

PO Box 2222 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 *Kpress@mail.fm* *www.kpress.info*

Medically eligible FSM citizens now required by law to get COVID-19 vaccinations

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

July 29, 2021

FSM—During the most recent special session of the 22nd FSM Congress, members passed a resolution (CR 22-33) amending the nation’s Declaration of Public Health Emergency with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new declaration requires all FSM citizens living in the FSM to undergo COVID-19 vaccination, subject to the protocol of the FSM COVID-19 Task Force. While it does not currently have any enforcement

measures for this new legal requirement it does mandate that ALL employees of the national government must comply within 30 days unless there is reasonable medical justification for them not to do so. Otherwise, they will be placed on leave without pay.

Again, while no other enforcement measures were included in the emergency declaration it seems to have the effect of allowing like-minded employers, like State and municipal governments, or even private employers to require their employees to be vaccinated as well.

The stated goal of the resolution is to increase the vaccination rate in the FSM from the current level of 49.6 percent of the population to at least the 70 percent required for the nation and its residents to be protected from the pandemic.

The new declaration says that citizens who have been infected with COVID-19 in the past but have since fully recovered and are medically proven to be non-infectious are eligible for repatriation. All people repatriating to the FSM will still require that they be fully vaccinated, and to either test negative for COVID-19 or to

have medical documentation confirming recovery of prior infection. Regarding quarantine on arrival, while that is still required as it is now, the new declaration says that ALL arriving passengers must be quarantined without discrimination or exception.

It also opens up interstate flights on commercial international airlines but only for personnel who are providing technical assistance supporting the FSM’s COVID-19 preparedness and response.

See “Mandatory Vaccination” on page 4

FSM swimmers compete in Olympics

The FSM Olympic Committee

Tokyo, JAPAN – The Federated States of Micronesia Olympic Committee

(FSMOC) is pleased to acknowledge the success of its swimmers Taeyanna Adams and Tasi Limtiaco at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Adams, a breaststroker from Pohnpei, finished fourth in her heat of the 100 breast with a seasonal best of 1:25.36.



Limtiaco, a medley specialist originally from Chuuk, also swam a season’s best in the 200 IM with a time of 2:07.69 which was less than a second off of his personal best. Both Adams and Limtiaco are IOC Solidarity Athlete scholarship holders who competed at their first Olympic Games.

“Both Taeyanna and Tasi were outstanding ambassadors for FSM at these Games,” stated Jim Tobin, FSMOC Secretary General. “And both have bright futures in the sport of swimming for Micronesia (FSM).”

The final athlete competing for FSM is Scott Fiti from Chuuk who will be running the 100 meters in Athletics (Track and Field) on Saturday 31 July.

In this EDITION of the **KPress:**

Supreme Court considering preliminary matters in OAE versus FSMTC claims and counterclaims

Page 2

More about FSM in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo

Page 4

Vaccines bring us closer.
 Get yours today!

Chuuk’s Premier Traveler’s Destination

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

Ramp & Mida Law Firm

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

Supreme Court considering preliminary matters in OAE versus FSMTC claims and counterclaims

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 31, 2021

FSM—The law suit filed by FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (FSMTCC), also known as the FSM's Open Access Entity (OAE) against FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) and FSMTC's counter-suit against the OAE is still in the early preliminary stages. While there has been some evidence of progress in cooperation between the two entities on some issues, there is still a lot of legal ground to cover before any final decisions will be made.

As previously reported in The Kaselehlie Press, FSMTC and OAE have agreed to court ordered terms for OAE access to cable landing facilities owned by FSMTC. The Supreme Court issued an order consolidating its previously issued preliminary injunctions listing that matter as the first. Although the order contains no information that is new to the parties

to the civil action, two of the injunctions were new to our coverage of the court case.

The Court has ordered that OAE may not "take any action that has the effect of blocking or delaying the Telecom's effort to resume work on completing the upgrade of Telecom's own spectrum." This regards OAE's stated intention to upgrade the HANTRU spur to Pohnpei. FSMTC has said that it will now complete its work on that line by the end of September. Their work will not preclude OAE from also upgrading the line, and the parties have agreed to "supply a coupling" between the portions of any upgrade either party makes.

The Court has also ordered that FSMTC must book and bank payments to OAE under the debated Deed Granting Indefeasible Rights of Use (the "IRU Deed"). FSMTC is required to keep those funds in retained reserves so that the funds, or whatever part of them the court orders, are readily available for payment

to the OAE upon resolution of the case. Meanwhile, OAE can continue to invoice FSMTC for cable access fees under the IRU Deed. Whether or not those funds will eventually be awarded to OAE is central to OAE's claims against FSMTC. FSMTC says that they had already been handling questioned OAE invoices in the now court ordered manner, so the order is not a change in practice for FSMTC.

OAE has filed a motion for a protection order from the Court barring many of FSMTC's requests for provision of documents as discovery in the case. OAE has refused to provide a large number of documents and other information that FSMTC requested, saying essentially that the information requested is outside of the scope of the issues at hand in the case.

FSMTC claims in its opposition to the protection order motion that all of the documents and information it demanded from OAE are pertinent to the case and FSMTC's counter claims. It says that OAE cannot refuse to deny the release of information just because it doesn't present the case they want to present. FSMTC has made a petition for the Court to compel OAE to provide the requested information and provided the basis for each of its requests.

A hearing on those motions and oppositions will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, August 3.

Again, all of the matters that have been so far ruled on and decided are preliminary to the bringing of the main case of the parties.



the Village Travel

Serving the Islands and abroad since 1980!

Providing your domestic and international flight arrangements

Call us now for your next trip

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

Fax: (691) 320-5375

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

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

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

The Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

P.O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941
ph:(691) 320-6547
email: Kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: **August 18, 2021**

**Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:
Friday, August 13, 2021**

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

Pohnpei Address
Cost includes shipping \$35 for 26 issues

Chuuk, Kosrae, Yap, or USA Address
Cost includes shipping \$50 for 26 issues

International Address
Cost includes shipping \$100 for 26 issues

RECIPIENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

FSM President Panuelo visits East-West Center

EastWestCenter

July 21, 2021

HONOLULU – During a trip to Honolulu this week for defense talks with US officials, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), visited the East-West Center (EWC) on July 19, where he met with the Center’s president along with the director of the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), which is headquartered at the EWC.

During a recent virtual summit meeting, President Panuelo was elected Chairman of the Pacific Island Conference of Leaders, which normally meets every few years at the EWC. PIDP serves as the body’s Secretariat.

Investing in the future through education

In his meeting with EWC President Dr. Richard R. Vuylsteke, Panuelo expressed his nation’s appreciation for EWC’s

contribution to Pacific development. “Our people and government fully support the East-West Center, which has contributed to our nation-building process, including the educational development of our founding fathers,” he said. “A strengthened EWC is equivalent to a strengthened Pacific.”

Dr. Vuylsteke emphasized that one of the best ways to invest in the future is through education. “For six decades the EWC has been pleased to host thousands of Pacific Islanders in its student, training, professional development, and conference programs. We are delighted that so many of these participants now hold leadership positions across the region, and we are committed to continue building on this rich tradition.”

Building an Indigenous research hub

The Pacific Islands Development Program’s interim director, Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori, told Panuelo about efforts underway to build PIDP into a go-to hub for Indigenous Pacific research.



FSM President Panuelo (left) and EWC President Vuylsteke



Panuelo with PIDP Interim Director Hattori (center right) and program staff

“We feel PIDP is uniquely positioned to serve as one of many global hubs for research conducted by, with, and for the benefit of, Indigenous communities,” Hattori said. “Our growing network of professionals, both near and far, are developing approaches to research that bring to the fore Indigenous wisdom and ways of being which can serve as powerful models for the world.”

“The FSM is truly grateful for PIDP’s historical efforts in supporting our

nation and the Pacific at large,” Panuelo responded. “It is wonderful to see PIDP become reinvigorated through additional support from the US Congress and increasing awareness and utilization by other Pacific Islands. In my capacities as President of the FSM and Chair of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, I will do everything that I possibly can to ensure that PIDP becomes a font of knowledge and training opportunities for men and women across the Pacific.”

FSM-U.S. high-level defense & security talks conclude; actions taken, commitments made, essential to FSM & Indo-Pacific security

FSM Information Services

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The High-Level Defense Talks between the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the United States of America (USA), which began on or around July 15th, 2021, concluded on or around July 26th, 2021, with the actions taken as a result of the talks, and the commitments made by both the FSM National Government and the U.S. Government, essential for FSM and Indo-Pacific security.

“With what we’ve learned whilst we’ve been in Hawaii—what we’ve since taken action on, and made commitments on,” His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, said in a statement, “What it all means is that Micronesians and Americans alike can sleep better, confident that the FSM-US Enduring Partnership is stronger than it has ever been, and that U.S. commitment to our Nation’s security manifests in many forms, such as Climate Change mitigation and adaptation efforts through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. Coast Guard Search & Rescue operations, law enforcement training, and more.”

When prodded for clarification, the President said “Perhaps I can paint an example of the occasional necessity of opacity—that is, the opposite of transparency—as it relates to our broader national security and defense

umbrella with the United States, by way of describing a recent drug seizure in the FSM. A few months ago, a package was sent to the National Government from or around the U.S. Pacific Northwest. The sender wrote ‘Customs Shirts’ on the box, which our Customs Officers interpreted to mean were the new uniforms they ordered from abroad. Interestingly, when the box was opened, as in fact every item shipped from abroad the Government has the right and power to inspect, the box was full of marijuana, and the criminals’ intent to circumvent drug trafficking laws by declaring they were sending shirts is what got themselves caught.”

“It’s a funny story,” President Panuelo continued, “But by saying it out loud, by announcing this story in a press release, we’ve also alerted the people who committed that crime that the Government is aware of their actions, which could change their behavior in the future. We’ve already taken the appropriate action for this specific scenario, but the main idea still stands. When it comes to conventional security threats, such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the security interest of not saying where the boats conducting [IUU] are in the short-term outweighs the public interest of knowing how the Government is protecting them from the threat. We can’t catch them if we tell the public that we know where they are and we know who they are, and by the way, here’s their

specific location right now.”

The High-Level Defense Talks discussed a wide range of topics in detail and with the aim of openness and frankness. Topics included the United States’ broader defense and force posture in the Pacific; how the United States defends and secures the FSM, ranging from conventional security threats, and non-conventional security threats, such as Climate Change, transnational organized crime, maritime security, including a focus on illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and the FSM’s self-identified internal and regional security threats. The FSM and the United States collaborated on plans for more frequent and permanent U.S. Armed Forces presence, and have agreed to cooperate on how that presence will be built up both temporarily and permanently within the FSM, with the purpose of serving the mutual security interests of both nations.

“I would like to express my appreciation to Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander of U.S. INDO-PACOM, Her Excellency Carmen G. Cantor,



Ambassador of the US to the FSM, and all the other men and women who contributed to truly excellent discussions on the FSM’s security,” President Panuelo said. “It’s such a comfort and relief to hear so clearly that the FSM is part of the Pacific Homeland—that is, that the FSM is clearly part of the U.S. homeland defense plans that the United States is poised to defend. I asked the question ‘How will the United States defend the FSM?’—and the answer has never been clearer. The FSM is always so happy to extend peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity, and it’s a blessing and privilege to receive peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity from our partners in the United States.”

Adams and Fiti named FSM flagbearers for Tokyo 2020

The FSM Olympic Committee

(Tokyo, JAPAN) – The Federated States of Micronesia National Olympic Committee (FSMNOC) is pleased to announce that Taeyanna Adams and Scott Fiti have been selected as joint flagbearers for FSM at the upcoming Opening Ceremonies of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Both Adams a breaststroke swimmer from Pohnpei, and Fiti, a track and field 100m sprinter from Chuuk, are IOC Olympic Solidarity athlete scholarship holders who will be competing at their first Olympic Games.

“We are so excited to have both Taeyanna and Scott represent not only our NOC but our country as well,” said FSMNOC President Berney Martin. “They are the future of the Olympic movement and are so proud to have them holding the flag for Team FSM!”

In total, FSM will have three (3) athletes competing including Tasi Limtiaco who will be competing in the 200 IM (on 28 July). Adams is scheduled to compete in the 100 Breaststroke (on 25 July) while Fiti is set to participate in the 100-meter dash (on 31 July).

“We are so fortunate to have such

outstanding young ambassadors competing for us at these Games,” noted FSMNOC Secretary General Jim Tobin. “They are rising stars in their sports and the entire country will be able to see them not only march in Opening for the first time but compete in their individual events as well.”

Specifically, residents of FSM will be able to watch the Olympic Games courtesy of a special arrangement with the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC), which the FSMNOC is a member, and PNG Digicel and can do so by tuning into the FSM Telecommunications cable tv stations in the four FSM island states of Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap.

A new FSMNOC website (<http://www.fsmoc.fm>) will be dedicated to the FSM Olympians and the Tokyo Olympics Games and is linked to the Olympic Channel.

FSM residents can also send notes of congratulations to all Team FSM athletes and delegation members at #teammicronesia via Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/FSM-Olympic-Committee-1013512088769/>

Fiti completes FSM Tokyo 2020 participation

The FSM Olympic Committee

(Tokyo, JAPAN) – Running a season’s best, Scott Fiti completed the Federated States of Micronesia’s (FSM) participation today at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

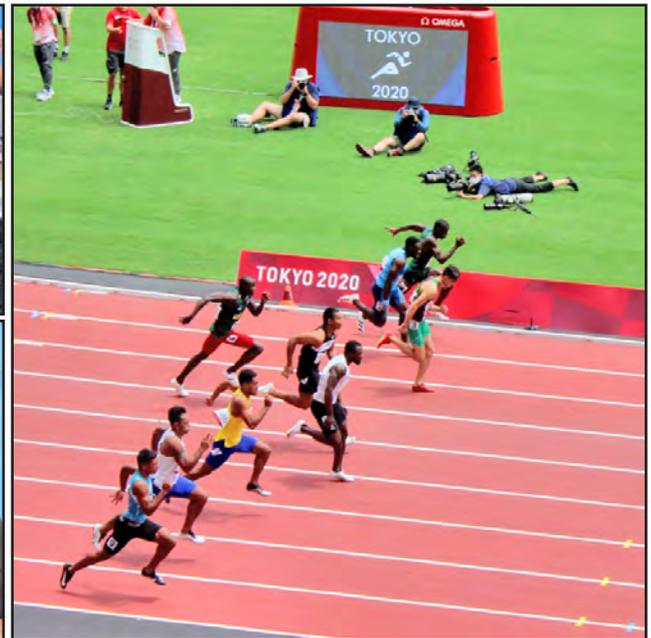
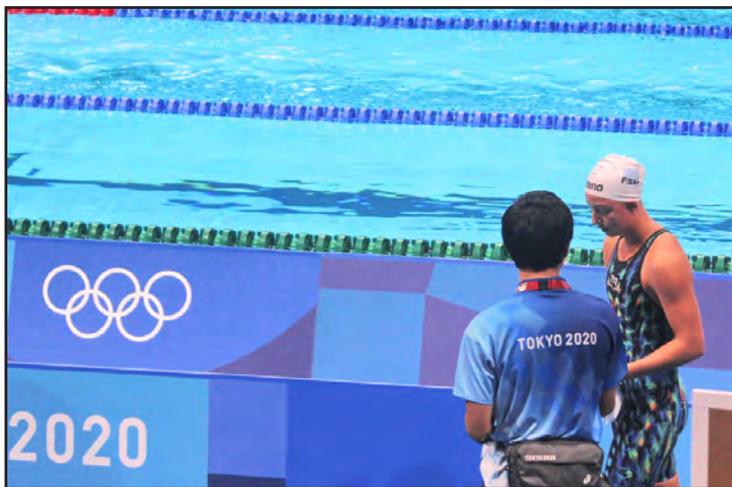
Fiti, from Chuuk State, FSM, and an IOC Olympic Solidarity Athlete Scholarship recipient, ran 11.25 seconds in the third preliminary heat of the Men’s 100 meter dash finishing sixth out of nine competitors.

“Scott had a solid race today and I was most impressed with his ability to finish strong,” said Coach Karatel Phillip “And the fact that he beat two other Oceania athletes in his race was impressive as well.”

Fiti is scheduled to compete internationally again for FSM at the

Pacific Mini-Games to be hosted by Saipan in the Northern Marianas in June 2022 and the World Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA in July 2022.

“Our athletes competed very well in Tokyo and are role models for Micronesia,” said Jim Tobin, FSM Olympic Committee (FSMOC) Secretary General. “Our NOC and the entire country are so pleased with their performances in Japan”.



...mandatory vaccination

Continued from front page

The President’s press release on the new emergency declaration says that “the FSM COVID-19 Task Force ‘shall be granted reasonable flexibility with

respect to the implementing details of this emergency declaration, in recognition of the scientific expertise and capacity available to the Task Force in enforcing its guidelines and protocols.’ The practical effect is that as vaccination rates increase and risk profiles decline, the COVID-19 Task Force is empowered to make appropriate adjustments to how the Declaration of Public Health Emergency is implemented.”

“Just today I was watching the Honorable Josh Tenorio, Lieutenant Governor of the U.S. Territory of Guam, describe how Guam has already reached an 80% vaccination rate,” President Panuelo said in a statement. “The FSM still has so much work to do to conquer the Pandemic, and so I applaud the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the 22nd FSM Congress, the Honorable Ferny S. Perman, Chair of the Congressional Committee

on Health & Social Affairs, and all Honorable Senators, for their leadership on this issue, and for taking actions today for our Nation’s prosperity tomorrow. This Paradise in Our Backyards can, and must, and will, overcome the COVID-19 Pandemic, and emerge stronger.”

Unless extended, the Declaration of Public Health Emergency expires September 30th, 2021.

High-Speed Low Price

Get reliable high-speed internet that fits your budget.

KABOOM

CALL NOW | 320-2740

EMAIL | customerservice@fsmtc.fm

Available for both Residence & Businesses.

BRONZE

up to

10MBPS

\$49 Per Month

SILVER

up to

15MBPS

\$75 Per Month

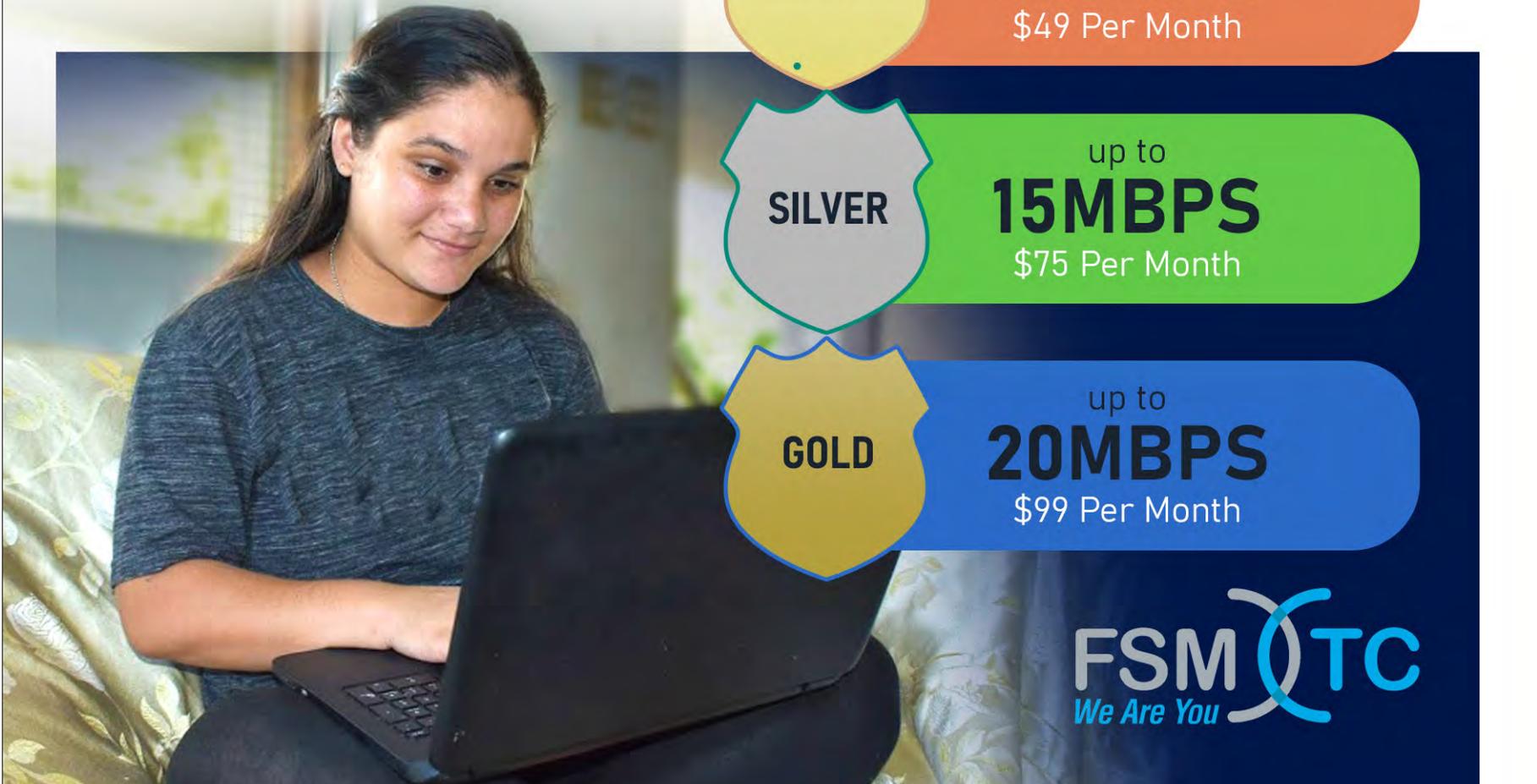
GOLD

up to

20MBPS

\$99 Per Month

FSM XTC
We Are You



Pohnpei Vital Fishing Tournament sets record for boats registered

By Pohnpei Fishing Club

July 21, 2021

Pohnpei—An astounding and record setting 79 boats registered for the Vital Fishing Tournament held on July 21. Vital provided beer, t-shirts, and fuel vouchers for every participating boat, and all of the prizes were paid out in fuel vouchers.

Saturday was a very busy day on the water and at Mangrove Bay where catches were weighed for prizes. Amazingly, because of cooperation from the anglers and a lot of organization, the weigh-in was done in just over an hour and a half.

Though some anglers were stumped on the day of the tournament, others caught some big fish despite the full moon phase of the moon. Anglers landed five marlins and others reported connecting to marlin that got away. Alex Wichep caught the biggest fish of the day, a 289-pound marlin winning \$400 worth of fuel. The second-place fish was also a marlin.

Jimmy Barnabas landed a 206.5-pound marlin for the second prize of a \$300 fuel voucher. The third and fourth place fish in the big fish category were also marlin, one 108.5 pounds and the other, 101 pounds caught by Sylvia Kostka and Marvin Mihkel respectively for prizes of \$240 and \$200 fuel vouchers.

The fifth landed marlin missed the 100-pound minimum qualifying weight by just a few pounds.

Herbert Santos bagged a 79.5-pound yellowfin tuna for fifth prize of \$160 in fuel. Joe Soswe landed a 62.5-pound sailfish for \$140 worth of fuel.

Two prizes were awarded for each of the species caught with the largest of species winning \$100 worth of fuel and the second prize winning \$40 worth of fuel. For skipjack, the top prizes went to Leeson Nicholas and Lenson Nicholas for near twin skipjacks of 17.5 and 17 pounds.

Hercules Semes caught a 34-pound dogtooth tuna which qualified in the yellowfin category for first-prize. John Immanuel came in second with a 16-pound yellowfin tuna.

Emerald Eperiam boated a 39-pound wahoo, followed by Simon Linge, Jr. whose fish was 28 pounds.

Jimmy Obispo nabbed a 22-pound barracuda. Konrad Englberger had the second-place example of the needle-toothed fish at 18 pounds.

Peter Simon got a nice 30-pound grand trevalle for first place in that species followed by another nice sized fish of 25.5 pounds.

The top two lady anglers were Lesley Mendiola and Jeannie Nanpei both won their prizes with yellowfin tuna. The top prize fish was 32 pounds for \$120 in fuel. Second place was a 25.5-pound fish for \$60 in fuel.

John West was the top junior angler with a skip jack of 16 pounds for \$80 in fuel. Second place junior angler was Ziggy Eperiam with a 14-pound fish, also a skip jack.

In keeping with Pohnpei Fishing Club's stated goal to ensure that each boat owner club member owns his or her own EPIRB, three EPIRBS also donated by Vital were raffled off to small boat owners. Brian Kapriel won one for his boat JRAY. Jayden Immanuel, owner of Samurai won one as well. Darius Santos of vessel ROS ISLAND won the last of the EPIRBS.

We want to thank all the Vital staff who helped out, Mangrove Bay for the weigh in venue, and our volunteers, including Virginia, Serlynn, James for filling in on weighmaster duties and all the guys helping on the dock.

The next tournament is in August.



President Panuelo thanks US FAA for \$37,222,222 to fully rehabilitate Yap State Airport



T.H. Kandhi A. Elieisar, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs; H.E. David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM; Carlos H. Salas, Assistant Manager at US FAA; Gordon K. Wong, Manager at US FAA; T.H. Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker of the FSM Congress; T.H. Jose R. Gallen, Secretary of the Department of Justice

FSM Information Services

HONOLULU, Hawaii—On July 23rd, 2021, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—received Gordon K. Wong and Carlos H. Salas, Manager and Assistant Manager respectively at the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration’s (US FAA) Western-Pacific Region Honolulu Airports District Office, to express the Nation’s profound gratitude for the July 15th, 2021, grant award of \$37,222,222 under the Airport Improvement Program to fund the Yap International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Project. The US FAA-funded project is a full rehabilitation project that will include the removing and re-surfacing of Yap State airport’s whole runway and taxiway pavement, and the removal of an earth mound that is obstructing the view between the runway and taxiway.

The FSM became eligible for the US FAA Airport Improvement Program’s discretionary funding in December 2003 under the US FAA Western-Pacific Region. Initially, the FSM’s eligibility under the Program was contingent upon a cost sharing agreement of 95% as the US FAA’s share and 5% as the FSM’s share. For grants issued starting in FY 2012, however, the cost sharing was revised to reduce the US FAA’s share to 90% and increase the FSM’s share to 10%.

On March 27th, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law, approving ten billion dollars in supplementary funds to provide economic relief to eligible airports, including the FSM, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Crucially, from the FSM National Government’s perspective, the CARES Act provided funds to increase the federal share to one hundred percent (100%) for Airport Improvement Program and supplementary discretionary grants already issued in FY 2020. On March 11th, 2021, His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America, signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, approving eight billion dollars in funds to continue providing economic assistance to eligible airports. The American Rescue Plan Act also retained the federal share increase to one hundred percent (100%) for grants issued in FY 2021.

Given that the demand for Airport Improvement Program funds exceed their availability, the US FAA bases distribution of these funds on national priorities and objectives. The Program’s funds are typically first apportioned into major entitlement categories such as primary, cargo, and general aviation. The remaining funds are then distributed to a discretionary fund, in which the FSM is eligible under.

In FY 2020, the Yap Runway Rehabilitation Project went out for bid and a contractor was recommended to the US FAA; however, it was not awarded due to limited funding available. It was then prioritized for the FY 2021 grants cycle to ensure funding was secured.

The FSM is deeply fortunate, and the FSM National Government is profoundly thankful, to have received this grant to fully rehabilitate the Yap State airport’s runway and taxiway.

“Gordon [K. Wong, Manager at US FAA] and Carlos [H. Salas, Assistant Manager at US FAA], I want to express to both of you, on behalf of the People and Government of the FSM, our incredible and overwhelming gratitude to you and to the US FAA for the Yap International Airport Runway

Rehabilitation Project. This US FAA-funded initiative will provide enormous and genuine assistance to the People of Yap State, and the whole of the FSM. Be confident that the FSM assuredly does not take this kindness for granted.”

“Please pass on my personal gratitude, and the gratitude of the People and Government of the FSM, to your superiors at US FAA,” President Panuelo requested. “This news is so positive and will provide such a meaningful and real service to our country. The US FAA office here is like a family to the FSM. We are so very thankful, so very grateful to the US FAA for their generosity and for their assistance to our country. It’s further evidence that the FSM-US Enduring Partnership is truly an alliance of genuine partners and friends. Thank you.”



The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) with a grant from the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) Japan, provided over \$10,000 worth of PVC pipes and associated supplies to the Lohd Community in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei FSM. The pipes will be used to rehabilitate an old system which used to supply clean water to the members of the community in Lohd. This program is a partnership between MCT, APIC, Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC), Madolenihmw Municipal Government, the FSM Congress and the people of Lohd. APIC, through MCT, has supported several community water security projects in the states of Pohnpei and Chuuk, and looks forward to supporting similar programs in communities across Micronesia.

GET CONNECTED STAY CONNECTED

UNLIMITED DATA PLANS
ANYWHERE IN CHUUK

**UNLIMITED
ENTRY
PLANS**

AT **40 MBPS**
MAXIMUM SPEED

AND MORE FOR
USD 174
PER MONTH

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY*



✉ INFO@ISOLUTIONSMICRONESIA.FM
🌐 WWW.KACIFIC.ISOLUTIONSMICRONESIA.FM
☎ (+691) 330 7554

POWERED BY **KACIFIC**



GBV and PFA workshop for Chuuk health assistants



July 5-9, 2021

Weno, Chuuk – Twenty health assistants from dispensaries in the neighboring islands of Chuuk attended a five-day Training of Trainers workshop on gender-based violence (GBV) and Psychological First Aid (PFA). All the participants were housed at Truk Stop Hotel during the length of the training. The workshop was a collaborative effort between IOM, Pacific Women, Chuuk Women’s Council Tongen Inepwineu Counselling Center (CWC TICC), Ministry of Health and was funded by the Australian government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). This capacity-building training for the health assistants is designed to better equip them to respond to survivors of violence in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

The training was well-received by the participants, as it helped them understand the link between gender power relations and violence against women, as well as the different forms of violence against women. Participants learned the basics of PFA and first-line support and how to make warm referrals to ensure the safety and the confidentiality of the survivors. After the training, majority of participants indicated that they felt more empowered and better equipped to do their work.



We're giving away over \$8k in fuel!

2021 VITAL ANNUAL FISHING CIRCUIT

TKK KSA NAU PNI YAP



Registration: Wed, Aug 18

Time: 8AM-5PM

@ FSMPC Chuuk Terminal Nepukos

For more info, call 330-2540

Aug 21

Chuuk Data for Decision Making Program celebrates 12 graduates



Pacific Islands Health Officers Association

Chuuk, FSM – The Chuuk Department of Health Services (Chuuk DHS) honored 12 Data for Decision Making (DDM) program graduates last week.

The DDM program is a Fiji National University (FNU) accredited post-graduate certificate program that aims to train epidemiology technicians. The program consists of five modules delivered in-country to a cohort of health workers with data-related roles throughout the health department. To receive their certificates, DDM students must pass all modules and complete a final project.

PIHOA Regional Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Program Support Officer Dioreme Navasca, and DDM Faculty, Dr. Ian Rouse, joined the celebration virtually, congratulating the graduates.

"By completing the DDM program, you all have taken an important role in enhancing your leadership skills and contributed to improving the overall public health capacity in your country. The ability of

health agencies to collect, analyze, and make effective use of health information is critical to the success of health agency functions," said Navasca.

"You all have come a long way. I still remember the day we sent out invites to anyone interested in participating in the DDM program. Thank you, PIHOA, for ensuring the students got their certificates. Congratulations to all," added Dr. Rouse.

PIHOA's Regional Health Information Management System (HIMS) Initiative aims to assist member jurisdictions in addressing issues and limitations to the regional collation of surveillance data as well as improve the collection and use of data for planning and decision-making processes across a variety of domains, including but not limited to; vital statistics, community-based surveys, medical records, electronic health records (EHRs), disease registries, administrative data, and information technology networks.

The HIMS Initiative was established by the PIHOA Board in 2010 and continues to be an integral aspect of PIHOA's ongoing

work. In March 2015, PIHOA Board Members endorsed the establishment of the Regional Epidemiology Unit comprised of PIHOA staff Epidemiologists and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Field Epidemiologists co-located with PIHOA. The latter collectively strengthen regional and jurisdiction-level surveillance and epidemiological capacities, systems and processes for non-communicable and infectious diseases, and other emerging, outbreak-prone diseases of public health significance.

The Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific (SHIP) program is led by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the FNU, PIHOA, CDC, and World Health Organization (WHO). SHIP is a surveillance system and capacity development initiative of SPC's Pacific PH Surveillance Network (PPHSN). PIHOA is the lead implementing agency for SHIP in the USAPIs as a permanent member of the PPHSN Coordinating Body. SHIP is comprised of three tiers accredited by

FNU: Post-Graduate Certificate (PGCert) in Applied Epidemiology (EpiTech), also known as DDM; Post-Graduate Diploma (PGDip) in Applied Epidemiology (Operational Research); and Masters in Applied Epidemiology.

"Not only is this a personal accomplishment for all 12 DDM graduates, but this is also a collective celebration for all of Chuuk State and the FSM. This would not be possible without your perseverance and discipline and most especially the unyielding support from your leaders and social networks," added Navasca.

To date, 96 USAPI health staff have attained a PGCert in Applied Epidemiology. Along with Chuuk, 84 other graduates from American Samoa, Guam, Palau, Majuro, Ebeye, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap, successfully completed the DDM program. Stayed tuned for the next PIHOA E-Newsletter as we highlight DDM graduates throughout the region.

Consistently heightened oil prices likely to result in further price movements

Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation

July 23, 2021

Pohnpei, FSM– The Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC) announces to its customers that a second series of price movements to its wholesale ARP prices (unleaded gasoline, diesel and kerosene) has been scheduled for the coming months of August, September and October. FSMPC confirms that the first price increase of fifteen cents per gallon (\$0.15/gal) will go into effect on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

FSMPC Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Mr. Johnny Adolph said, "As we are aware, global fuel prices have been on an upward movement since May 2020. In response to this year-long trend of upward price movements, prices for our ARP & Walk-in Customers increased over the past three months by a total of forty-five cents per gallon (\$0.45/gal)."

Adolph said, "In January 2021, one gallon of gasoline in Guam was \$3.88, and \$3.90 in Pohnpei, a difference of only two cents (\$0.02/gal). However, since July 2, 2021, that same gallon of gasoline now costs \$4.72 in Guam, while in Pohnpei, a gallon costs on average \$4.35. Guam prices react directly to the frequent price movements of international prices, and

in the past seven months has increased eighty-four cents per gallon (\$0.84/gal), while Pohnpei and FSM prices have only increased forty-five cents per gallon (\$0.45/gal).

"While we had anticipated that the forty-five cents per gallon (\$0.45/gal) increases that were implemented from April to June would be sufficient in addressing increasing international prices, they continue to rise and the gap between the cost of fuel and our wholesale price continues to grow. With that said, a gallon of gasoline in Pohnpei currently costs thirty-seven cents per gallon (\$0.37/gal) less than a gallon of gasoline in Guam. We are holding off from increasing prices in July, but will not be able to avoid increasing in August," CFO Adolph continued.

CFO Adolph concluded, "We've absorbed as much of the year's increases as our pricing framework has allowed, and at this time have little choice but to now implement further increases. We will continue to monitor and analyze movements of the MOPS, international and regional retail prices, before we implement the price increases scheduled for September and October."

For inquiries, email info@fsmc.com.

COVID-19 case in Kosrae deemed historical & non-infectious; individual to remain isolated, tested further, for 14 days; "Get vaccinated today", says President Panuelo

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 24th, 2021, the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 via the NAAT/PCR test has come up as negative through subsequent antigen tests. The Kosrae Department of Health Services, the National Government Department of Health & Social Affairs, and Dr. Thane Hancock from the U.S. CDC agreed that the results show no evidence of active infection, and that the individual is negative for any COVID-19 related

illness. Conversely, however, the results demonstrate that the individual would have been previously exposed to COVID-19 sometime in previous months.

While the conclusion reached is that the case is historical and so the individual has very little chance of passing the virus to any other person, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Kosrae State

See "Kosrae historical case" on page 12

President Panuelo meets three heroic Micronesians, congratulates them for their hard work & successes, offers assistance where appropriate & possible

FSM Information Services

HONOLULU, Hawaii—On July 20th, 2021, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—received three of the Nation’s outstanding achievers in the areas of human rights, citizens advocacy, education, and science: Nicole Yamase, one of the recipients of the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) scholarships implemented by Micronesia Conservation Trust, and a PhD Candidate at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; Shanty Sigrah Asher, Member of the State of Hawaii’s Board of Education and Pacific Islander Liaison Officer at the Office of Economic Revitalization for the City and County of Honolulu; and Josie Howard, Program Director for We Are Oceania, a registered nonprofit whose mission is to empower the Micronesian community in Hawaii to navigate success while honoring the integrity of our diverse Micronesian heritage. Program Director Howard updated President Panuelo on the programming and activities We Are Oceania have been implementing over the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, such as helping Pacific Islanders get protected against the virus through completing the vaccination regime. Program Director Howard noted, that in Hawaii, Pacific Islanders as a broader category, and Micronesians as a specific subcategory, have been disproportionately represented in the number of historical, and contemporaneous, confirmed cases of COVID-19. The Program Director remarked that beyond cultural affinity towards communal gatherings and large groups, significant linkages included systemic poverty, language and educational barriers, and difficulty in accessing necessary services.

“I deeply appreciate the work that you and We Are Oceania are doing, Josie [Howard], to empower Micronesians who call Hawaii home to navigate foreign cultures and laws,” President Panuelo said. “From multiple perspectives, whether it’s to build citizens’ morale and faith in your organization by witnessing the trust and confidence we have in you, or to demonstrate that trust and confidence in the form of financial support, I would like to inform you that I’ve included in our supplemental budget request at the 1st Special Session of the 22nd FSM Congress an ask for \$50,000 to support We Are Oceania, as well as another \$50,000 to support the FSM Association of Guam. I’m here with the [Honorable Esmond B. Moses] Vice Speaker, so let’s be sure to lobby him for Congress’ support so we can show our appreciation to you.”

The Board of Education Member and City and County of Honolulu’s Pacific Islander Liaison Officer, Shanty Sigrah Asher, updated President Panuelo on a host of positive programs and outcomes, as well as areas of weakness that the FSM National Government can support. Asher spoke at length about troubling, but accurate and entirely real, circumstances many migrants, especially youth, find themselves in when they move to Hawaii, and the economic, familial, communal, and cultural impacts of what it looks like. Asher noted, for example, that

Hawaii’s lockdowns—while positive from a public health perspective—meant in practice that many Micronesian youth were effectively divorced from the education system, as virtual classes became difficult to access if a family didn’t have an internet connection. Asher further described recent successes, such as the “Jungle Basketball Summer Tournament”, which united Micronesian youth regardless of their home island or socio-economic status, and was made possible by the kind collaborative assistance from Kaimuki High School, Principal Jaime Dela Cruz and Gym Director Fred Lee and staff, the City & County of Honolulu Office of Economic Revitalization, Kuldip Productions Inc., Soused Production, Micronesian Health Advisory Coalition (MHAC), Pacific Voices, Safe Haven, the Consulate of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Marshallese Organization of Hawaii, Pacific Islander Contact Tracers, the Hawaii State Department of Health, Team Faichuuk, and Jayex Garage. Asher requested President Panuelo’s assistance in understanding how underserved persons and communities might be able to gain support from the FSM National Government, noting that many helpful organizations—such as Pacific Voices, Safe Haven, and the Micronesian Ministers Uut—may not be formally chartered but do provide a genuine service to FSM citizens residing in Hawaii.

“I will have our Secretary of Foreign Affairs through our Ambassador to the United States designate at least one Foreign Service Officer in Guam, Hawaii, and Portland to be dedicated to migrants’ affairs,” President Panuelo said. “In the meantime, since I am hearing that there are non-chartered organizations that are providing genuine services to our citizens, I would ask that you work with them and our Consulate to make them chartered and recognized by the U.S. as legitimate nonprofits. Aside from making it easier to obtain assistance from the U.S. Government and the State of Hawaii, it’s the mechanism that’s needed for me, in my capacity as President of the FSM, to submit a request to the Congress for providing funding to the organization.”

“In the meantime,” President Panuelo continued, “I want it to be very much on the record that while I fought hard for you to be our Nation’s Consul General here in Hawaii, I am both personally and professionally proud of you and the work you are doing to help our citizens who call Hawaii home. The City and County of Honolulu made precisely the right choice in bringing you onboard to represent and liaise with Pacific Islanders, and the Board of Education made precisely the right choice in bringing you onboard to help make the public education system more accessible and serviceable to the children who need it. All institutions must, and can only exist to, serve the needs of the people.”

Back on March 11th, 2021, PhD Candidate Nicole Yamase became the first Pacific Islander, and the youngest woman, to travel to the deepest part of the World’s oceans: the Challenger Deep. The Challenger Deep, part of the Marianas Trench, is 35,856 ft (10,929 m) below sea level. Nicole Yamase is one of only approximately two dozen people to

ever descend to the deepest part of the ocean and, as the Challenger Deep is located within the territory of the FSM, she is the first FSM citizen to visit this unique environment of her country. As an outcome of the March 31st, 2021 Talk Story event with Nicole Yamase, President Panuelo requested that she work with Yolanda Joab Mori and Blue Prosperity Micronesia to see how the Challenger Deep—which is located in the FSM—might indigenize its name to something more fitting for its place in Micronesia.

Nicole Yamase updated President Panuelo on her scientific studies on algae, and her efforts to ensure that the process for changing the Challenger Deep’s name is inclusive

and respectful of all stakeholders. President Panuelo asked if she can be sure, in her collaborative efforts with Yolanda Joab Mori and Blue Prosperity Micronesia, to ensure that Micronesia’s youth are involved in the naming process.

“A critic of our efforts to decolonize and indigenize the name ‘Challenger Deep’ would say that the original discoverers on Her Majesty’s Ship Challenger found something new, and so had the right to give it a name,” President Panuelo said. “But the name does not fit the place, which is in Micronesia, whether one refers to the FSM specifically or even the broader Micronesian subregion, and it is the right of the owner to give it its name.”

Scholarships highlight student achievement, US-Micronesian ties

Habele

Individual Americans have pooled private donations to help promising students in Micronesia attend the island nation’s top performing independent schools.

Habele, a US nonprofit established by former Peace Corps Volunteers, has awarded merit and needs-based tuition scholarships since 2006. It is the only US nonprofit exclusively focused on serving students and schools within the Federated States.

Thirty-seven complete, on-time applications from across Micronesia were received ahead of the June 30th annual submission deadline. Based on the money raised from individual donors Habele was able to award twenty-five tuition scholarships to students attending eight different elementary and high schools in three FSM states.

Checks for the scholarships have been mailed to the schools, and families will be also be notified by mail.

“We are tremendously proud of the scholarship recipients, and take great satisfaction to report that scholars’ grades in 2020-21 were some of the highest since we started the program in 2006,” explained Habele founder Neil Mellen. “There were also four 2020-21 scholars who completed their secondary studies this spring. Those students were Cassandra Hagiltaw at Pohnpei Catholic, Crystal Ruerngun Loochaz and Shereeca Pairui at Yap SDA, and Maselyann “MC” Suemog Yangr at Yap Catholic High School.”

In the spring, Maselyann, a Habele scholar since 2016, wrote to Habele about the importance of the program. “I am grateful for your help in achieving my goals. You have helped me to stay in school, and

now I am only two months away from graduating high school. I am very thankful to have gotten the chance to make it this far with a great education and a school community that has become my second family and home.”

Maselyann graduated YCHS with nearly all “A’s” on her final report card and is now headed to the University of Guam, where she will pursue a degree in chemistry.

Among the twenty-five scholarships awarded are three Memorial Scholarships. These are a special type of Habele K12 tuition grant. They honor the legacy of Americans whose life or work demonstrated exceptional commitment to the people of Micronesia, and embodied the best of the longstanding US-Micronesian partnership. These include the Lee Huddleston, Dr. Marshall Wees, and Leona Peterson Memorial Scholarships.

“I saw first-hand the amazing results of Habele’s efforts throughout Micronesia, reaching students at the grassroots level, even on the most remote of the outer islands,” observed Ambassador Robert A. Riley, formerly the US Ambassador to Micronesia and now a Director at the East-West Center, a think tank in Hawaii. “Habele fulfills a unique and critical role in FSM’s development.”

“The name “HABELE” is a wish come true for our children,” explained Lazarus Ulith in a note sent in with a student’s report card last month. He observed the nonprofit’s name is itself a play on words meaning both the future tense of “to be” and more figuratively “to achieve an ambition.” “You make it a reality which is why you make a difference in their future” said Ulith.

Those interested in learning more can apply, or support the program online at www.habele.

FSM-Japan Kizuna to become bedrock for Japan-Pacific relations through Japan Pacific bond (KIZUNA) policy

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 2, 2021, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—virtually attended the Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM-9). Co-Chaired by the Honorable Yoshihide Suga, Prime Minister of Japan, and the Honorable Kausea Natano, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tuvalu, the triennially held PALM summits between Japan and Pacific Island Countries (PICs) reflect on historical and contemporary cooperation efforts between Japan and PICs, and develop plans for future efforts.

Of the voluminous and positive outcomes resulting from the PALM-9, one of the most substantial for FSM Japan relations was Prime Minister Suga's announcement of an All-Japan effort to build the Japan Pacific Bond (KIZUNA) Policy, which intends to strengthen cooperation between Japan and PICs based on the shared vision for a Free & Open Indo-Pacific. Citizens may recall that the FSM-Japan relationship has frequently been referred to as a Kizuna or Special Bond, which is demonstrated through substantial FSM Japan blood and marital ties, cooperation ranging from the presence of Japanese Volunteers in Micronesian schools and the development of infrastructure like gymnasiums, to large-scale efforts such as the construction of recycling centers and port expansions. Thus, the announcement of the Japan Pacific Bond (KIZUNA) Policy to strengthen Japan's cooperation relationship

with other PICs is based on the bedrock of the FSM-Japan Kizuna.

"It is exclusively good news to see Japan further its cooperation and development relationships with other [PICs]," President Panuelo said in a statement following the PALM-9. "Japan is a close ally and partner of the FSM, as well as a close ally and partner of our Micronesian brothers in the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Enhanced Japanese cooperation across the Micronesian subregion, and also enhanced Japanese cooperation to our friends south of the equator, will result in positive outcomes for the average person, whether it take the form of a mathematics teacher at their child's elementary school, the tackling of illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing in their country's waters, or Climate Change adaptation and mitigation projects."

Japan has committed to multiple priority areas of cooperation with PICs, such as COVID-19 response and recovery, sustainable oceans based on the rule of law, Climate Change and disaster resilience, strengthening the foundation for sustainable and resilient economic development, and people-to-people exchanges and human resource development.

Significant discussion across the Nation—in Government offices, churches, and community meeting houses—has focused on Japan's efforts to discharge the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated

water from the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the Pacific Ocean. Citizens will recall that President Panuelo sent a letter to Prime Minister Suga at the end of April expressing his concerns on this effort, and both President Panuelo and Prime Minister Suga spoke at length about this topic during the PALM-9.

Prime Minister Suga assured President Panuelo and other Pacific Island Leaders that the ALPS treated water is purified, and that he would never approve the discharge of polluted water that isn't ensured by the scientific community as being clean. Noting that 40% of Japan's tuna is sourced from countries like the FSM, the Prime Minister emphasized that Japan recognizes the importance of maintaining a healthy marine environment. Prime Minister Suga noted that the discharge process will be subject to a review by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to ensure objectivity, and that the results of that review will be shared with the international community.

President Panuelo, in turn, thanked Prime Minister Suga for his sincere response to this important issue. "I want to thank you for the transparency you've demonstrated in dealing with this sensitive issue of ALPS treated water," President Panuelo said. "We appreciate that deeply."

President Panuelo affirmed his appreciation for Japan's commitment to providing

transparent and in-depth review of the ALPS treated water discharge plan, as well as Japan's multilateral engagements on the topic, which were requested in his April 2021 letter.

The President, mindful of his June 23, 2021, promise to both the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the 22 FSM Congress, and the Honorable Alexander R. Narruhn, Governor of the State of Chuuk, also discussed the topic of World War II-era relics and oil leaks. "In a recent meeting with the Governor of Chuuk State," President Panuelo said to Prime Minister Suga, "I was informed that two of the ships, two of the relics from World War II, are at high risk of leaking 149,000 liters of oil. If the oil leaks, it will affect the food and environmental security of Fefan Island and other communities in Chuuk State. It's a potentially significant environmental hazard. Mr. Prime Minister, the FSM does not have the capacity to solve the issue of oil leaks from World War II-era vessels in our waters, and so I respectfully and humbly request the kind assistance from the People and Government of Japan in helping us address this issue at the nearest and most practicable opportunity."

The PALM-9 ended on a positive note, with President Panuelo and other Pacific Island Leaders, and Prime Minister Suga, adopting both a Leaders Declaration and a Joint Action Plan, both of which will enter the public domain in the coming days and weeks.

...Kosrae case historical

Continued from page 10

Government's respective medical teams agreed to continue following prescribed protocols and appropriate caution. Thus, the individual will remain in isolation and/or quarantine for 14 days, and will be tested again on day 14. The previous decisions regarding extending, and restarting, the quarantine countdown for the other repatriating persons remains the same i.e. each will undergo a 14 day quarantine period, complete with additional testing to follow.

While the intended August 9th, 2021, repatriation flight will be delayed, future repatriation flights will continue into the State of Kosrae on a regularly scheduled basis. Interstate travel between Kosrae and other FSM States will continue without restrictions.

Both the FSM National Government and Kosrae State Government agree that this second experience with a potential case of COVID-19—the first being the other historical and non-infectious case from the MV Chief Mailo in January, 2021—demonstrates that the Nation's health protocols and procedures function as designed. The positive case was detected, isolated, and contained. The system is working as intended.

Both the FSM National Government and Kosrae State Government wish to emphasize the importance of the general public getting vaccinated immediately. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe; the COVID-19 vaccines are free; and the COVID-19 vaccines are how the Nation will end the Pandemic and emerge as a stronger, more resilient society.

"As my Cabinet and I have been undergoing defense talks with the United States of America," His Excellency David W. Panuelo said in a statement, "I've given some thought to

the relationship between service in the U.S. Armed Forces and service amongst people at large. Micronesians join the U.S. Armed Forces at the highest rate per capita, higher than any U.S. State. So we can say that Micronesians are willing to take a bullet for our country, for this beautiful Paradise in Our Backyards. If we are willing to take a bullet for our country, we should also be willing to take a COVID-19 vaccine for our neighbors. I have taken the COVID-19 vaccine. The First Lady has taken the COVID-19 vaccine. My Cabinet has taken the COVID-19 vaccine. Even my 86-year-old mother has taken the vaccine! The vaccine is free. The vaccine is safe. The vaccine is how we open our borders, rebuild our economy, and emerge from the status of COVID-19 free to the status of COVID-19 protected. The vaccine is how families will reconnect with each other, and the liberties we've been asked to give up for the public good will come back. I call upon each and every one of you, then, to take the COVID-19 vaccine for your neighbors. I

can think of nothing more descriptive of our Micronesian love, our Micronesian Tiahk-en-Wahu, that is, our tradition of respect, than to take the COVID-19 vaccine."

"In my capacity as President of the FSM, I wish to thank our FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs as lead by Acting Secretary Marcus Samo, the FSM COVID-19 Task Force, and Dr. Thane Hancock from the U.S. CDC, for their hard work and diligent efforts. I thank, with all of my heart, the Government of Kosrae for their dedication, collaboration, and commitment to the public good, and I emphasize again my full trust and confidence in them all, from the Governor and the Director of Health Services to the nurses and frontline responders. I equally appreciate the highly cooperative attitude from the State of Kosrae as we work together to repatriate our stranded citizens, get vaccinated against COVID-19, and take actions today for our Nation's prosperity tomorrow."

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the order of sale of the FSM Supreme Court entered on March 8, 2021, public notice is hereby given that the parcel described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel no. 068-D-06, locally called Mesihsou, situated in Madolenihmw Municipality, Pohnpei State with an approximate area of 3,932 square meters, as shown on the certificate of title issued April 24, 1987, and as described on cadastral plat no. 068-D-00 filed in the Pohnpei State Land Registry, together with any buildings, fixtures and other improvements thereon.

- The minimum bid amount is \$ 1,000.00
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “August 12, 2021 Land Auction” by personal delivery to Rendy Abraham at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Palikir, Pohnpei on Thursday, August 12, 2021 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2021.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount and must include a deposit of 5 % of the total bid amount by cash, certified check or money order. If the bid submission does not include the 5 % deposit, the bid is immediately disqualified.
- The winning bidder shall be notified in writing the next business day after the auction deadline and payment of the remaining balance of the bid must be paid to the FSM Development Bank no later than ten (10) calendar days after notice of award is given, along with proof of the bidder’s FSM citizenship. If the winning bidder fails to pay the remaining balance of the bid within the required time, the deposit amount shall be forfeited to the FSM Development Bank.
- Upon qualification and full payment of the winning bid, the non-winning bidders shall have their 5% deposit returned to them within three (3) business days.
- The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the parcel, including all buildings, fixtures and other improvements on the parcel.
- The winning bidder must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia and must provide proof of such eligibility.
- If the winning bidder who has been provided notice of award by the Bank fails to remit payment within the required time, his/her deposit is forfeited to the FSM Development Bank and the notice of award will be granted to the next highest bidder, and the same conditions will apply.
- The parcel and any improvements thereon are offered for sale “as-is” with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrav, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, website: www.fsmdb.fm

Two Micronesian women awarded Bill Raynor MC Scholarship Awards

Micronesia Conservation Trust

Launched in 2017, the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship was established to support young Micronesians in obtaining post-secondary degrees in environment, conservation, and related fields and to return home and support conservation efforts in the region, many of which, the late Bill Raynor started during his time.

To date, over 15 students have received scholarships from this program with 100% of them returning to their home islands to work. This year, two more Micronesian women were awarded the BRMC Scholarship to complete their Masters degrees.

Ms. Maybeleen Apwong was born and raised in Pohnpei, Micronesia. She is a first-generation high school and university graduate from her family. In 2014, she earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Biology specifically focusing on Evolution, Ecology and Conservation at the University of Hawai’i-Hilo (UH-Hilo). In the fall of 2020, Ms. Apwong continued her education at UH-Hilo and began a Master’s Program in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science.

While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Ms. Apwong realized just how much she had taken the natural resources of her beautiful island home for granted, and came to recognize the severity of the threats this bounty now faces from climate change, sea level rise and human activities. In addition to her studies, she is also currently at the USDA Forest Service Institute of Pacific Island Forestry in Hilo, Hawaii, through the Research Corporation of University of Hawaii at Hilo. “Since I started working with these researchers and ecologists, I have come to appreciate my home island even more”, says Ms. Apwong. As part of her work with the Forest Service, she joined a research team that conducted studies on mangrove forests in Micronesia, reinforcing for her how valuable they are for her community and for so many other communities in the region. Her work on the project also took her to the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Annual Ministerial Meeting in Canberra, Australia in November 2019, and the virtual 2020 Hawaii Conservation

Conference to present her work and experiences.

Ms. Alicia Edwards was born and raised in Majuro, Marshall Islands (RMI). She graduated in 2013 from the University of the South Pacific (Laucala Campus) in Fiji with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science. After graduation she returned home and began at the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) as a Resource Management Facilitator where she travels to numerous atolls across the RMI and works directly with the local communities on resource management and conservation issues. She is also one of the Marshall Islands’ core team members for the Micronesia Challenge Socioeconomics Measures Group. In 2020, Alicia enrolled at the University of Guam to pursue her Master of Science in Biology. She has chosen to further her education so she can continue contributing to the local communities that she has dedicated her time and passion to since she began her work at MIMRA. Her work and experience have also highlighted for her, the critical need for expertise in data analysis in Micronesia and she hopes to help address this gap by completing her degree. Aside from Alicia’s day job, she is also a mother of two beautiful little girls, Silva Jade and Atelini Freda Ketedromo.

This year, the BRMC Scholarship Committee received several high-caliber applications, confirming once again the preponderance of emerging conservation Champions in Micronesia. Unfortunately, the committee could only award the opportunity to two such Champions and named Ms. Apwong and Ms. Edwards the 2021 BRMC Scholarship Awardees. The BRMC Scholarship is managed by the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and more information can be found at: www.ourmicronesia.org. MCT and our partners wish to express our congratulations to these two inspiring young conservation leaders.



Maybeleen Apwong



Alicia Edwards

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN FEDERATED

NOTICE is hereby given that our client, AMAZON TECHNOLOGIES, INC., ("the Proprietor"), a business organized and existing under the laws of the United States and with a principle place of business at 410 Terry Ave N, Seattle, Washington 98109, USA, is the owner and sole proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia, of the trade mark set out below and all the intellectual property rights that may subsist therein, in respect of the goods and services set out below.

The Mark:

AMAZON PRIME

Goods:

The mark is used in connection with Computer software for streaming, broadcasting, transmitting, distributing, reproducing, organizing and sharing music, audio, video, games and other data; computer software for use in authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, playing, viewing, storing and organizing text, data, images, and audio and video files; computer software to enable users to view or listen to audio, video, text and multimedia content; computer software for creating and providing user access to searchable databases of information and data; search engine software; computer software for wireless content delivery; computer software for accessing online information; computer software for online shopping; computer software for facilitating payments and online transactions; computer software that provides retail and ordering services for a wide variety of consumer goods; computer software for use in disseminating advertising for others; computer software for disseminating information regarding consumer product discounts; computer software for use in sharing information about products, services, and deals; computer software for use in barcode scanning and price comparison; computer software for scheduling shipping and deliveries; computer software for electronic storage of data; computer software for storing, organizing, editing and sharing photos; computer software for image and speech recognition; computer software for home automation; computer software for purchasing, accessing and viewing movies, TV shows, videos, music, and multimedia content; game software; internet browser software; downloadable music files; downloadable movies, TV shows, and videos; downloadable digital

media; downloadable digital audio files featuring music, news, and voice and spoken word recordings on a variety of topics; downloadable books, e-books and audiobooks; magnetically encoded gift cards, in International Class 9;

Paper gift cards, printed gift certificates, non-magnetically encoded prepaid purchase cards; printed publications; paper, in International Class 16;

Services:

Customer loyalty program services featuring rewards in the form of discounted shipping services, early access to retail discounts and offers, access to books and other publications, access to audiobooks, discounted online storage of photos and music, and discounted music, video and game streaming; retail services, namely, administration of a program enabling participants to obtain discounts on shipping services, early access to retail discounts and offers, access to books and other publications, access to audiobooks, discounted online storage of photos and music, and discounted music, video and game streaming; retail store services and online retail store services; retail store and online retail store services featuring a wide array of consumer goods; online retail store services featuring audio and video recordings, spoken word recordings, electronic books and computer games; online retail store services in the field of groceries, fresh and prepared foods, drug store and general merchandise; retail grocery stores; wholesale distributorship featuring fresh foods and groceries; subscription-based services featuring books, audiobooks, music, movies, TV shows, videos and games; advertising, in International Class 35;

Video-on-demand transmission; Internet protocol television (IPTV) transmission services; streaming of audio and video material on the Internet; streaming of data; streaming of music, movies, TV shows and games; broadcasting services; audio and video broadcasting services; subscription-based audio and video broadcasting via a global computer network; Internet broadcasting services; Internet radio broadcasting services; electronic data transmission; electronic transmission and streaming of digital media content for others via global and local computer networks; transmission of webcasts; transmission of digital files; electronic transmission of digital photo files; providing access to digital music websites on the Internet; providing access to online directories, databases,

websites, blogs and reference materials; transmission of news; delivery of messages by electronic transmission; electronic mail and messaging services; podcasting services; providing on-line chat lines; providing internet chatrooms; forums and electronic bulletin boards, in International Class 38;

Transport services; providing a website featuring information in the field of transportation; shipping, delivery, distribution and storage of goods; freight transportation by means of truck, train and air; goods warehousing; packaging of articles for transport; merchandise packaging for others; rental of storage containers; mailbox rental; locating and arranging for reservations for storage space for others; courier services; messenger services; expedited shipping services; providing online services which afford customers the ability to select a distribution point for goods purchased on the Internet; membership-based shipping programs; administration of a discount program enabling participants to obtain discounts on shipping services; travel arrangements for others; travel booking agencies; providing a web site featuring travel information and commentary, in International Class 39;

Entertainment services; publication of printed matter; book, audiobook, newspaper, magazine and web magazine publishing; publishing of electronic publications; providing non-downloadable electronic publications; lending and rental of books, audiobooks and other publications; digital imaging services; providing non-downloadable videos, films, and television shows via a video-on-demand service; film and video rental services; film, movie, TV show and video production and distribution; creating and developing concepts for movies and television programs; audio and video recording services; providing online radio programming; digital audio, video and multimedia publishing services; providing non-downloadable prerecorded music and audio; providing online information and commentary in the field of music and audio; presenting live musical concerts and performances; music production services; music publishing services; providing online video games; providing online non-downloadable game software; publishing of game software; production of video and computer game software; rental of video games; entertainment services, namely, live performances by video game players; entertainment services, namely, providing online videos featuring games being played by others; entertainment services, namely, providing virtual

environments in which users can interact for recreational, leisure or entertainment purposes; entertainment services, namely, providing on-line virtual goods for use in virtual environments created for entertainment purposes; providing an online website portal for consumers to play on-line computer games and electronic games and share game enhancements and game strategies; arranging and conducting competitions and tournaments for video game players; organizing video gaming leagues; providing enhancements within online video games, namely enhanced levels of game play; publishing of reviews; providing a web site featuring the ratings, reviews and recommendations of users in the fields of entertainment and education; providing ratings and reviews of television, movies, videos, music, screenplays, scripts, books and video game content; entertainment information; providing online news, information and commentary in the field of entertainment; blogs featuring information about entertainment; entertainment services, namely, profiling of musicians, artists and bands; providing a subscription based on website featuring non-downloadable music, radio, movies, TV shows, videos and information about music, albums, artists and songs; arranging of contests and sweepstakes; hosting online sweepstakes and contests for others, in International Class 41;

Leasing and rental of computers and computer software; computer time-sharing services; computer co-location services, namely, providing facilities for the location of computer servers with the equipment of others; rental of computing and data storage facilities of variable capacity to third parties; computer diagnostic services; technical support services, namely, troubleshooting in the nature of diagnosing computer hardware and software problems; application service provider (ASP), namely, hosting computer software applications for others; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for streaming, broadcasting, transmitting, distributing, reproducing, organizing and sharing music, audio, video, games and other data; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for use in authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, playing, viewing, storing and organizing text, data, images, and audio and video files; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software to enable users to view or listen to audio, video, text and multimedia content;

STATES OF MICRONESIA

providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for creating and providing user access to searchable databases of information and data; providing temporary use of non-downloadable search engine software; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for wireless content delivery; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for accessing online information; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for online shopping; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for facilitating payments and online transactions; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software that provides retail and ordering services for a wide variety of consumer goods; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for use in disseminating advertising for others; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for disseminating information regarding consumer product discounts; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for use in sharing information about products, services, and deals; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for use in barcode scanning and price comparison; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for scheduling shipping and deliveries; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for electronic storage of data; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for storing, organizing, editing and sharing photos; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for image and speech recognition; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for home automation; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for purchasing, accessing and viewing movies, TV shows, videos, music, and multimedia content; electronic data storage; data backup and recovery services; file sharing services, namely, providing a website featuring technology enabling users to upload and download electronic files; hosting of digital content on the Internet; hosting, building and maintaining web sites; cloud hosting provider services; providing search engines; computer services namely creating computer network-based indexes of information, websites and resources; computer services, namely, hosting on-line web facilities for others for organizing and conducting online meetings, gatherings, and interactive discussions; computer services, namely,

uploading music and photos to the Internet for others; computer services, namely, creating an on-line community for registered users to participate in discussions, get feedback from their peers, form virtual communities, and engage in social networking services; creating an on-line community for connecting video players, teams and leagues and organizing game and sports activities; providing a website featuring technology that creates personalized movie, TV show, video and music channels for listening, viewing, and sharing, in International Class 42;

Further, take notice that AMAZON TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a business organized and existing under the laws of the United States and with a principle place of business at 410 Terry Ave N, Seattle, Washington 98109, USA, attaches singular importance to its above referenced trademark and will immediately take the strongest legal actions to protect its intellectual property rights against any person(s) or business(es) found to be infringing those rights. Note that any infringing or unauthorized use of this mark will be met with civil and criminal action including injunctions, orders to seize, audits, full damages and costs.

Warning:

WARNING is hereby given that any fraudulent, counterfeit, unauthorized, or otherwise improper use of the Mark (or any similar marks), and any other infringement of the rights of the Proprietor in any manner whatsoever, will be dealt with according to law.

General:

Any inquiry regarding the said trademark may be referred to the attorneys for AMAZON TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

This notice is published for and on behalf of the Proprietor by its agents, Pacific Islands Intellectual Property Services, IP Division of Siwatibau & Sloan, Barristers and Solicitors of 8 Holland Street, Suva, Fiji Islands, Email: aminiasi@sas.com.fj or artika@sas.com.fj , Web Page: www.sas.com.fj.



PIIPS

PACIFIC ISLANDS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SERVICES
IP DIVISION OF
SIWATIBAU & SLOAN | BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In your Kaselelie Press Vol. 21 Issue no. 15 dated July 21, 2021, you published an article on: Australian highlights importance indigenous knowledge and culture at reception in Pohnpei.

As a Pohnpeian, I have profound interest in learning about our past which include reading anything that touch on Indigenous People, who they were, and what knowledge they had that kept them healthy, kept their living environment well protected and preserved, etc., before the white men” visited Pohnpei. So much have changed due to impacts of the so-called “change agents” but one thing remains highly respected ; that is the traditional governance system, although it is weakening as modern methods of influence are being applied to compromise their authority. Unfortunate but it is happening as I write this letter to you.

I noted that you printed the Pohnpei Pilerehre in your newspaper with English translation. I would like to caution you and any reader that the English translations do not necessarily provide the true meaning of each of those principles under the Pilerehre. Pilerehre can be

likened to a living “Declaration” on principles of traditional management system. Nahnmwarkis are guided by these principles in their traditional governance of their indigenous people.

No one can use it nor interpret it except the Nahnmwarkis. Any English translation must be done through the Nahnmwarkis’ permission, review and approval. It is wise that anyone who wants to know the real meaning of each of the principles of the Pilerehre should consult either the Council of the Paramount Chiefs (Mwoalen Wahu en Pohnpei Sarawi).

The English translations provided in your article do not accurately represent the meaning and the depth of wisdom carried in those principles. I would caution anyone who is doing any research, study or article on the Pilerehre should not use the translation appeared in this article but must consult with Mwoalen Wahu. Mwoalen Wahu has not provided English translation for the Pilerehre and it may be time for them to do so for the benefit of the general public.

Thank you.
Herman P. Semes

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY POHNPEI

POSITION VACANT: Senior Program Manager

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei is seeking applications from suitably qualified persons to apply for the position of **Senior Program Manager**.

This is a full time 2-year contract position.
The starting salary is USD 33,623 per annum.

Australian Aid’s objective is to help people overcome poverty by promoting regional stability and prosperity. The Senior Program Manager assists with the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and budget management of Australia’s Aid program delivery for the Federated States of Micronesia.

Applicants should have demonstrated project management and implementation skills, financial management, writing, communication, and organizational skills. Relevant tertiary qualifications and experience will be highly regarded. The role requires regular regional travel.

The Application Forms, including the duty statement and selection criteria must be downloaded at: www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

Please email all application documents below to:
takuro.steele@dfat.gov.au

1. Resumé/CV
2. Response to each of the Selection Criteria (Attachment A)
3. Completed Attachments B and C

Application closing date is **5pm Friday 27 August 2021**



College of Micronesia-FSM

Yap | Chuuk | Pohnpei | Kosrae

Follow us online:



College Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for CTEC Multi-Purpose Technology Building

The college held a ground breaking ceremony for the CTEC Multi-Purpose Building in Kolonia on July 21, 2021. Present were dignitaries of the diplomatic corps, representatives from both local and the national government, and Chairwoman Suzzane Gallen and Regent Pelma Palik of the college's Board of Regents (BOR).

Interim President Karen Simion gave her remarks and shared the Genesis of the project. The College began receiving funding through Compact Infrastructure Grants to improve its facilities to meet Accreditation requirements. Under the same funding the college completed two projects in Yap with a classroom building and the Student Center Building. In 2010 JEMCO suspended the College's project

funds after the Accrediting Commission recommended the College to develop an Integrated Facilities Master Plan. In 2013 the college completed a Fifteen-Year Integrated Facilities plan lifting the funding suspension by JEMCO. The college coordinated its projects through the FSM-PMU and in 2017 executed a contract with BECCA International Consultants LTD to design the CTEC Multi-Purpose Technology Building, and the National Campus Student Center. Designs were completed in 2019. The project was put out for public bidding and awarded to ABCOR in August 2020. The event concluded with remarks from BOR Chairwoman who thanked everyone who made this historical event possible.



Top Photo: Proposed design for the CTEC Multi-Purpose Technology Building.
Bottom Photo (From left): ABCOR Representative Rich Adams, COM-FSM Interim President Karen Simion, BOR Chairwoman Suzane Gallen, Pohnpei State Public Affairs Officer Peteriko Hairens, Regent Pelma Palik and TC&I Secretary The Honorable Carlson Apis.

FALL 2021 STUDENT ORIENTATION & REGISTRATION

August 5, 2021 – Student Orientation (For all Students)

CTEC: Students Center

National: FSM China Friendship Sports Center

(COVID-19 Vaccination will be available at the National Campus)

August 6, 2021 – Registration For New & Transfer Students

August 9-13, 2021 – Fall 2021 regular registration

August 16, 2021 – First day of instruction

CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US:
(691) 320-2480 / 7760
www.comfsm.fm



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

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

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

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

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

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