditors one of the sites where its dyke inventory were being mined/dredged. Thus the auditors did not observe and confirm the inventory of dykes, if any, at this particular time."

PTA's operating revenues for the year were \$1,206,737, a decrease of 18 percent, or \$256,564 compared to prior fiscal year of \$1,463,301. At the same time, operating expenses increased by 4 percent or \$63,887 from \$1,742,051 to \$1,805,938. 44 percent of the total operating expenses were for payroll related costs. The cost of Supplies and Materials decreased by \$91,363 and Petroleum Oil and Lubricants expenses increased from \$233,673 to \$251,604 for the year.

The net loss for the 2019 fiscal year was \$599,202, and increase of 115 percent or \$320,451 compared to prior year's loss. The amount owing to the Pohnpei State Government General Fund increased by 4 percent or \$57,621 from \$1,623,344 to \$1,680,965.

The audit cited five findings, three of them material weaknesses in the internal control over financial reporting and two that are material non-compliances with applicable laws. In POPA's cover letter to Midion G. Neth, Chairman of PTA's Board of Directors, Iso Ihlen K. Joseph, the State Public Auditor wrote that as a result of the audit POPA has initiated an investigation into allegations of possible fraud and abuse of power by PTA's management and/or employees. "The details of the matters are deemed confidential information and therefore have been omitted from the report," he wrote. "The case(s) have not been filed in the Pohnpei Supreme Court and the outcome is unknown."

The findings POPA listed are significant. It entitled the first finding,

"Improper Dealing and Arrangements", saying that during the audit it found arrangements and dealings involving the use of PTA resources that were not in line with acceptable government rules, procedures, and/or good business practices.

It listed several examples:

It said that PTA entered into an arrangement with a public official who holds a dredging permit to conduct dredging activity at Sapwohn, Sokehs. No written agreement was in place. Because PTA did not disclose the arrangement with auditors it had no way to inspect that location in order to determine inventory, if any. Auditors said they found an instance where coral sand was delivered free of charge to a private individual at the instruction of the public official. A similar service would have cost a regular customer about \$300.

POPA also found that though PTA did not have a valid dredging permit, it paid royalty fees of \$10,326 for the months of March, April, and May of 2019.

It found that PTA had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with one local private construction company for mining and dredge services. In it they agreed that PTA would use its construction equipment and personnel to dredge, transport, and excavate dykes situated in Danpei, Sokehs in return for 50 percent of the dykes dredged from the site. PTA could not produce any documents showing that the returns it received justified the costs. The MOU was suddenly rescinded on May 29, 2020.

Newly confirmed PTA Commissioner Welsen Panuel wrote in his response that PTA is no longer dealing with privately owned dredging sites and that PTA now holds a valid dredging permit for Paliapailon, Kitti dredge site. He writes that all roads projects are supported with Advice of Allotment or Contracts, but says that in some cases, PTA proceeds with the projects while the paper work is in process. "PTA management is determined to collect all project billing in due time," he wrote.

He wrote that PTA management has identified weaknesses in the procurement of materials and supplies and that in order to prevent losses, has designated one person to be trusted to obtain or receive supplies and services from local vendors. The supplies will be kept in the newly installed containers at PTA Palikir plant for safekeeping and

will be issued only upon approval by the Commissioner. A warehouseman will be in charge of safekeeping of tools and equipment.

The second finding was that "management and internal control weaknesses resulted in serious irregularities." It said that it found that management has not improved since earlier audits which found similar instances.

It found:

- Seven fixed asset items in the total amount of \$226,425 were not capitalized and included in the Property, Plant and Equipment account
- Depreciation expense was not recorded for depreciable assets.
- Thirty one instances of misclassification of accounts,
- Payables amounting to \$114,700 that were not properly authorized and recorded and were therefore not paid on time.

It found instances of improper procurement processes. Of the thirty three samples reviewed, auditors found four instances where invoices from vendors were dated before Purchase Orders. One of those was a charge of \$6,257 from a bar purportedly for PTA's Christmas party. "More than half or \$3,527 of the charge was for drinks including alcoholic beverages which seems unreasonable and irresponsible spending considering PTA's financial situation," it said.

POPA found two instances where PTA purchased items from private individuals although supporting documents did not adequately justify the selection. It found twelve instances where invoices were not attached to the check vouchers; 22 instances where receiving reports were not prepared or attached to the check vouchers; and three instances where price quotations were not prepared or attached to the check vouchers.

Under the same second finding it found faulty processing and mishandling of cash sales. A sampling of 50 cash receipts found an instance where a cash receipt was used twice. The first use of the receipt issued from the Department of Treasury and Administration was for a legitimate purchase. The second receipt was altered to reflect a different cash sale of coral sand. The money from that transaction was received by an employee of PTA and was never turned in or deposited at State Finance.

It found 22 instances where Job Orders were not attached to cash receipts. There were nine instances where goods or services were sold but Job Orders were not signed by the Commissioner. There were seven instances where Job Orders were not signed by the customer to evidence receipt of ordered goods or services. Several skipped and unused Pro-Forma invoices were not voided to prevent misuse.

Commissioner Panuel responded that all entries in the books of PTA were posted by Pohnpei State Finance staff members. He wrote that all PTA customers are directed to pay at Pohnpei State Finance and that he has shut down some accounts and directed that all accounting transactions must be supported with a valid and verifiable supporting document.

The third finding in the PTA audit was "Poor Management of Payroll Resulted in Unjustified and Illegitimate Payments to Employees. I found that there were no supporting documents for overtime hours. There were six instances where overtime hours paid were different from the approved time sheet. There were instances where the Commissioner verbally authorized sixteen hours of overtime bonus in the timesheets although employees did not actually work, and overtime differential pays to employees exceed the maximum rate allowed by law. There were also many discrepancies regarding annual and sick leaves resulting in overpayments to employees.

Commissioner Panuel responded that the PTA accountant is in charge of payroll processing and that he has instructed the security guard to log in the time in and out of all employees assigned at the plant and main office. He wrote that annual and sick leave hours will start upon the effective date of the contracts and that all sick leave requests will be approved by the Commissioner. He wrote that all sick leave requests for more than one day will be required to be accompanied by a doctor's slip. The accountant is in charge of monitoring the leave balances of each employee, and that employee overtime requests must be submitted to the Commissioner for approval.

The last two findings in the audit had to do with the lack of recorded minutes for Board Meetings and many unresolved prior year's audit findings. Commissioner Panuel assured the auditor that the matters will be resolved.

...Ipwal Mangrove

Continued from front page

the dike nor in the withering mangrove on the west side of the dike.

“They’re supposed to open it up,” he said. When asked what would happen if the operators did not open it up he said that EPA would have to file charges. That has not yet happened.

The dike is situated in the Daw Kerebw channel, a natural channel that legend says was carved out by Kihel, an ancient and massive lizard of lore.

Weilbacher says that his primary concern is the number of trees in the mangrove that have already died and the ones that are currently choking to death but that there are other concerns as well. One of them is that he says access to the channel by boats for residents to reach the ocean in order to continue to earn their livelihood is barred by the dike. He says another concern is the selling of the coral which he calls the community’s shared property.

Weilbacher is also disappointed in the actions of legislators on the matter. He claimed that early this year Senators from Pohnpei State Legislature met with traditional and municipal leaders of Sokehs and told them that before any legislation was passed on a dredging bill they would hold public hearings. Weilbacher claims that if the Pohnpei Legislature held public hearings on the bill they passed a few weeks later, none of the people present at the meeting at the Sohehs Municipality received any notice of any.

Susaia says that EPA has been checking progress at the dredge site on a weekly basis but could not provide a status report on activities there.

“Ipwal mangrove forest is the thickest forest on the northern side of the Sokehs Island (Pwahpwahlik) and it should not be allowed to be dredged or disturbed,” the report by the Natural Resources Management Office said. “Nonetheless, a dredging permit was awarded to the proponent, Mr. Joseph Ferdinand which [gave] him the right to pick any company of his interest to task for implementing the dredging operation. As a result of not considering all the recommendations and conditions provided by assessment

parties, especially the Natural Resources Management Office...they dredged the area...causing excessive dieback in the mangroves. They block[ed] the natural waterway at the left side of the dike going out to the reefs and trap[ped] the water inside the system. The circulation is limited [which] leaves the rooting system of those mangrove plant species to start to rot causing dieback.”

The Natural Resource Management Office report says that it had recommended that the area not be dredged but “if by any chance they are given permission to dredge, not to block the mouth of the streams and waterways...”

“The Natural Resource Management Office strongly recommends that the proponent and contractor should open up the waterway to allow the normal circulation of the water to start flowing again. Moreover, we also advise that permitting parties [should] start considering the conditions provided by the assessment teams from the NRM Office to stop this poorly engineered action from happening again.”

...Health Services

Continued from front page

early part of this fiscal year, a number of employment contracts for essential medical personnel were due to be renewed, “yet negotiations between Wincener J. David and the respective medical personnel have failed to bear fruit, resulting in departures and employment encumbrances of these crucial members of the medical staff...”

The Legislature essentially accused David of lying to them during a committee hearing on November 6 when he told them that all outstanding employment contracts for staff which needed to be renewed had been successfully negotiated, agreed upon and signed-off by the Department of Health Services. The resolution says that on November 12 the Legislature discovered that the testimony was not accurate since there were several outstanding employment contracts for crucial medical staff that had not yet been executed.

It says that through formal hearings and numerous patient and personnel complaints, the Legislature learned of a “rising level of morale problems amongst staff at the Department of Health

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Services, engendered by the shortage of medical personnel and low levels of compensation, which are largely attributable to the recalcitrance exhibited by the Director in his management of (the) Department(s) personnel...”

The Legislature discovered that the depleted ranks of medical professionals has resulted in the condition of the hospital often having only one physician on hand per shift to cover both emergency and in-patient and out-patient calls. It says that the end result is that patients, especially those in out-patient care, routinely wait for hours before they are ultimately seen by the solitary physician on duty.

The resolution links the current state of morale and confidence in the Department of Health to the ongoing COVID-19 state of emergency in Pohnpei, pointing out that while it is important for the hospital to be fully staffed at normal times, it is all the more important as FSM considers repatriating Pohnpeian residents from Guam. “It has become well known to the leadership of our State that our people are in the process of losing and may, indeed, have already lost their confidence in the ability of the Department of Health Services to meet even their most basic medical needs, much less come to their rescue in the time of a global pandemic that could hit our shores with devastating effects at any time...”

The resolution accuses David as having been “remiss insofar as fulfilling the attendant duties required of his Department”, both in terms of the currently deteriorating public relations between the Department and the citizens of Pohnpei, but also by allowing the levels of critically needed personnel to drop to unserviceable levels. It also points to low hospital staff morale as a failing of the Director.

The final words of the resolution are

directed toward Governor Oliver. “The Pohnpei Legislature recognizes that the Governor of Pohnpei is the highest executive leader of this State who is responsible for the faithful execution of the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of Pohnpei and for the efficient operations of the agencies and institutions of government; and whereas, the Pohnpei Legislatures also recognizes that history does not look kindly on those in Leadership positions who attempt to maintain an aura of neutrality in times of moral crisis; and whereas the Pohnpei Legislatures is of the firm mind that there should be no hesitation on the part of the Governor to step in and put an end to this crisis; for the time for affirmative gubernatorial action is now upon the State...”

The Legislature resolved to request “the Governor of Pohnpei to restore the confidence of the people of Pohnpei in their Department of Health Services by re-instating the full complement of medical professionals assigned to the Pohnpei Hospital and re-establishing the morale of the personnel working with the Department through the initiation of new leadership for the management of the Department.” It further resolved “that in order to accomplish this goal and thereby protect the safety and overall welfare of our people; especially those in need of the health care, medical treatment and therapeutic services, we humbly implore the Honorable Reed B. Oliver, Governor of the State of Pohnpei to utilize the authority of his Office to replace the current Director of the Department of Health Services, Wincener J. David, with all deliberate speed and to promptly fill the vacant position with a new appointee who is fully committed to work fairly with all parties to restore the Department to its full capacity and equally devoted to raise the standards of the Department to its full potential.”



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Yolanda Joab Mori joins Blue Prosperity Micronesia as Program Coordinator

FSM Information Services/Blue Prosperity Micronesia

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Blue Prosperity Micronesia continues to grow, with the hiring of Island PRIDE Micronesia's founder Yolanda Joab Mori as the Blue Prosperity Micronesia

Program Coordinator. A long-time community organizer and activist, Yolanda brings her extensive experience to plan, guide, and implement program activities, as well as serve as the Secretariat to the newly established National Task Force for Blue Prosperity Micronesia.

Yolanda most recently served as His Excellency David W. Panuelo's Advocate on Climate Change. She has also been a keynote speaker at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the World Forum on Natural Capital, the United Nations ECOSOC Youth Forum, the United Nations High Level Political Forum, and is an alumnus of the inaugural Obama Foundation Leaders Program for the Asia-Pacific. Yolanda has worked on community-based Climate Change adaptation and education initiatives, with foci on women and youth engagement across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) for ten years, and presently and serves on the Board for the United Nations Major Group on Children & Youth.

"As we continue to deal with Climate Change and its impacts on land and sea," Yolanda said, "Initiatives such as this are becoming more and more critical. Through Blue Prosperity Micronesia, we can show that sustainability and prosperity don't have to be mutually exclusive—both can co-exist, and even strengthen each other. My hope is that Blue Prosperity Micronesia will weave together both our own important traditional values rooted in guardianship, and reciprocity, with the innovative technical support of our partners, in a way that allows us to thrive today while leaving a legacy for our children that we can all be proud of."

The addition of Yolanda to Blue Prosperity Micronesia comes approximately one year after the FSM National Government



and the Blue Prosperity Coalition signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Building on targets from the Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, and the Micronesia Challenge, the program will fully protect 30% of the FSM's waters, develop strategies for sustainable economic wellbeing, and improve fisheries management. Blue Prosperity Micronesia will work with National and State governments to develop Blue Economy strategies for the islands, as well as create Marine Spatial Plans for offshore and nearshore waters. Yolanda's addition to the team brings added capacity and connection to ensure program goals support the needs of the Nation's citizens. "Yolanda has a unique connection with all four states of the FSM," said William Kostka, Director of Micronesia Conservation Trust, a founding member of Blue Prosperity Micronesia. "Her dedication to highlighting the voices of women and the most vulnerable members of our communities, as well as uplifting the role of traditional knowledge in large-scale projects, will help ensure this program moves forward with community needs and priorities at the center."

"Yolanda Joab Mori is the real deal," President Panuelo said in a statement. "I previously selected her to be my Advocate on Climate Change because, aside from being vibrant, passionate, articulate, educated, intelligent, enthusiastic, persuasive, and awe-inspiring, her genuine concern for this existential threat, combined with her resolve to take actions today for our Nation's prosperity tomorrow, make Yolanda the superlative example of a leader willing and able to take on this immense challenge. I am honored and proud to have her on board as Blue Prosperity Micronesia's Program Coordinator."

Public education on proposed constitutional amendments deferred until further notice; President Panuelo suggests a special referendum after the March 2021 election

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On December 4th, 2020, following consultations with President of the 4th Constitutional Convention (ConCon) of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Honorable Redley Killion Sr., and the Speaker of the 21st FSM Congress, the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the FSM—informed the Governors of the States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae that public education on proposed Constitutional Amendments will be delayed until further notice.

The reasons for the delay in the public education process are legalistic, logistical, and public health-oriented in nature.

On the legalistic and logistical side, while the 4th FSM ConCon has indeed passed two proposed Constitutional Amendments for the public at large to vote on—one regarding the threshold required to amend the Constitution, and another allowing FSM citizens to obtain dual citizenship with a foreign country—the 4th FSM ConCon itself has not yet concluded its business due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. President Panuelo, President of the 4th FSM ConCon Killion, and Speaker Simina agree that it is plausible, perhaps even quite likely, that additional proposed amendments will be passed by the 4th FSM ConCon; if so, questions arise regarding how to ensure the public is well-informed in advance of the proposed Constitutional Amendments, and further questions arise regarding the logistical implementation of including all of these Amendments in a fair and transparent ballot process.

On the public health side, while the FSM remains COVID-19 free, both the National and State Governments recommend social distancing, and should the FSM become a COVID-19 infected country then the President's Social Distancing Decree will take immediate effect. It is the view of

the FSM National Government that conducting broad interstate and intrastate travel for the purpose of public education on proposed Constitutional Amendments is in direct opposition to the Government's public health directives of encouraging social distancing. While a wide and vocal body of the public has access to the internet and radio, a substantial body of the public does not have access to these materials, and a smaller but not inconsequential percentage are adept at using their native language but may not have the requisite capacity in English to make use of informational materials in that language. Therefore, a successful public education process requires virtually every village to be visited in person, with informational materials developed for the language or dialect of that village, and such visitations are not recommended until the COVID-19 Condition Level is raised to Level Five (i.e. "No Threat").

"What the Executive Branch has recommended in collaboration with the Congress and the ConCon," President Panuelo said in a statement, "Is to hold a Special Referendum on ALL proposed Constitutional Amendments once the 4th FSM ConCon concludes its business, and to devote all public education resources, personnel, and processes towards that Special Referendum. We're not canceling the vote on the proposed amendments, and we're not canceling the ConCon; we're simply delaying the public education component on proposed Constitutional Amendments until we know what all of them are, and until it's safe for large groups of people to travel around the Nation for this purpose."

President Panuelo's letter to President Killion, in addition to the amended Executive Order, may be found here: http://gov.fm/files/Presidential%20Orders/Dec__4_2020-Ltr_to_Killion_Re_EO_Delaying_Public_Education_and_Awareness_Initiative_on_Proposed_Amendments_FSMConcon_1.pdf

Government of Japan provides cash for bathroom renovations at Palikir Elementary School



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 10, 2020

Pohnpei—In a short ceremony at the Embassy of Japan in Kolonia, Pohnpei this afternoon, Ambassador Sobashima Hidenobu turned over a grant of a maximum

of \$76,693 to Palikir Elementary School under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects of the Government of Japan.

“Children will be the leaders of tomorrow,” Ambassador Sobashima said. “They are the gemstones to be polished by education to become jewels.”

He said that Palikir Elementary School currently has 246 female students and 288 male students. It also has 23 teachers and staff members. However, currently there is only one bathroom to service the entire school population, resulting in long queues and the possibility of health concerns. Further, the walkway to the restrooms is not covered causing an inconvenience during times of rain.

The grant will cover the renovation of three restrooms and their 15 flush toilets and 14 sink basins, renovation of the drainage ditch of 110.33 meters, and the construction of walkways with roofs between the restrooms and the classroom buildings.

Though Pohnpei Governor Reed Oliver was present at the ceremony, Director of the Pohnpei Department of Education, Stanley Etse spoke on his behalf, thanking the Ambassador and the people of Japan for the generous donation of funds. Francisco Ifamilik, Principal of the Palikir Elementary School was also present at the ceremony.

Request for Expression of Interest



The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia’s National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward an **COMPLIANCE CONSULTANT** to be working with FSM NORMA in Pohnpei, FSM.

OBJECTIVE & SCOPE OF WORK

The objective of the assignment is to progress FSM’s capacity in fisheries compliance with particular focus on port state measures (PSM) and data analysis in line with the newly adopted Fisheries Compliance Strategy (FCS) through development of policies, guidelines, SOPs, and training materials including delivery of advice, training and mentoring. The Compliance Consultant shall report to the NORMA Executive Director and shall undertake the tasks and activities in close consultation with NORMA including its other relevant consultants, the DoJ and relevant State agencies. The Compliance Consultant will be responsible for a range of tasks and activities including:

Consolidate relevant information and prepare a Port State Measures (PSM) National and State operational needs and capacity assessment; undertake State and National consultations and research to develop PSM implementing guidelines and a SOP template for State PSM implementation; develop a PSM (entity-based) risk assessment process; and finalize PSM implementing guidelines and a SOP template for State PSM implementation and PSM (entity-based) risk assessment process. Develop and implement data analysis policy and guidelines for NORMA and the FSM Department of Justice (DoJ) including to support the compliance risk-assessment process, PSM, administrative penalty implementation and investigations; develop and implement one-to-one training and mentoring Teaching/Learning Materials (TLM) to strengthen NORMA and the DoJ’s data analysis capacity; and deliver the TLM and data analysis capacity development to the DoJ.

Develop recommendations on PSM training needs and develop approaches to meet these needs including: train the trainer TLM; and identifying regional training opportunities.

The Compliance Consultant will also provide advice/support to NORMA and its working groups.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. Advanced degree in marine policy, fisheries science, fisheries management and/or natural resources management or other qualifications

relevant to the demands of the role and / or minimum of 15 years’ demonstrated progressive experience in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), compliance and enforcement measures; previous experience directly working in a fisheries compliance or enforcement role.

2. Demonstrated extensive experience in: fisheries data analysis and investigation; in developing and implementing compliance risk based processes; in the application of compliance theory and developing compliance and/ or MCS strategies preferably including voluntary compliance initiatives; and in developing and delivering PSM trainings.

3. Excellent written and spoken English skills; demonstrated strategic thinking, research and analytical skills.

4. Working knowledge of FSM stakeholders, natural resource management and/or oceanic fisheries with oceanic fisheries experience in the Pacific is a plus.

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND REMUNERATION:

Payments for services will be made as lump sums against specific deliveries based on the table in Appendix I and based on number of days actually worked. The consultancy will be expected to allocate 3-person months over a nine-month period commencing in January 2021. Cost of consultancy services is based on regional market rate and qualifications. Payments for pre-approved travel and travel related expenses will be made on the submission of an invoice.

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 or resume, c) relevant support Degrees/Certificates and d) Name & current working contact of 3 referees. This position will remain open UNTIL FILLED but applications submission is preferable by December 25.

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, Executive Director, NORMA FSM National Government,
2nd floor of Ambros Building, PO Box 122 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941
Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5181,
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Getting the message Linking Communities and Early Warnings in FSM

Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS)

Access to timely and accurate information is one of the most important parts of the early warning process. But what happens if you live in a remote part of the world, with limited access to mobile telephones, television, radio and the internet? What happens if you are not sure where to get information, or who you can trust to provide you with the right information?

This was a challenge facing the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the American Red Cross (AmRC), who have been implementing a community resilience program in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) since 2016. The Micronesia Community Resilience and Capacity Development (MCRCD) project has been working to reduce the number of deaths and injuries and lessen the negative socioeconomic impact caused by climate-related disasters (e.g. typhoons) and environmental degradation in vulnerable Micronesian islands. Part of the project has focused on building community resilience through the strengthening of community disaster management mechanisms, including early warning systems (EWS).

“Communications and access to information are fundamental elements of community resilience. And they are also critical parts of the early warning process, which is so important and literally can mean the difference between life and death in emergency situations,” says Hans Skilling, Coordinator of MCRS Kosrae Chapter in FSM. “So when we had the opportunity to work with the American Red Cross on the MCRCD project, which has a strong focus on early warning systems, we really wanted to make sure our community partners were connected and in control of the information that is available in the FSM.”

“We don’t work in every community in the FSM, so it didn’t make sense for us to create an elaborate system that would only be used in a few places - early warning systems need to be consistent across the whole state or country. But strengthening an early warning system is not always about upgrading technology and sometimes the most effective and simple things to do is to make sure everyone in the community knows where to go or who to talk to for that critical information,” said Hans. “So we have worked

closely with the communities, the local disaster management committees and the Disaster Coordination Offices to improve what was already in place and strengthen that link between communities and the existing early warning mechanisms.”

To do this, MRCS, AmRC and community partners have painted a series of colourful murals across 15 communities, illustrating the critical information from each community’s disaster response plan. Information displayed in the murals include the traditional warning signs to look out for, such as wind, tide patterns, animal movements, what the existing government disaster warning service is and how and when to access it (FM and handheld radios radios), where the key meeting and evacuation points are and who to speak to for more information. The murals also identify focal points for women and people with disabilities - a new inclusion to the community disaster plans following a community led review of the plans facilitated by the MCRCD project. Following the installation of the murals, the 15 communities took part in a series of disaster drills to test out the processes and make sure the information flow is working properly.

“Having the murals on display has made it easier for us to remember what needs to happen on our island when there is a disaster,” said Mr. Katoisy Ununno, from Romolum island in Chuuk. “It sticks in my mind because I see the painting every day when I walk home from the dock. And it is so colourful, it makes me happy when I walk past, knowing that this is reminding us all of what we need to do to stay safe.”

Funded by USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), the Micronesia Community Resilience and Capacity Development project has been supporting communities in FSM since 2016. Now in its second phase of implementation, the MCRCD project is supporting communities across five key areas: Increasing the resilience of communities; Strengthening the resilience of schools; Replanting coastal vegetation such as mangroves and pandanus; Improving and reinforcing community water and sanitation infrastructure; and Strengthening the capacity of MRCS staff and volunteers to respond to disasters.

Request for Expression of Interest

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward an ACCOUNTING SYSTEM CONSULTANT to be working with FSM NORMA in Pohnpei, FSM.

OBJECTIVE & SCOPE OF WORK

The objective of the assignment is to identify, supply, design or customize and implement an appropriate off-the-shelf accounting system that will enable quick and easy reconciling by NORMA staff of the Authority's funds with the FSM Government's Department of Finance & Administration (DF&A) accounting system where the official accounting and documents are maintained. The Accounting System Consultant shall report to the Deputy Director and undertake the following illustrative activities:

- Provide implementation work plan or methodology with budget that results in the project delivered on time and within budget.
- Assess NORMA accounting needs based on DoF&A "FundWare" system, NORMA operations/accounting requirements, FSM Government requirements through group or one-on-one consultations with NORMA and DF&A staff.
- Analyze, deliver, customize and implement an industry standard, well established, off-the-shelf Accounting System like Quickbooks or similar software that will enable the NORMA staff to record its financial transactions, reconcile transactions with the DF&A system and meet its financial reporting requirements. Possible priority functions are that the system should allow for budget management, revenue and management/observer fees invoicing and receipting, tracking of observer bonds of clients, reconciling and reporting on all such financial transactions or Funds within NORMA;
- Assist/Advice NORMA Information Management/IT staff with accounting expertise to enable integration of system with other modules in the NORMA information management system as needed.
- Provide sufficient oversight and individual attention to NORMA to successfully implement a System that mirrors the accounting/recording at DF&A to allow for easier periodic reconciliation and reporting of accounts;
- Facilitate end-user change management strategies and other issues, to successfully deliver and roll-out the System, including recommending and implementing measures where there are challenges found; Prepare and provide



technical and end-user documentation and training including troubleshooting of system for 30 days following roll-out to ensure stability of system, modules and features;

g. Provide knowledge transfer to NORMA-assigned end-user personnel for the system through adequate training, mentoring, and/or documentation; and Support the business process changes by facilitating meetings to discuss process changes, conducting training, and delivering end-user and technical documentation on the System.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Consultant must be formally qualified in accounting, business administration or related field; have a minimum of five years work experience with accounting software and systems such as those used by Government, businesses, and small agencies.
- The consultant must have demonstrable experience in successfully undertaking organizational needs analysis with setting up of accounting systems for such organizations.
- Working knowledge of FSM Government financial management and of relevant stakeholders is desirable.

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND REMUNERATION:

Payments for services will be made as lump sums against specific deliveries and based on number of days actually worked. The consultancy will be for a period of 6 months commencing in January 2021 and consultant is expected to commit two person-months to deliver outputs.

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 or resume, c) relevant support Degrees/Certificates and d) Name & current working contact of 3 referees. This Consultancy will remain open UNTIL FILLED but applications submission is preferable by December 25, 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, Executive Director,
NORMA, FSM National Government,
2nd floor of Ambros Building, PO Box 122,
Kolonias, Pohnpei, FM 96941
Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5 181,
Email: info@norma.fm Copy to crawford.nimea@norma.fm

Kuop Atoll, Uman, Chuuk opening ceremony

On Tuesday, November 17, 2020, the landowners of Ipis in Kuop Atoll (Moses family) from Uman, Chuuk, held an opening ceremony (Efinun) for the Kuop Conservation Project Guardhouse. Despite the bad weather and great distance to Kuop, there was good turnout with many of the people from Uman going out over the weekend and staying until the ceremony on Tuesday. The ceremony was attended by representatives from Legislature (Acting President of Senate, the Honorable Nelson Stephen; House R&D Chair, Junior Nomau; and, Senator Wisney Nakayama); Director of the Chuuk Department of Marine Resources, Curtis Graham and Deputy Director, Binasto Ruben; Director of Visitors Bureau, Douglas Marar; Director of the Registrar of Corporations, Inson Namper; Governor's Office representative, Janet Sisam; Department of Agriculture representative, Joakim Wasan; Chuuk Conservation Society Director, Marcellus Akapito as well as officials and traditional leaders from Uman Municipality. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 restrictions, representatives of Seacology and the Micronesia Conservation Trust, who financed the project, and some of the other partners were not able to travel to Chuuk for the ceremony. The Kuop MPA is now officially declared by the landowners and the traditional chief. A joint enforcement agreement between the Department of Marine Resources and the land/resource owners will continue moving forward and community consultations to finalize the draft management plan and MOU are underway. Seacology, a US based private foundation, provided a grant in the amount of \$35,000 to support this vital conservation program in Chuuk. Kuop is one of FSM's largest Marine Protected Areas with a size of 10,583 hectares. The no-take reserve area will provide protection for local fisheries, corals, turtles and sharks and will play a vital role in ensuring that Chuuk's unique resources are managed effectively for the resource owners and people of Chuuk now, and for generations to come.



UNICEF supports partnership of DoHSA and FSMTC to brand Mobile Recharge Cards with COVID-19 messages

UNICEF

PALIKIR Pohnpei----
On November 15, 2020, FSM Telecommunication Corporations (FSMTC) began retailing to customers the highly anticipated \$5 denominated prepaid Tel-Cards which carry key messages and precautionary behaviors for preventing COVID-19. The initiative, supported by UNICEF, is a new partnership between the Department of Health and Social Affairs (DoHSA) and FSMTC, which aims at further increasing awareness about COVID-19 preventative measures.

"The FSM is always on the lookout for effective avenues to share useful information with the general public and so I believe putting messages on mobile telephone scratch cards is another innovative way of helping reach our communities with COVID-19 preventive messages. I cannot describe how appreciative we are to UNICEF for their continued support in the country's COVID-19 preparedness and response; and of course, we are grateful to FSMTC for helping get these cards into the community," said Mr. Quincy Lawrence.

Mr. Sebastian Tairuweyip, a regular customer of FSMTC upon seeing the new scratch card designs for the first time said, "In fact the cards are so beautiful; they have messages that can be reminding people about how to stop the spread of diseases like COVID-19. Everyone must play their part for a better tomorrow."

Given that one of the most important and effective interventions in the current COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response is proactive communication and community engagement, the Department of Health Services of Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae States have been vigorously implementing various strategies and methods to ensure the population get the right messages at the right time in order to protect particularly the most vulnerable.

The Chief of UNICEF Micronesia Field Office Mr. Cromwell Bacareza underscored UNICEF's commitment to supporting innovative ways of communicating and engaging with the public for social and behavior change. He said, "We are particularly excited about the fact that the key COVID-19 preventive messages have been printed on the \$5 recharge card, which seems to be the most patronized card value by customers and thus would help us reach majority of the people with lifesaving messages."

Informing populations about the health

risks posed by COVID-19, as well as measures they can take to protect themselves, is key to mitigating spread and reducing the risk of people getting infected. Providing accurate information using the most effective channels can help to make decisions and adopt appropriate behaviors to protect themselves and their loved ones from diseases such as COVID-19.



Ms. Patricia Jack-Jossien accepts post as the new NFC President/CEO

National Fisheries Cooperation (NFC)

The FSM NFC made history on November 27, 2020 when its Board of Directors voted Ms. Patricia Jack-Jossien to be the first ever female President/CEO of the Corporation in its 30 years of business. The post was vacated due to the untimely passing of the late Hon. Peter Sitan. As a country, we ought to be proud of Jack-Jossien's achievement as FSM is working hard towards achieving gender equality. There are certain fields of

profession that are predominantly male employees let alone leadership capacity and the fisheries sector is certainly one.

Jack-Jossien was previously working with the Parties to the Nauru Agreement at the PNA Office for almost eight (8) years prior to her accepting the post of Vice-President of NFC during Sitan's term in office. She was made interim President/CEO until her new appointment on November 27, 2020.

The NFC Board's work is commended for this historic moment for the Corporation and the FSM as a whole. Congratulations to the Board and the new NFC President/CEO Jack-Jossien,

who reflects:

"It is with great honor and privilege that I accept this new post as the new NFC President/CEO. I want to thank the late Hon. Peter Sitan for acknowledging my potential in the area of fisheries to recruit me back to FSM from Majuro. My heartfelt gratitude to the Board of NFC for your confidence in me to carry on the great work that Sitan left off. I'm also thrilled to have broken the glass ceiling in this field for the Corporation and the FSM. My achievement is not only for me and my family but as a nation where we should encourage both contributions of men and women to continue to develop our great nation..."

Promoting positive behaviors through art: Micronesia Red Cross Society youth champion COVID-19 public awareness

Art is one of the most powerful means for communication as it transcends cultures and creates bridges between people.

Amidst the threat posed by the COVID-19 to the world including the FSM, the Micronesia Red Cross Society youth and the Department of Health and Social Affairs (DoHSA), supported by UNICEF have joined forces in an effort to use art through painting of Water Tanks to sensitize communities about COVID-19 prevention and positive behavioral practices.

Prevention remains the mainstay in defeating the COVID-19 epidemic.

About COVID-19

COVID-19 is an infectious viral disease which is transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. A person can be infected by breathing in the virus if he/she is within close proximity of someone who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then his/her eyes, nose or mouth. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, dry cough, difficulty breathing and tiredness.

The simplest measures to reduce exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 include maintaining basic hand and respiratory hygiene like frequently washing hands with soap; covering the mouth or nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; and avoiding close contact by maintaining physical distancing of at least 6 feet away.



Mia Sandra Ishsi (left) Rochelle Marques (right) of Micronesia Red Cross Society partners with the Department of Health and Social Affairs supported by UNICEF to carry out Water Tank painting to raise awareness about key behaviors to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in communities. Provision of the Water Tanks and the painting was made possible through the generosity of USAID. ©Photo credit: Cromwell Bacareza.

Winning entries for FSM Tuna Day contests

NORMA

On behalf of the FSM National Government, FSM NORMA is proud to announce the winners of the virtual contests conducted as part of celebratory awareness activities for FSM National Tuna Day, which was on May 02, 2020. Three contests were launched on World Tuna Day targeting the youth of FSM: A Music Audio/Video contest; An Essay Contest with two age categories; and a Drawing Contest with three age categories. FSM NORMA Board and Management thank all the contestants from the FSM States as well as from overseas that participated. Entries of some of the winners listed below will be featured on the NORMA website at www.norma.fm.

DRAWING CONTEST

Category 1 (Ages 6-9)
First Prize - Rochelle Lowe
Second Prize - Hope Haimin
Third Prize - Serenity Haimin
Fourth Prize - Mateo Preston Porter

Category 2 (Ages 10-13)
First Prize - Remainson Amaraich
Second Prize - Chad Ben Lebehn
Third Prize - DeAnne I. Ehmes
Fourth Prize - Desumi Tia Fredrick
Fifth Prize - Gerard E.D. Fiqueras

Category 3 (Ages 14 and up)
First Prize - Mulan Talley
Second Prize - Nadley M. Yow
Third Prize - RaiRai Skilling
Fourth Prize - Charlie Itaki
Fifth Prize - Sam Jr. Petrus

ESSAY CONTEST

Category 1 (ages 14 – 17).
First Prize - Mercedes OLTER
Second Prize - Frances SHARMA
Third Prize - Cindy HUANG
Fourth Prize - Shantelle PONAPART
Fifth Prize - Chance SIGRAH

Category 2 (ages 18 – 21).
First Prize - Shanalin LEE LING
Second Prize - Kadari IOANIS
Third Prize - Jarity JAMES
Fourth Prize - Mayren WICHEP

MUSIC AUDIO/VIDEO CONTEST

One Category open to all ages.
First Prize - Timothy RUDA
Second Prize - Andreas RAYPHAND
Third Prize - Calvin APIS

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **TAISHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan, of 24-1, Takada 3-Chome, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the sole owner and proprietor of the trademark below:

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tonics[medicines]; vitamin preparations; nutritional preparations for medical use; nutritional additives for medical purposes; nutritional supplements for medical purposes; food supplements for medical purposes; drugs for medical purposes; dental materials; bracelets for medical purposes; oiled paper for medical purposes; sanitary masks; pharmaceutical wafer; gauze for dressings; capsules for pharmaceutical purposes; capsules for medicines; eyepatches for medical purposes; ear bandages; incontinence diapers; semen for artificial insemination; menstruation bandages; menstruation tampons; sanitary napkins; menstruation pads; sanitary pads; sanitary panties; sanitary knickers; menstruation knickers; absorbent cotton; absorbent wadding; lacteal flour for babies; lactose [milk sugar]; fly catching paper; adhesive plaster; court plaster; sticking plasters; bandages for dressing; collodion for pharmaceutical purposes; mothproofing paper; breast-nursing pads

Notice is also hereby given that: **THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADE MARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.**

For further information, please contact:
DENNEMEYER & ASSOCIATES
Email: mail-au@dennemeyer-law.com

Kumer Panuelo boat wins top prize in 17th Annual Budweiser Fishing Tournament - the last of the year

US Embassy provides five EPIRBS to lucky raffle winners

By Pohnpei Fishing Club

December 5, 2020

Pohnpei—26 boats registered for the Pohnpei Fishing Club's 17th Annual Budweiser Tournament sponsored by Ambros, Inc. and Budweiser. The "Catch 6" tournament, the club's last tournament of the year, was held on December 5 with angles trying to catch a billfish, Yellow Fin and other tuna, Skip Jack Tuna, Wahoo, Barracuda, or Giant Trevally in order to win a cash prize.

Though fish of each species and some others including a couple of Mahi Mahi were caught, the winning boats caught four species each from the list of qualifying fish. Since there were three top prizes, they went to the three boats that landed four species with prizes awarded based on the combined weight of the heaviest fish of each species caught aboard each boat.

Before naming the top anglers and captains, the club held a raffle for five EPIRBS (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon-an electronic device that is automatically activated if submerged in water and can be manually activated if a boater needs rescue) provided by the United States Embassy. U.S. Charge d'Affaires Somer E. Bessire-Briers presented a certificate for the winners of that raffle to pick up their EPIRBS after participating in a training session at the US Embassy during the following week. The winners of that raffle were Melner Isaac of "Ms. Meseirong", Marvey Spencer of "Dolphin", Taylor Paul of "Chicken Shit", Gus Kohler of "Miss Molly", and Welber David of "Pwoawoahwoah".

Though the Pohnpei Fishing Club requires that each registered boat have an EPIRB aboard in order to participate in its tournaments and provides them to boats that don't have them, the US Embassy donations will be the property of the boat owners who can use them ANY time they take their boats out rather than just during fishing tournaments.

Boat owners who already owned an EPIRB could participate in a raffle for a bottle of whiskey donated by club member Aaron Nighswander. Billy Dakano of the boat "DAD" won that raffle.

The club then proceeded to prizes based on fishing. The top boat winner was "Happy Hookers", captained by Kumer Panuelo for a total of 111 pounds winning the captain the \$400 top prize. Individual anglers also won prizes and Wilmar Aquino who was aboard the "Happy Hookers" won the \$100

prize for biggest species with his top weighing Sailfish of 77 pounds.

The boat "First Lady" captained by FSM President David W. Panuelo won the \$300 second prize for their qualifying fish that weighed a total of 42.5 pounds. Patricia Edwin who was fishing aboard that boat also split the \$100 prize for the biggest Barracuda with Lara Marangi Trott who was fishing aboard the Pepe Erepani captained by James Wichman. The two anglers caught twin 9.5 pound Barracudas.

The "Ms. Meseirong" captained by Melner Isaac captured the third prize for total boat weight of qualifying species for a total of 32 pounds and a prize of \$150. Ohsan Ernest, Jr., who was fishing aboard Isaac's boat won \$100 for his top weighing Skip Jack Tuna, a substantial 14.5 pounds for a Skip Jack.

Welber David aboard the "Poawoahwoah" took home a top \$100 individual prize for his 35 pound Yellow Fin tuna.

Francisco Mendiola who was captaining the vessel "Miss Pikeniap" caught the prize winning Wahoo of 28.5 pounds for a \$100 prize.

Eddie Abraham fishing aboard the vessel "Lien Pul", captained by Asterio Takesy boated the \$100 prize winning Grand Trevally.

No one landed a marlin, much less a jackpot winning record marlin so that jackpot amount continues to grow.

In addition to the cash prizes, Budweiser and Ambros provided t-shirts, hats and a case of beer to all registered boats.

Patients of the Pohnpei State Hospital were also winners of the 17th Annual Budweiser Fishing Tournament. The club routinely donates fish to the Hospital and to the prison but those donations and their amounts are seldom reported, a situation that should be rectified in the future. Anglers in the Budweiser tournament donated five Skipjack Tunas weighing a total of 25 pounds, a 9.5 pound barracuda, and a Sailfish in excess of 60 pounds to the hospital to help feed its patients.

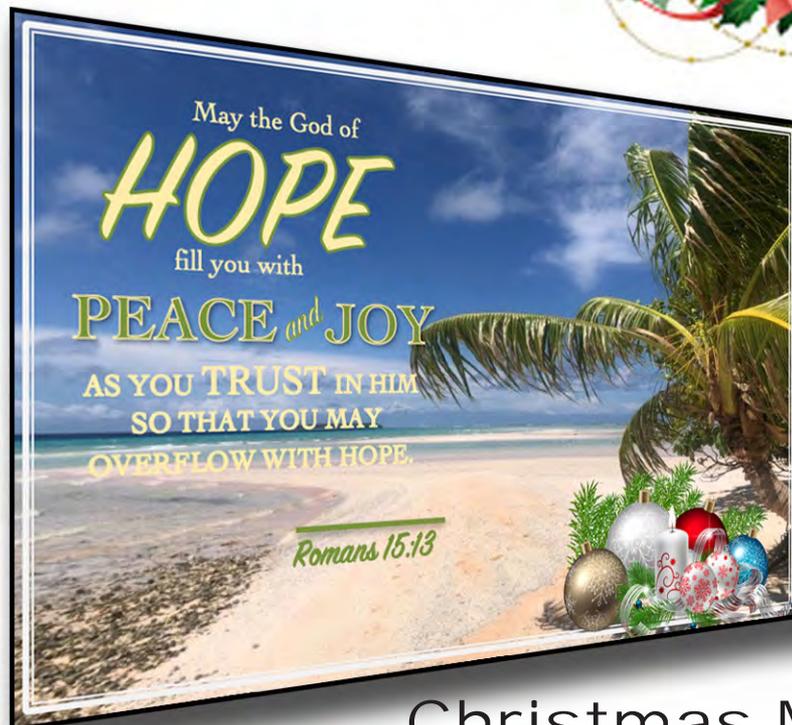
Uta and Cheryl provided curry for sale at the weigh-in at Mangrove Bay with proceeds to again benefit the Pohnpei Public Library.

We can't do these tournaments without our helpers—a big thanks to Bill, Virginia, Cel, Serlynn, and all the guys on the dock and in the boom truck.

It was a shortened season, but hopefully next year will be full go. The Annual General Meeting should be in January or February, date to be determined, with tournaments starting again in March.

In the meantime be safe, have happy holidays, and leave a fish out for Santa.





May the Blessings of
Peace and Joy be yours
during this Christmas season
and
May Blessings of Hope
be yours the New Year through

Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina
Speaker

Twenty First Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

Christmas Message 2020

Wesley W. Simina
Speaker of the 21st Congress of the
Federated States of Micronesia

*May the God of hope fill you with peace and joy
as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope.
Romans 15:13*

Vice Speaker Esmond B. Moses, Floor Leader Florencio "Singkoro" Harper, Members of the 21st Congress, along with our families and staff join me in extending our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you, the people of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

2020 has truly been a trying year for the world as the COVID-19 pandemic encircled the globe within months of surfacing and wreaking havoc on what we hold dear: family, community, culture, economy and stable governments.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted our shared fragility, it has also given the world a pause for self-reflection and reassessment of its priorities in the realization of how everything and everyone are truly connected in our common humanity.

The pandemic has reset our realities and ways of life forever.

It has also directly and indirectly impacted our lives, especially our citizens who live abroad. Yet those of us in the FSM have been spared much of the harsh realities of the COVID-19 world to date, and for this we shall always be grateful to our Lord.

So, as we gather across the Nation this Holiday Season with our families and friends in celebration of Christmas - that Holy Birth in Bethlehem long ago, let us also take time to take stock of and appreciate our blessings as individuals and as a Nation. As we celebrate Christmas this year, may we be reminded of its eternal message of love, compassion and hope. Let us also pray for the health and safety of our citizens abroad and our world at large.

In that spirit of love, compassion and hope we, Members of the 21st Congress along with our families and staff extend our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to the people of the FSM and all our friends who have also made FSM their home.

Again, may the God of hope fill you with peace and joy as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope.

Be safe and have a Happy Holiday Season!

Local NGO slowly making an impact in community work

Koupweliki OH Wauneki Atail--sohso (KOHWA) -to have pride and respect for our inheritance- land, ocean, & cultural practices are what KOHWA Inc., and the volunteers draw their passion for service. It is a local non-government organization (NGO) which works with communities to improve sustainable practices and promote environmental stewardship through alternative income generation and community education on health, environment, and cultural heritage in Pohnpei.

Out of passion to support communities and maintain a healthy environment, KOHWA members initiated the project, KOHWA KIHWEI. This project aims to provide assistance to low-income communities and to help waste management in Pohnpei by encouraging people to donate gently used household items for redistribution and reuse instead of allowing them to become waste.

On November 28, 2020, the organization distributed assorted donations at Nansalohi, Madolenihmw, a community otherwise known as Pihs. "It is very fulfilling to be part of KOHWA KIKWEI project and be doing this practice of gratitude," said Yota P. Oue, President, KOHWA, Inc., "This is

timely and appropriate because we had Thanksgiving lately, we get to share the things we're grateful for, and these blessings to the community."

"We did a poll on Facebook in selecting the communities to conduct the outreach," said Luan Lavern Gilmete, Vice President, KOHWA Inc., "The first KOHWA KIHWEI was in Ponrakied St. last June and the second one was in Pakin Island sometime July."

Chairman Peter Luke, Protestant Church, was grateful for the organization and for the voting public in choosing them as the beneficiary. "We welcome all organizations who has the same project with KOHWA because it is very beneficial to our community," he said.

KOHWA Inc., was officially recognized as an NGO in January 2019, currently has ten active members, and five advisers. William Kostka, Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), and the First Lady, Patricia Edwin, were among the five advisers of the organization.

They NGO has other on-going projects, including the Trash Bin Project, that was initiated-in partnership with Eco-Friendly Options (EFO), the Green Society, and Marcella Foundation.



Healthy Homes, on the other hand, is their biggest project yet, which focuses on renovating homes for people in climate change vulnerable communities, targeting low-income families, specifically senior and/or disabled citizens.

Given the extenuating

circumstances, the organization still continues to work for community development. "We are committed to one goal and that is helping the community," said Daisy Falcam, an active member.

Follow KOHWA on Instagram, kohwa_fsm, and on Facebook.

OPENING DATE: Dec 14, 2020
CLOSING DATE: Dec 25, 2020
LOCATION: Pohnpei Terminal

Vital is hiring!

Positions Now Available:

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"Customer Service Officer"
- PA 22-2020
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"Terminal Operator"



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Congratulations!

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University of California Santa Cruz



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Program
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



SHERLYN REYNOLD
Master's in Business
Administration Program
Park University (Online)



JON TYRONE CELESTINE
Master's in Management
Program
Walden University (Online)



SEAN MICHAEL FRANK
Master's in Public
Administration Program
University of Guam



MARK WILLIAM JONES
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University of Guam



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+691 370-3070

THE FSM DEVELOPMENT BANK WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE FALL 2020 FSMDB SCHOLARSHIPS. WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN SUPPORTING THE FSM'S BRIGHTEST SCHOLARS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AS WE ANTICIPATE THEIR RESPECTIVE ENTRIES INTO THEIR ROLES IN LEADING OUR NATION FORWARD!

Trump Administration applauds Eco-Heritage Tourism efforts in Kosrae, Micronesia Compact Funds and National Park Service Grant support Kosrae’s Mahkontowe Conservation Area

Office of the Assistant Secretary
Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Trump Administration, through U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech applauds the successful completion of an eco-heritage tourism project funded through the Compact of Free Association in Kosrae State in the Federated States of Micronesia. The Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority has completed the construction of several traditional resting houses in the Mahkontowe Conservation Area (MCA) as part of a larger effort to protect cultural and natural resources and to develop eco-heritage tourism.

“We applaud this unique use of Compact funds to help Kosrae preserve cultural traditions while also promoting the protection of natural resources for tourism and economic development. This

will be especially important once the FSM is able to safely open up its borders to tourism again since travel restrictions were put in place earlier this year due to the coronavirus pandemic,” said Assistant Secretary Domenech. “We also applaud Kosrae for their successful application for Historic Preservation Funds as they prepare to nominate Kosrae’s Mahkontowe Conservation Area to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.”

The Mahkontowe Conservation Area incorporates the interior mountain range on Kosrae Island, which features the prominent shape of a reclining female, or the sleeping lady known as Mahkontowe in Kosraean legend and oral histories. Working with Kosraean elders who advocated for protecting Mahkontowe in 2017, the Kosrae State Government, through a community-based approach, also involved Kosrae State government agencies, non-government organizations, local guides, and tourism operators to help protect Mahkontowe. In 2018, the Kosrae State Legislature passed Kosrae State Law 11-152 to protect Kosrae’s Sleeping Lady through the Mahkontowe Conservation Area.

Fiscal year 2019 funding provided through the Compact of Free Association was approved for the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority to build several traditional resting houses using Kosraean

traditional knowledge and resources in the Mahkontowe Conservation Area to promote eco-heritage tourism. The local resting houses will have a dual purpose of supporting tourists as well as local Kosraean agriforesters. For more information visit the Kosrae State Historic Preservation Office.

In July 2020, the Kosrae State Government also received the Underrepresented Communities grant from the National Park Service (NPS), which supports efforts to nominate Kosrae’s Mahkontowe Conservation Area to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NPS’ National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources. There are several other locations in the U.S. territories and the freely associated states currently listed. For more information, visit the NPS website at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>.

In December of 2019, the Office of Insular Affairs, the National Park Service, and the Guam Preservation Trust hosted a World Heritage Opportunities Workshop and Insular Areas State Historic Preservation Officers a workshop and training on Guam to share and discuss opportunities under the World Heritage Convention, the National Historic Landmarks program, and other ways to preserve and protect historic, cultural, and natural resources in the U.S. Insular Areas.

Certain economic assistance provisions under the Compact of Free Association agreement (U.S. Public Law 108-188) between the FSM and the United States are set to expire in 2023. Bilateral discussions are underway related to the expiring provisions.

For more information about the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs, visit the website at www.doi.gov/oia, follow on Twitter at @ASHIADomenech, or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/InsularAffairs>.



Request for Expression of Interest

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

GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK & DELIVERABLES:

The objective of the assignment is to provide NORMA with support in its transition on reforms and restructuring under the new strategic and corporate plan with a focus on operations as a fisheries management organization. The local consultant being a resident of FSM will assist the international consultant in undertaking operational level tasks required for the establishment of the Corporate Services Division of FSM NORMA.

The Fisheries Corporate Services Consultant will report to the FSM NORMA Deputy Director and work closely with NORMA staff and other relevant NORMA consultants to collaborate on the following tasks to establish and strengthen the NORMA Corporate Services Division:

- Set up and initiate operation of the Corporate Services Division including developing/compiling an operational manual for the day-to-day operation of NORMA's new corporate model to ensure the office is adequately equipped and able to function effectively.
- Formulate and deliver Corporate Services Divisional requirements in the NORMA Strategic and Corporate Plans during its transition and initial stages of implementation.
- Establish protocol and be the point of control and coordination for important internal and external communications for NORMA including website and social media ensuring such are in the operations manual.
- Establish procedure, coordinate and quality control internal and external reporting requirements for NORMA, ensuring such are in the operations manual and in line with FSM government processes;
- Coordinate the development and implementation of a communication strategy and plan for NORMA
- Formulate templates and processes to ensure that reports and data analysis presented to NORMA management are well structured, complete and quality assured through mentoring and/or collaboration with other Divisions
- Establish admin and logistics SOPs where needed and ensure systems are in place that meetings, travel and logistics are carried out to a high standard for NORMA and ensure such are in the operations manual;
- With the FSM Personnel Department, develop NORMA HR-related

SOPs and assist with initial recruitment, training and capacity development at NORMA especially as related to the corporate restructuring and reforms. Provide advice and assistance for any HR related matter at NORMA including conflict resolution.

- Develop and maintain initially an Asset and Human Resources management system for NORMA.
- Assist with development of a staff orientation package to ensure all new staff and Board members go through a formal orientation process incorporating the new corporate strategy, structure and corporate plan.
- Establish SOPs and schedule and propose how to conduct/coordinate regular audits of how the organization of NORMA functions to ensure NORMA is functioning as effectively, efficiently and focused on the new strategic plan and corporate plan.
- Establish internal budget development procedures and assist with initial implementation of such to ensure NORMA works to an approved budget according to the government budget instructions, operates its finances to the highest possible standard and according to the FSM Financial Management Regulations - and ensuring these are in the operations manual.
- Ensure the NORMA budget process is developed in alignment with FSM Government regulations, the new strategic plan and managed in collaboration with each Division at NORMA.
- Work with management and relevant Divisions on the Administrative Penalty System to ensure payments made are accounted for and managed appropriately per accepted practice.
- In consultation with management and NORMA staff, supervise the setup of NORMA IT systems and infrastructure and address its initial development needs including providing management advice for ICT development and management
- Work with NORMA Management and Divisions to establish and implement protocols and controls of all important documents and data for NORMA including establishing policies, plans, agreements and standard operating procedures thereto. Ensure everything is secure, current, relevant and easy to find and use and also including such in manuals as appropriate.

Specific Deliverables:

- The Fisheries Corporate Services Consultant is expected to work closely with advice of the existing international consultant to deliver more specifically the following:
- An operations manual, compiling all existing SOPs of the Authority and incorporating new SOPs as they are developed;
- SOPs specific to the corporate services division including on administrative, finance/budget management and logistics operations in alignment with national processes and incorporated in the operations manual;
- Update organizational structure of the Corporate Services Division with job



description of all the positions therein with capacity development plan of posts in the Division;

- A NORMA-wide filing system that incorporates paper documents and electronic files of all the 4 divisions of the Authority; and
- Other duties as may be assigned to the Consultant as relate to the general scope of work.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- University degree in Public Administration, Business Management, Public Service or equivalent and/or proven corporate management experience at a Manager/Director level or Senior level experience in public or private sector management or equivalent combination thereof;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English; computer literacy; people management skills; attention to detail and process; highly motivated, trustworthy and dependable; supportive and accountable to effective delivery of services to client.
- Specialized training in communications, IT, project management, accounting, human resources; Experience in the public service and fisheries sector; and experience in FSM or Pacific Island administrations.

Additional desirable qualifications:

DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT & COST OF CONSULTANCY

This is a lump sum (based on specific deliverables as stated above) contract for 6 months with FSM NORMA with a salary based on Local Market Payscale with a compensation established depending on qualifications.

APPLICATION

The FSM NORMA invites consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above-mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of Letter of Interest, CV, and support Degrees/Certificates to NORMA no later than **December 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 NORMA and Application package can be sent to:

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

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that TAISHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan, of 24-1, Takada 3-Chome, Toshimaku, Tokyo, Japan, is the sole owner and proprietor of the trademark below:



which is used in connection with the following goods:

Pharmaceutical preparations; medicinal drinks; tonics [medicines]; vitamin preparations; nutritional preparations for medical use; nutritional additives for medical purposes; nutritional supplements for medical purposes; food supplements for medical purposes; drugs for medical purposes; dental materials; bracelets for medical purposes; oiled paper for medical purposes; sanitary masks; pharmaceutical wafer; gauze for dressings; capsules for pharmaceutical purposes; capsules for medicines; eyepatches for medical purposes; ear bandages; incontinence diapers; semen for artificial insemination; menstruation bandages; menstruation tampons; sanitary napkins; menstruation pads; sanitary pads; sanitary panties; sanitary knickers; menstruation knickers; absorbent cotton; absorbent wadding; lacteal flour for babies; lactose [milk sugar]; fly catching paper; adhesive plaster; court plaster; slicking plasters; bandages for dressings; collodion for pharmaceutical purposes; mothproofing paper; breast-nursing pads; dietetic foods adapted for medical purposes; dietetic beverages adapted for medical purposes.

Notice is also hereby given that:
THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADE MARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.

For further information,
please contact:
DENNEMEYER & ASSOCIATES
Email: mail-au@dennemeyer-law.com

Joint Press Release of the Second Vice Ministers' Special Meeting on COVID-19 Between the People's Republic of China and Pacific Island Countries

On November 30, 2020, China and Pacific Island Countries held the second vice ministers' special meeting on COVID-19 via video link. Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguangu of China and Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele of Solomon Islands co-chaired the meeting.

The Pacific Island Countries present at the meeting include: Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia, Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue, Solomon Islands, and Kiribati.

1. The two sides reviewed the significant achievements of their cooperation on combating COVID-19, especially since the first vice ministers' special meeting on COVID-19 on May 13, 2020, and shared the view that the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Pacific Island Countries has been deepened and developed through such cooperation.

2. The Pacific Island Countries applauded China's major strategic achievements in containing the COVID-19 outbreak and its progress in recovering socio-economic development, and expressed gratitude for China's assistance in fighting the virus. China commended the Pacific Island Countries for taking active and effective measures to control the spread of COVID-19, and expressed appreciation for their invaluable support to China's COVID-19 response efforts.

3. The two sides reaffirmed their mutual support on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns, and stressed that countries should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, respect each other's choice of development path. The Pacific Island Countries reaffirmed to uphold the One-China principle.

4. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and the UN-centered international system, applauded and welcomed the adoption of the resolution on "comprehensive

and coordinated response to the corona-virus disease (COVID-19) pandemic" by the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, and called on the international community to work in solidarity and collaboration to contain the spread of COVID-19 and protect people's health and well-being. The two sides highly appreciated the leadership role of the World Health Organization in coordinating the global response to COVID-19, and reaffirmed their opposition to any attempt of stigmatization, politicizing or mislabeling the pandemic.

5. The two sides agreed to deepen cooperation and strengthen multilateral coordination on fighting COVID-19. China reaffirmed the commitment of making the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine, when available, a global public good, as part of its contribution to vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries, including Pacific Island Countries.

6. The two sides called for efforts to keep global industrial and supply chains stable and open, and support the building of an open world economy. The two sides agreed to align their development strategies for the "post COVID-19 era" under the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, expand practical cooperation within the framework of the "Belt and Road Initiative" and promote people-to-people and sub-national exchanges, with a view to boosting economic recovery and achieving common development.

7. China appreciates the dual challenges of COVID-19 and climate change faced by Pacific Island Countries, and will continue to provide them with assistance to the best of its ability. The two sides call on the international community to provide more material, technical, financial and humanitarian support to Pacific Island Countries to help them achieve independent and sustainable development.

Request for Expression of Interest

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward an **ASSISTANT ECONOMIST** to be working with FSM NORMA in Pohnpei, FSM.

OBJECTIVE & SCOPE OF WORK

The objective of the assignment is to provide NORMA with sound economic analysis and advice to inform fisheries policy, negotiations, investments and management decisions with the long term objective of maximizing and sustaining economic benefits including government revenue.

General Scope:

The Assistant Economist will report to the Assistant Director for the Fisheries Economics and Development Division (FEDD) and undertake the following illustrative duties:

- Support the Senior Fisheries Economist in work of the FEDD; Liaise with external/regional organizations and internal/national entities to support the work of the FEDD;
- Assist with the collection/review/analysis of economic data for economic assessments of domestic companies; collecting/reviewing data on profitability assessments of foreign fishing partners; collect tuna market data and other research work on fisheries in FSM including collecting data/drafting annual Fisheries Economic Indicators report for FSM quarterly Fisheries Trade newsletters;
- Assist with the analysis/review of Vessel Days Scheme (VDS) and pooling arrangements and in reviewing/analyzing regional and national reports on fisheries management and development;
- Assist with reviews on the feasibility, costs and benefits of (public and private) investment proposals in the tuna sector, including onshore developments and assessing the financial integrity and soundness of new companies expressing interest to fish in the FSM
- Assist to evaluate the economic impact of fisheries conservation proposals and declared Marine Protected Areas and with preparation of briefs and other reports from the FEDD to



NORMA Board, Management and stakeholders.

- Represent NORMA in national, regional and international meetings or negotiations as assigned by NORMA.
- Other duties as may be assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1) Bachelor's Degree in economics, business or a related field. 2) Experience in data collection processes and surveys. 3) Ability to understand cost benefit, financial and other economic analyses. 4) Good written and verbal communications skills with fluency in written and spoken English. 5) Strong attention to detail, multi-tasking and organizational skills

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND REMUNERATION:

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. Salary will be based on the Local Labor Market Payscale and/or depending on qualifications. This will be a 1 -year full-time position starting under special service 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 or resume, c) support Degrees/Certificates and d) Name & working contact of 3 referees. This position will remain open **UNTIL FILLED but application submission is preferable by December 25, 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, Executive Director, 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

Opinion Editorial

US Ambassador Carmen Cantor end of the year retrospective

December 16, 2020

Eleven months ago I arrived in your beautiful country, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Since then, I have been honored to learn about your diverse cultures, languages, food, history, and traditions, and to meet so many inspiring Micronesians.

Over the last year, as part of our special and enduring relationship, the United States and the FSM have cooperated in countless ways. We are bound together by our past, stand side-by-side in the present, and will work together towards a common future.

Unfortunately, the world spent most of 2020 experiencing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning days of the pandemic, the U.S. has communicated with and responded to requests from the FSM. COVID-19 has not curbed our commitment to partner with the FSM. We have adjusted, continuing our engagements in a new virtual environment, and jointly working to ensure the security and safety of the FSM.

To protect FSM residents, the United States provided numerous resources to all four states: containers of personal protective equipment like face masks and gloves; medical equipment including ventilators; and thousands of COVID-19 testing kits. We continue to facilitate weekly calls between FSM national and state medical professionals with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to coordinate virtual ventilator trainings for doctors and other health care workers at state hospitals.

In addition, the U.S. Navy Seabees constructed hand-washing stations at more than 60 schools and helped prepare quarantine facilities for use. When the FSM government asked, the U.S. Coast Guard arranged free humanitarian flights to bring FSM medical patients home from Guam.

To date the U.S. Government has committed roughly \$90 million in COVID-19 assistance to the FSM through these and other programs.

Fortunately, the COVID-19 conversation has shifted from fear to hope. Vaccines have been developed and the United States, at the request of the FSM, will provide tens of thousands of vaccines at no cost, as part of our commitment to continually provide for the safety and security of Micronesians. The details of the vaccine rollout for all four states continue to be finalized in consultation with FSM officials and promise to bring a healthy and optimistic 2021.

Of course, COVID-19 was not the only focus during 2020.

Some of my most memorable experiences in the FSM involved learning about the history of the islands. I treasured the opportunity to

visit majestic Nan Madol and was proud to announce that the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation provided a \$200,000 grant in 2020, in addition to the \$375,000 previously pledged to help protect the remarkable structure that ancient Micronesians constructed.

I also was pleased to meet with the traditional leaders of each municipality in Pohnpei, and to learn about and participate in the traditions of each region. I was honored to receive three traditional titles.

My meetings with community leaders and outreach organizations in Chuuk, particularly the touching welcome I received from the students at Xavier High School, are fond memories. I was disappointed that COVID-19 disrupted travel to Yap and Kosrae, but my team and I look forward to visiting in 2021.

Throughout 2020 we worked to empower the women and girls of the FSM, who have so much to offer. The U.S. Embassy helped re-launch the Pohnpei Girl Scouts chapter with 30 impressive young women. I organized several panel discussions for FSM leaders to discuss ways to further empower women and youth. We also hosted an International Day of the Girl event and, perhaps best of all, secured a grant to develop economic opportunities in 2021 for women across the Freely Associated States.

In support of FSM's initiatives to raise awareness of – and work towards reducing – domestic violence, the U.S. Embassy provided resources to all four states under the Voices Against Violence program, which provides resources for victims of abuse. I also had the honor of joining International Visitor Leadership Alumna Ms. Lululeen Santos in her efforts to raise awareness of gender-based violence in the FSM. The Black Out Thursday walks around Pohnpei led to the creation of a hotline to assist victims, and to proposed legislation supporting victims of domestic violence. It was a privilege to walk alongside the wonderful women and men of the FSM who are working to stop this violence.

This year the U.S. Embassy also paid special attention to education and increased access to resources for hundreds of Micronesians. We launched several American Shelves which brought books, computers, and printers to the Chuuk Women's Council, the U.S. Veterans' Association of Pohnpei, and the Pohnpei Public Library. The Madolenihmw and Nett Elementary Schools received several hundred books, and two high schools received new computers and printers. We intend to continue providing books and computers to other schools when possible.

The Department of Defense continues to honor its security and safety commitments to the FSM. U.S. Navy Seabees completed repairs and renovations at Yap High School and

Dalip Benaw Elementary School in Yap and Sokehs Pah and Pehleng Elementary Schools in Pohnpei. They also conducted assessments for future projects to build or repair health and education facilities in all four states once they can return to the FSM. Through the COPE NORTH exercise, the U.S. Air Force trained side-by-side with firefighters and medical personnel in Yap to respond to airport emergencies and mass casualty events.

The U.S. Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Force supported multiple Search and Rescue operations in the FSM, assisting FSM police in rescuing several fishermen in distress. The U.S. Coast Guard also worked with FSM National police to improve various skills, enhancing their ability to keep FSM safe. We continue to respect and appreciate the many Micronesians who have served in the U.S. armed forces. It is an unbreakable bond between our nations. The U.S. Embassy supported the U.S. Veterans' Association in Pohnpei and Kosrae during 2020 Veterans' Day events.

My participation in Operation Christmas Drop in Guam was a highlight to round out the year. While the FSM declined participation in the program for 2020, other islands in the region received crates of toys, food, and medical supplies that I helped the U.S. Air Force drop from the skies. We all look forward to the return of Operation Christmas Drop to the FSM in 2021.

Finally, the U.S. Government and the Federated States of Micronesia continue our open dialogue, through the Compact of Free Association renegotiations, to strengthen our special partnership.

Of course, this is just the beginning.

The United States will continue to partner with the Federated States of Micronesia to tackle global and local challenges, including promoting regional security and stability, advancing sustainable growth, addressing environmental challenges, responding to natural disasters, and addressing health concerns.

Please like the U.S. Embassy Kolonia Facebook page and, for those in Pohnpei, tune into my weekly radio show, American Waves, at 1440AM Fridays and Saturdays at 12:30 for more information and updates. We hope to bring the radio program to the other states in 2021.

As you celebrate in the coming weeks, I wish each of you a happy holiday. I look forward to our continued collaboration in 2021 and beyond.

Kalangan, Kulo Mulap, Kinisou Kamagar and Gracias!
Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor

A joint statement from the UN Resident Coordinator in the Fiji Multi-Country Office and The governments of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Nauru and Tonga On the occasion of International Anti- Corruption Day 2020

Tackling the COVID-19 pandemic successfully to-date stands as a testament to our Governments' swift and effective handling of the unfolding crises. Through the enforcement of effective preventive measures our Pacific region has performed relatively well in the COVID-19 environment. Our countries have been spared from large-scale outbreaks and continue to manage and tailor its COVID-19 prevention and control measures for the health, safety and security of our people.

Nevertheless, the pandemic's downstream effects continue to be detrimental for our countries health systems and economies. Procuring medical equipment and supporting our health systems, as well as mobilising funds towards economic safety nets for industry and citizens is critical for a COVID-19 response that puts people at the centre of our efforts but also comes with a significant risk of corruption.

Corruption is an inevitable factor of economic and political decision making, and during times of crisis it thrives. From the public health to the private sector, and from public procurement to economic and emergency responses, the COVID-19 pandemic has not made our institutions any less susceptible to corrupt practices. Rather, it has highlighted vulnerabilities to corrupt practices, especially with regards to the mobilisation of funds, which are aimed at supporting the health system

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Opinion Editorial

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and our economies at large. The necessitated swift nature of policy reactions and preventative measures enacted by our Governments makes corruption evermore opportune. Corruption disrupts our public health sectors, the private sectors and notably, the emergency and economic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and it cannot go unchecked.

Therefore, we clearly emphasise our stance that; ‘COVID-19 recovery can and will only be achieved with integrity and accountability’. In commemoration of this year’s campaign for International Anti-Corruption Day, we commit to Recovering with Integrity.

Guided by this year’s global theme, we – the leaders of our Pacific countries and the UN, are committed to eradicating corruption at every level during this crucial time of COVID-19 recovery. In addition, we must also ensure accountability and full transparency in COVID-19 related recovery budgeting.

Whilst the pandemic exacerbates and highlights vulnerabilities of our systems of health and service delivery, we must also realise and make use of this occasion to consolidate our efforts to stop corruption. Recovering with Integrity also means that we, as Pacific islanders, have the opportunity to reset and support a grassroots economy.

Public trust is not inherent, nor a given, especially in times of crisis. We acknowledge the urgent need to ensure access to information about public decision-making and our pandemic relief efforts. We now have the chance to increase community engagement efforts in the area of anti-corruption and are fully committed to achieving this. Through these efforts, we can circumvent the lure of corrupt practices, promote the rule of law and allow for full transparency and accountability from the institutions that serve our people. Through the avenue of public checks and balances, we aim to reinstall and maintain trust in our institutions, in order to Recover with Integrity.

Australia’s practical action on climate change

By Chargé d’Affaires at the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei, Mr Takuro Steele



On 11 December, Australia’s Prime Minister, the Honourable Scott Morrison, joined the Federated States of Micronesia’s Secretary for Climate Change, the Honourable Andrew Yatilman, and other representatives at the Pacific Islands Forum High Level Roundtable on climate change. This was an important opportunity for Pacific countries, including Australia and FSM, to come together and discuss our response to one of the key challenges of our time: climate change.

2020 has been an extraordinary year. It has tested all of our resolve to tackle global challenges.

But we can’t afford to allow COVID-19 to disrupt global climate action. In fact, climate action, like emissions reduction, can be a central part of the world’s economic recovery from COVID-19.

Australia is accelerating our practical action to drive down emissions and meet the targets we have set.

We are fully committed to ambitious global climate action, and our ambition goes far beyond our borders.

We are focused on creating a pathway to net zero emissions through practical, scalable and commercially viable technologies.

And, we remain a steadfast partner in supporting the Indo-Pacific region, particularly the Federated States of Micronesia and other Pacific Island

countries, to respond to climate change. Australia is meeting and beating its emission reduction targets

We beat our 2020 targets by 459 million tonnes—almost 90 per cent of a full year of Australia’s emissions.

We are resolutely committed to the Paris Agreement. We are on track to meet and beat our 2030 target, having reduced emissions by almost 17 per cent since 2005; over the same period, average emissions across the G20 as a whole actually increased.

And as announced by Prime Minister Morrison at the PIF High-Level Roundtable on 11 December, we are confident we won’t need to use carryover. Australia is also building and investing in renewables at record levels. We expect renewables will contribute to 27 per cent of our electricity this year, growing to 50 per cent by 2030.

In 2019, Australia deployed new renewable energy ten times faster per capita than the global average. One in four Australian homes have solar—the highest uptake in the world. Technology

Australia, alongside many other countries, is pursuing technological innovation to reach net zero emissions as soon as possible in the second half of the century.

The Australian Government has launched a Technology Roadmap to accelerate uptake of low-emissions technologies across our economy and is investing \$18 billion in low-emissions technologies over the next decade. A Special Adviser to the Australian Government will spearhead these efforts from 2021 onwards.

We want to enable businesses to produce the materials the world needs every day—but with far less environmental impact. Establishing global partnerships

We are building partnerships with countries like Japan, Singapore, Germany and Republic of Korea to make low emissions technologies scalable and commercially viable.

We also need technology-led practical solutions for developing countries that will not impede their development. Technologies like hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, battery storage, green steel and aluminium and soil carbon, will help countries grow and create jobs, even

as they reduce their emissions.

Australia is building climate resilience both at home and internationally.

Adaptation and resilience must remain a focus too because the world is already dealing with the effects of climate change. Australia suffered devastating bushfires during our Black Summer over 2019-2020, just as FSM continues to suffer severe impacts from drought and storms including Typhoon Wutip in 2019.

At home, Australia is establishing a National Resilience, Relief and Recovery Agency to coordinate adaptation and resilience efforts across all sectors of our economy.

To support others around the world, at the PIF High-Level Roundtable on 11 December, Prime Minister Morrison announced Australia’s new global climate finance pledge of at least \$1.5 billion over the period 2020 to 2025.

This includes the \$500 million investment in the Pacific announced last year to support renewable energy deployment and climate and disaster resilience. This builds on our previous pledge to spend \$300 million on climate change and disaster resilience between 2016 to 2020, which we exceeded – spending over \$400 million.

Australia has supported FSM’s climate change resilience through our regional and bilateral programs. This has included strengthening the capacity of national meteorological services to provide early warnings for extreme weather events; supporting public awareness efforts and, most recently, improving water capture and supply systems and sanitation facilities in community health dispensaries and centres across FSM, in partnership with IOM.

There is still much more work to be done globally

Australia is committed to practical action to achieve net zero emissions but global cooperation and partnerships are crucial. In the wake of COVID-19, we must all grow our economies again. Our economies’ growth will depend on low cost, affordable, reliable energy. For this to be sustainable, we will need global cooperation to develop low emissions technology that are scalable and commercially viable.

With global collaboration, we believe this can be achieved.

ADB grant of US \$12.8 million to improve water supply and sanitation in FSM Asian Development Bank

December 2, 2020

FSM—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a US\$12.8 million grant for the Chuuk Water Supply and Sanitation Project to improve access to safe water and sanitation and in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

“The project will improve water supply and sanitation services which will help greatly in reducing the transmission of waterborne diseases,” said Stephen Blaik, Principal Urban Development Specialist in ADB’s Pacific Regional Department.

The project will benefit Weno, the second-largest urban center of FSM, the administrative center of Chuuk State, and home to some 14,000 people. Like most parts of FSM, Weno is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, particularly tropical storms and droughts, and is susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Chuuk State experienced three major droughts between 2016 and 2020, which created shortages and disruptions to Weno’s surface and groundwater sources.

“This project will transform the lives of Weno’s residents,” said Kembo Mida, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Chuuk Public Utility Corporation. “We welcome this assistance from ADB.”

The project is a high priority of the government and is aligned with the goals of both the FSM Infrastructure Development Plan and the Chuuk State Strategic Development Plan 2018 to 2023, which are committed to safe, reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective infrastructure.

The project aligns with the operational priorities of ADB’s Strategy 2030 to reduce remaining poverty and inequalities, accelerate progress in gender equality, tackle climate change, build climate and disaster resilience, enhance environmental sustainability, make cities more livable, and strengthen governance and institutional capacity.

The US\$12.8 million grant from ADB’s Special Funds Resources (Asian Development Fund) will help fund the project which is set to run until 2027.

SOURCE: ADB/PACNEWS

- Pohnpei-based position
- Join the principal development organisation in the region

The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Project Officer (FAD) in its FAME division. This position will be located at its Micronesia Regional Office (MRO) in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

DESCRIPTION

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. We are an international development organisation owned and governed by our 26 country and territory members. In pursuit of sustainable development to benefit Pacific people, our unique organisation works across more than 25 sectors. We are known for our knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience, and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division includes the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) and Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP). The goal of the OFP is to ensure fisheries that exploit the region’s resources of tuna, billfish and related species are managed for economic and ecological sustainability using the best available scientific information. In pursuing this goal, the OFP provides scientific support for the management of fisheries for tuna and associated species, with a strong focus on stock assessment and modelling, fisheries and ecosystem monitoring and analysis and data management. The OFP works closely with member countries and territories, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement and other regional and sub-regional entities.

The Micronesia Regional Office (MRO) situated in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), is the main hub for SPC’s projects and partnerships with the Micronesian members of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Republic of Palau, and the territories of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Guam. The MRO opened in January 2006.

The role – the Project Officer (FAD) will provide technical and communications support for the implementation and day to day coordination of projects related to Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) in FSM and the wider Micronesia region. Provide a focal point to inform, liaise, manage local project activities, and provide technical information to relevant agencies and partners, including governments, fishing companies and skippers, and local communities. Collect, enter, maintain databases.

The key responsibilities of the role include the following:

1. Local coordination and day to day management of FAD related project activities
2. Awareness and communication
3. Data collection, entry and management
4. Collaborate, inform and liaise with relevant partners

For a more detailed account of the key responsibilities, please refer to the online job description.

1. Qualifications

- Tertiary qualifications in fisheries science, natural resource management, life sciences, data collection or a related field.

2. Essential experience and skills

- 3 years of demonstrated experience in oceanic and/or coastal fisheries management, science, community engagement or monitoring activities in the Pacific region.
- Strong communication skills and ability to adapt the message delivery and approaches to the audience.
- Strong planning and organizational skills including

the ability to manage a number of competing priorities, and work with limited supervision.

- Driving licence.
- Good written and verbal communication skills in English.
- A proactive and positive team player able to work effectively in a multicultural environment

Closing date:

03 January 2021 – 11:00 pm

Noumea time

Job Reference: SH000034

Applicants can apply online at: <http://careers.spc.int/>.

For your application to be considered, you must provide us with:

- an updated resume with contact details for three professional referees
- a cover letter detailing your skills, experience and interest in this position
- responses to all screening questions

Please note that applicants for this position must be FSM Nationals and currently residing in the country ‘or’

hold the proper work permit for salaried employment there. A current driver’s license for FSM is also important.

Please answer all of the screening questions, if you do not answer these questions your application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed at shortlisting stage.

Screening questions:

1. What are the main types of Fish Aggregation Devices used in the Pacific and discuss the pros and cons of these for fisheries operations and Pacific Island countries?
2. What types of approaches would you use to raise awareness of Fish Aggregation Devices and communicate research and development work to diverse communities and other stakeholders of varying socio-economic and educational backgrounds?
3. What will be the challenges faced to collect data on beached FADs in FSM and Micronesia?



Letter to the Editor

December 8, 2020

Dear Editor:

It has been a long while since I have written a letter to the Editor, and I have missed the opportunity of contributing to our sole newspaper, the Kaselehlie Press. I am prompted to write this piece in order to clarify the contents of an article that appeared in the issue of the Kaselehlie Press dated December 2-15, 2020. Therein, it was stated that the Members of the Pohnpei Legislature met with His Excellency David W. Panuelo on the morning of Friday, November 27 to ask him to call off the small repatriation flight from Guam scheduled for December 5.

In actuality, the meeting was arranged by the President inviting the Speaker and interested Members of the Tenth Pohnpei Legislature to come to his office in Palikir in order for him to brief us on the logistics of those who are in the quarantine being carried out in Guam, on the particulars of their arranged military flight to our state and on the details of their planned arrival here in Pohnpei. At the commencement of the meeting, I conveyed our greetings and gratitude to the President for according us the time and opportunity to be briefed on these matters and further expressed to him that in times like this pandemic, he has to stand firm in making a decision, one way or the other. In other words, he should remain solid as a rock in his assessment as to whether or not to bring our stranded citizens home at this time.

Yes, I will not deny that there were negative sides to the ensuing conversation as to scheduled repatriation, mainly centered on the risks of exposure to the safety and health of our Pohnpei population, especially at this time of the year when our families gather together to celebrate the events of Christmas and the coming of the New Year. But throughout these discussions, it was recognized that the President has the ultimate responsibility and power to call the shots.

With respect to the article in the newspaper, it was reported that the Speaker was calling a special session of the Legislature for the purpose of adopting a resolution to register its opposition to the repatriation flight. No, that is absolutely false and untrue. There was never any attempt or even consideration to undertake such an exercise to cancel the flight which is

way beyond our control. The purpose of the special session, which we convened on December 2, 2020, was to consider and dispose of matters pending before the Assembly, most importantly to deliberate on the manpower crisis currently facing the Department of Health Services, particularly with respect to the availability of doctors to man our Pohnpei Hospital.

In the afternoon of December 1, 2020, at around 2:30 pm, the President called me by telephone to notify my office of his unfortunate decision to cancel the repatriation flight. I was informed that after consulting with his Task Force and weighing all of the facts presented to him, there were two major factors that prompted him to decide to cancel the scheduled flight. First of all, there is the doctor crisis at the Pohnpei Hospital which must not be overlooked. This is because it is the same hospital personnel who would be monitoring the repatriation of our citizens and incoming diplomats upon their arrival in Pohnpei and who would be caring for them throughout their quarantined periods. Secondly, the President had just learned that no one on the island has the knowledge or capability to operate the ventilators we have on hand.

It was not an easy decision for the President to make at this time considering all of the quarantine protocols that our stranded people on Guam have gone through and their eagerness to finally arrive at their home destination. The decision was made even more difficult due to a most fundamental factor concerning our nation's international affairs and that is the friendly relationships that we have had with our diplomatic communities. These friendly diplomatic relationships should not be compromised.

Ultimately, however, it must be emphasized that in the making of presidential decisions in matters such as this, the threat of the pandemic is paramount. I thank you profoundly for publishing this piece to help clarify the article that recently appeared in the Kaselehlie Press in order to make the story straight.

Kalahngan oh ni whau,

Ausen T. Lambert
Speaker
Tenth Pohnpei Legislature

The Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) helps Oaloapel Village address water security needs

The Global Greengrants Fund (GGF), a global network of activists and donors who support communities to protect their ways of life and our planet, provided a \$5,000 grant to the Oaloapel Youth in Kitti Municipality, Pohnpei to help them with their water security needs. Oaloapel village, situated in the south of Pohnpei, is a community that has struggled with their water system for many years. GGF Pacific Islands Advisory Board member, William Kostka, who represents the Micronesia region on the Board, worked with the Oaloapel Youth President, Ms. Melza Miguel, to develop the proposal. On December 4, 2020, the group leadership used their award to purchase a water tank and other supplies. Pohnpei State Senator MacGarry Miguel, who is also the traditional leader (Loapan Moadoa) of Oaloapel Village, received the materials on behalf of the youth members and the entire community. The community will be able to solve some of their water security problems with these items but hope to secure other matching funds to extend the system to the larger Wone area. GGF over the years has provided over 100 of these types of grants to support projects in Micronesia.



NOTICE OF INVITATION TO QUOTE

Request for Quotations on Standby Generator

The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) of the Federated States of Micronesia has received financing from the World Bank and intends to apply part of its proceeds towards the procurement of **one Standby Diesel Generator**. FSM NORMA intends to prequalify vendors for sizing, supplying, installation, commissioning of the Generator including providing basic user training to relevant staff.

FSM NORMA is now seeking offers from suitably qualified and experienced vendors/suppliers to size, supply and install a backup generator for use by FSM NORMA at its main office in Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM. It is expected that the vendor shall provide a quotation or proposal that may involve the following:

- Inventory of NORMA equipment/loading sources with supporting calculations as well as an assessment of the current Uninterrupted Power System (UPS) to ensure compatibility of the proposed generator set.
- Provide, install/commission a brand new Standby Diesel Generator with secure housing.
- Provide basic user training on generator proper use and maintenance.

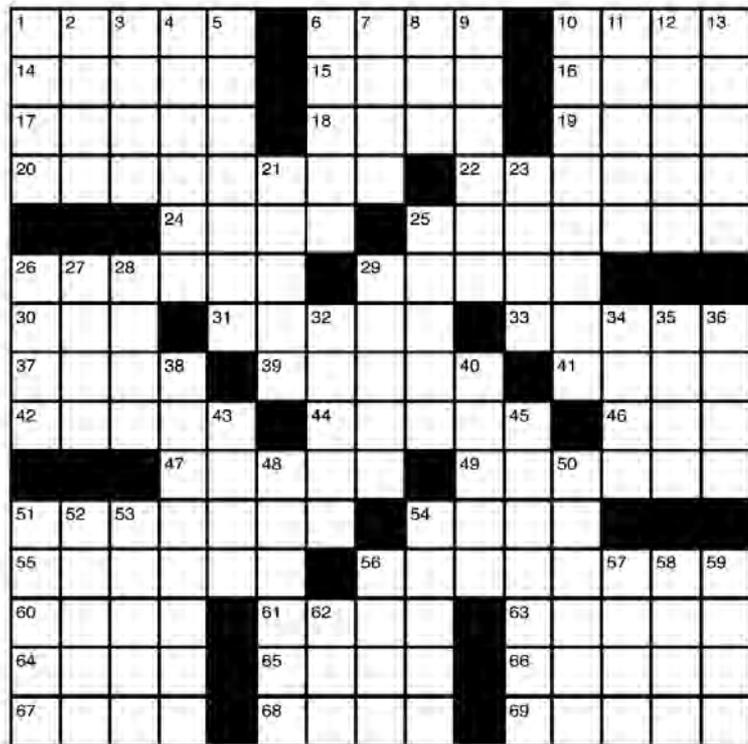
Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the World Bank Guidelines for Procurement of Goods in Fragile and Small States in the Pacific, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines. Interested eligible vendors/supplier can obtain further information from and must also request an Invitation To Quote (ITQ) form preferably by December 11, 2020 (Pohnpei Local Time) from the following email address: Crawford Nimea, PROP Project Officer at crawford.nimea@norma.fm with copy email to info@norma.fm.

Quotations in English in response to ITQs must be delivered to the address below at or before 5:00 p.m. December 21, 2020 (Pohnpei Local Time). Late quotations may be rejected. Quotations may be submitted by email, courier, or delivered by hand to the address below:

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

ACROSS

- 1 Our planet
- 6 ___ in; wearing
- 10 MRI, for one
- 14 Luau greeting
- 15 Lasso
- 16 Lunch spot
- 17 ___ into; eats greedily
- 18 Goes astray
- 19 Ceremony
- 20 Scoured
- 22 Trimmed, as tree branches
- 24 Official stamp
- 25 Gary & Jackie
- 26 Leah's sister, in Genesis
- 29 Cold cereal
- 30 "...through the night that ___ flag was still..."
- 31 Approaches
- 33 Good buys
- 37 Ensnare
- 39 Tries to lose
- 41 Small store
- 42 Long tales
- 44 High-powered surgical beam
- 46 1/4 and 3/4
- 47 Planted
- 49 Squandered
- 51 Hot dog condiment
- 54 Bride's headwear
- 55 Whole
- 56 Building at an airport
- 60 Actor Sandler
- 61 ___ for; empathize with
- 63 Escape detection by
- 64 Racing sled
- 65 Sightseeing trip
- 66 Computer geeks, often
- 67 Observes
- 68 Sty residents
- 69 Lovers' meeting



- 5 One no longer popular
- 6 Fish basket
- 7 Actor Jack ___
- 8 Spring month: abbr.
- 9 Tyrant
- 10 Ethical misgivings
- 11 Actor Michael
- 12 Run ___; chase
- 13 Requires
- 21 Bundled hay
- 23 Highway
- 25 Expenses
- 26 Goes bad
- 27 Grand mal precursor, often
- 28 Rugged cliff
- 29 Tire ridge pattern
- 32 Felt sick
- 34 "There'll be ___ time in the old town..."
- 35 "The ___ Ranger"
- 36 Ran fast
- 38 Hobbies
- 40 Septic tank alternative
- 43 Zoom skyward
- 45 Clothing
- 48 Yuletide door decoration
- 50 Dieter's piece of pie
- 51 Lunch & dinner
- 52 Excessive
- 53 Theater part
- 54 Swerves
- 56 Hoodlum
- 57 ___ a soul; nobody
- 58 ___ up; tallies
- 59 In case
- 62 Pigeon's cry

Wood Working Tools



- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| AIR COMPRESSOR | DRILL PRESS | LEVEL | SCREW DRIVER |
| AIR NAILER | DRIVERS | MALLETT | SCRIBE |
| CARPENTERS APRON | FRAMING SQUARE | MITRE | SPEED SQUARE |
| CATS PAW | HAMMER | PADDLE BIT | SQUARE |
| CHALK LINE | HAND SAW | PENCIL | STRAIGH EDGE |
| CIRCULAR SAW | JIGS | PRY BAR | TABLE SAW |
| CLAMPS | KEYHOLE SAW | RECIPROCATING SAW | TAPE MEASURE |
| DRILL | LASER LEVEL | ROUTER | WRENCHES |
| DRILL BITS | LATHE | SAWHORSE | |

DOWN

- 1 Sups
- 2 Actor Baldwin
- 3 Laugh loudly
- 4 Songbird

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WETSE

VEOMI

SPLUCT

PRAROL

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



KPRESS

**PUZZLE
PLEASURE**

Increasing community water security in FSM

Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS)

Mrs Ninus is a local seamstress and mangrove caretaker from Chuuk lagoon, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). After many years of living close to the ocean on a small island, Mrs Ninus knows the challenge of water scarcity first hand. Every day, Mrs Ninus works hard to make sure there is enough safe water for drinking and cooking at her family home. But this important task is becoming harder each year, as dry seasons increase and the traditional weather patterns become more difficult to predict.

“We haven’t always had a good water supply here. I used to get my water from a small dug well, that is about 140 feet away from my home. My children and grandchildren and I would gather water each day and carry it home and we would use this for cooking, cleaning and showering,” she said. “In my village there are about seven homes that depend on that one well.”

On Mrs Ninus’ island, there are no streams, only underground springs which are not always safe to use. These springs are becoming salty due to climate change and sea level rise, and often dry up during periods of drought, leaving residents on the island without any water at all.

Strengthening water security by improving and reinforcing community infrastructure across FSM’s small islands is critical for the health and well-being of its residents. It is also an important way to build disaster resilience in these remote locations.

This is why the Micronesia Red Cross Society and the American Red Cross have been working with community partners across Chuuk and Kosrae in the FSM, to build and strengthen household water storage and to upgrade and better protect community water system infrastructure, as part of the Micronesia Community Resilience and Capacity Development (MCRCD) project.

As part of the first phase of the MCRCD project, Mrs Ninus and her family worked with the Red Cross to build a reinforced, wind resistant concrete tank at their home. The tank’s 500-gallon capacity can collect enough rainwater to support their household for several weeks without any rain. Mrs Ninus’ family also took part in important training on how to maintain and repair the tank.

“I was very thankful that I was selected to have a tank because it will help not only my family but also the other families in our village. I knew that if we were to have a drought in the future at least we have another water source that is safe and clean for cooking and drinking, said Mrs Ninus. “When the drought came this year (in 2020), we could rely on water from the rainwater tank for cooking and drinking, and use water from the well for cleaning and showering.”

In the second phase of the MCRCD project, the Micronesia Red Cross Society and the American Red Cross are constructing 48 3000-gallon rainwater harvesting sites across Chuuk and Kosrae, rehabilitating eight community water networks, and providing vital maintenance training to community partners across the two states. This will provide secure water sources for 1,100 people in 25 communities, especially in times of disaster when clean water is needed the most. Since 2016, water facilities supporting over 7,000 people in 31 communities have been constructed or upgraded as part of the MCRCD project.

“Cyclones and droughts can have a serious impact on our water security here, so it is really important that we work with our community partners to make sure our water facilities are strong and clean, and can survive the harsh weather that we sometimes have here in the FSM,” said MRCS’ Chuuk Chapter Project Coordinator, Francie Haregaichig. “Having clean and safe water is so important for everyone!”

Funded by USAID’s Bureau for

Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), the Micronesia Community Resilience and Capacity Development project has been supporting communities in FSM since 2016. Now in its second phase of implementation, the MCRCD project is supporting communities across five key areas: Increasing the resilience of communities; Strengthening the resilience of schools; Replanting coastal vegetation such as mangroves and pandanus; Improving and reinforcing community water and sanitation infrastructure; and Strengthening the capacity of MRCS staff and volunteers to respond to disasters.



U.S. Embassy donates masks to Kolonia Town Government

Thursday December 03, 2020

The U.S. Embassy in Kolonia donated fifty (50) face masks to Kolonia Town Government. Presenting these donations on behalf of the U.S. Embassy was Ms. Somer Bessire Birer, Management Officer of the U.S. Embassy. As restrictions begin to ease in some parts of the world, Kolonia Town, being the main portal for visitors arriving in Pohnpei will remain vigilant until such time when this virus completely dissipates from the face of the earth. Our Police Force will be wearing these masks as part of their daily police gears during these holiday season.



Under Represented Communities Grant (Mahkontowe: A Micronesian Landscape) Underrepresented Communities (URC) Grant Awarded to FSM for Kosrae’s Mahkontowe Conservation Area

11 August, 2020

The Federated States of Micronesia received the competitive Underrepresented Communities (URC) grant for writing a U.S. National Register nomination application for Kosrae’s Mahkontowe Conservation Area (MCA). In 2017, Kosraean elders proposed the idea to conserve and protect Kosrae’s mountain range which takes the shape of a female figure who they refer to as Mahkontowe (Kosrae State Law 11-152). There are two parts to the pihlengfong (night story) of Mahkontowe. The first part of the Mahkontowe pihlengfong represents the transition of the Tokosra’s seat of political power located in Likinlulem to Lelu Ruins on Lelu Island through the story about a daughter known as Mahkontowe and her mother, a whale who lived in Tafeut. The second part of the Mahkontowe pihlengfong emerged after Kosrae’s population decline, arrival of the missionaries in the 1850s, and construction of four churches. This continuation of Mahkontowe’s legacy is represented by a woman and four metaphorical children which identify Kosrae’s four municipalities and reflects on the American Missionary period of Kosrae when the population was small and churches were built on four facl, Malem, Utwe, Lelu, and Tafunsak. The purpose of this project is to learn more about Kosrae’s history through the ruins and stories hosted by the interior of the island and prepare a nomination application to the U.S. National Register for this significant Micronesian landscape. The project, Mahkontowe: A Micronesian Landscape Nomination, is funded through the Underrepresented Community grant program, funded by the Historic Preservation Fund, and administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior. For questions regarding this project, please contact fsmculture@gmail.com. For more information on Mahkontowe Conservation Area, please visit <https://hpo.kosraestate.gov.fm/mahkontowe/>.

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*During this holiday season we pause
to reflect on the past year
and express sincere
gratitude to friends of the college.*

*On behalf of the Board of Regents,
faculty, staff, and students of the
College of Micronesia-FSM
best wishes for the holiday season!*

OUR WARMEST GREETINGS!

Happy Holidays

Karen M. Simion
Interim President

Spring Registration 2021

The Spring Regular Registration is
January 6 - January 8, 2021

- **Registration is the process of officially enrolling in the College, selecting a program of study, and paying all tuition and fees. Assistance will be given by the counselors and other staff members when registering, but final responsibility for completing the registration requirements rests with the student.**

For more information visit:
www.comfsm.fm



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