

Chuuk voters elect first female, Dr. Perpetua S. Konman as Senator of the FSM Congress

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehie Press

November 29, 2021

FSM—For the first time in the FSM’s history, voters have officially elected a woman to the FSM Congress. Dr. Perpetua S. Konman is the officially confirmed Senator elect to the FSM Congress and will occupy the seat formally held by her late husband, Senator Derensio Konman.

The official announcement came late this afternoon from the Office of the National Election Director after the deadline for receipt of mail-in ballots in the special election for Chuuk’s Election District 3, the Southern Namoneas had passed on November 26.

The official vote tally listed Dr. Perpetua S. Konman with a total of 2,532 votes, Myron I. Hashiguchi with a total of 1,962 votes and Inson I. Namper with 1,292 votes.

Dr. Konman is the mother of six. Originally from Fefan Island, she has been serving as an Internist at the Chuuk State Hospital since 2009. She is a graduate of the College of Micronesia FSM, Pacific Basin Medical Officer Training Program in Pohnpei, and the Fiji School of Medicine where she completed a Master’s Program in Internal Medicine. She served as a General Physician in Chuuk from 1997-2002. During her time in Fiji, she served as a Medical Registrar.



Pohnpei hosts High School recycled items Christmas Tree Contest

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

November 26, 2021

Pohnpei—Congratulations to the students and teachers who participated in the first Christmas Tree contest for Pohnpei High Schools! The winners were announced today at the Governor’s conference room. The Christmas trees were judged on their creativity, originality, uniqueness, materials used, and overall impact. The Christmas trees were made from recyclable materials.

Before announcing the winners, Governor Oliver congratulated all the students for their hard work and creativity. He acknowledged the great work they

accomplished and encouraged them to inspire and motivate their underclassmen to be as creative and innovative as they are. He also congratulated the Director of Education, Stanley Etse, and his staff for setting up the contest and thanked the judges for their participation. He shared a memory from his younger years, reflecting on the difference that teachers have made in all our lives. He closed by telling the students to be positive, to look forward because they are the future of Pohnpei, saying “if not you, then who? If not now, then when?”



First place winners, Pohnpei Catholic School (PCS)

[Click here for continuation](#)

Chuuk's Premier Traveler's Destination

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

L5 Hotel

Ramp & Mida Law Firm

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

President Panuelo launches the Coconut National Export Strategy

FSM Information Services

November 17, 2021

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), has launched the Coconut National Export Strategy (CocoNES). Created via Presidential Order, the Nation has established the framework for the design process of a national export strategy for the FSM's coconut products.

During the launch event with the Secretary of the Department of Resources & Development, the Honorable Elina Akinaga, and the Chief Executive Officer of Vital/FSM Petroleum Corporation (Vital), Mr. Jared Morris, President Panuelo explained that "The CocoNES framework, in its entirety, will have a specific mission: to see through the successful design and implementation of the coconut national export strategy, and delivery of its plans of actions. A successful export strategy will result in sustainable supply chains that will bring our very own coconut products from local farmers out to the World. The mission is to make this happen successfully, and to translate that success into sustainable incomes and food security for families across this Paradise in Our Backyards."

The Presidential Order mandates that the CocoNES framework for the FSM will be comprised of a Task Force called the CocoNES Advisory Body; a Coconut Sector Development Coalition; and a CocoNES Secretariat.

The CocoNES Advisory Body will include the Secretaries of the Departments of Resources & Development, Justice, Finance & Administration, Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure, and Foreign Affairs.

The CocoNES Advisory Body will be mandated to provide oversight of the CocoNES design and implementation, update the President on a regular basis, and remove roadblocks encountered for a successful strategy design.

The Coconut Sector Development Coalition will include a minimum of eight (8) persons and a maximum of twelve (12), to be drawn in equal proportions from the public and private sectors, with a minimum of one (1) representative each from the State of Yap, the State of Chuuk, the State of Pohnpei, and the State of Kosrae. The Coconut Sector Development Coalition will create a shared understanding of key market challenges and opportunities facing the coconut industry, build consensus on the best growth path for the coconut industry, set goals and targets that will strengthen the coconut sector's competitive position, and contribute to the identification of resources for implementing priority programs and projects, among other duties.

The CocoNES Secretariat will be comprised of Vital, which is mandated to provide operational and administrative support to the overall CocoNES framework.

"The main idea for the average citizen to take away from all of this is that the FSM wants to encourage local families and farmers to grow and sell whole coconuts to Vital. These whole coconuts will then be processed by our local workers into healthy value-added products that will be competitive both in the domestic and international markets. Over time, this will revitalize our coconut industry while



H.E. David W. Panuelo poses with T.H. Elina Akinaga, CEO Jared Morris, and representatives from the Department of Resources & Development and Vital

providing alternative income streams, good paying jobs, and allow communities to address their priority development needs. Within this value chain, from producers to finished products, we will encourage greater participation in the agriculture sector and hopefully engage our citizens abroad to take interest and return home and participate. We can be one of the best coconut products producers regionally and internationally right here from our Paradise in Our Backyards," President Panuelo said.

CocoNES is the FSM's first sector-specific export strategy. The push for a coconut export strategy came from President Panuelo's direction on January 8th, 2020, when the President was updated on Vital's Coconut for Life Project prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"I said in January 2020 that we look to Vital as the entity within the FSM that can really transform and catapult us into a new level of development, strengthening food security, energy security, and lessening income inequality, among other areas. Vital continues to have the complete and total confidence and support of the Panuelo-George administration, and I call upon all citizens of the FSM who are interested in building back better to work with Vital and the FSM National Government as we jointly work together to develop and export coconut products."

The Presidential Order establishing CocoNES may be found here: https://gov.fm/files/November_01_2021-Presidential_Order_CocoNES_1.pdf

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:
December 15, 2021**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is the end
of working hours on:**

Monday, December 13, 2021

ADB, FSM sign \$5.5 million grant to develop road projects

15 November 2021

FSM —The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) today signed a \$5.5 million grant to help fund the preparation of ADB-supported road transport projects in the FSM.

The FSM’s Department of Finance and Administration Secretary Eugene Amor and ADB Pacific Department Deputy Director General Emma Veve signed the agreement, which will fund assessments, planning, and capacity building for implementing road transport projects. ADB is providing \$5 million from its Asian Development Fund for the grant, while the Government of the FSM is contributing \$500,000.

“This grant will use ADB’s project readiness financing (PRF) to hasten the delivery of projects that will resolve critical, medium-term transport challenges, as well as build long-term capability to sustainably operate and maintain roads,” said Ms. Veve.



Director General of ADB’s Pacific Department, Emma Veve pictured at the signing



FSM’s Department of Finance and Administration Secretary Eugene Amor, Director General of ADB’s Pacific Department, Emma Veve, and Principal Infrastructure Specialist, Rustam Ishentaliev

“The circumference roads in the FSM’s four states are vital for our dispersed population to access goods and services and critical for the FSM’s economic development. Funding and management challenges have resulted in inadequate improvements and maintenance, problems exacerbated by increasingly frequent bouts of extreme weather,” said Mr. Amor.

Along with bottlenecks of bad roads and the impacts of climate change, the FSM’s road network is facing increased use. The number of vehicles in the country grew 30% in the 4 years to 2019, and traffic flows that reduced during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic are set to grow again as economic activity resumes.

The PRF will help expedite a series of road and bridge projects in all four of the FSM’s

states that will improve connectivity and help protect against climate change and disasters triggered by natural hazards. To enable these projects to proceed, the PRF will rank and prioritize them, produce engineering surveys and detailed project designs, and prepare procurement plans and bidding documents. This assistance will reduce start-up delays and ensure quality design.

The projects advanced under ADB’s

PRF will contribute to the FSM’s Pave the Nation Program and dovetail with support from other development partners to bridge a funding gap in the FSM’s transport infrastructure needs.

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

Pacific Island children to access three new life-saving vaccines through Rotary-UNICEF partnership

26 November 2021

SUVA, FIJI — Children in the Pacific region are now able to access three new life-saving vaccines, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), rotavirus vaccine (RV), and the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV), through Rotary Give Every Child A Future, a partnership between UNICEF and Rotary in Australia and New Zealand.

This multi-million dollar partnership is supporting the introduction of these vaccines to protect children against pneumonia and rotavirus as well as to protect adolescents against HPV reaching more than 100,000 children in total across Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

“We understand that the current global priority is on immunization against COVID-19. However, we can’t afford

to lose sight of other health priorities that also pose a significant threat to the lives of Pacific children,” said UNICEF Pacific Representative, Jonathan Veitch. “We thank Rotary for their critical long-term partnership with UNICEF to protect children and young people from these vaccine-preventable diseases.”

In the Pacific, pneumonia and diarrhoea are among the top three causes of mortality in children under five years of age. Around one-third of all pneumonia deaths are due to pneumococcal disease, which is usually transmitted through contact with infected children.

Rotaviruses are the leading cause of severe diarrhoea in children aged less than five years. Severe diarrhoea can lead to dehydration, particularly in young children, and if left untreated can be life-threatening.

Cervical cancer is one of the top three regional priorities of Pacific leaders, with over a thousand cervical cancer cases each year. Nearly all cases of cervical cancer can be attributed to HPV infection.

The rollout of these vaccines, is supported by Rotary Australia and New Zealand to celebrate 100 years of service as 2021 marks the Centenary of Rotary International in the region.

“This project is a further demonstration of the partnership between UNICEF and Rotary,” said Rotary Project Director, James Allen. “We have worked closely with UNICEF and others on the worldwide polio eradication campaign. We are so delighted that the implementation of Rotary Give Every Child A Future is underway after years of planning and preparation. It is a vital public health initiative that will have

lasting and sustainable benefits for the peoples of these countries.”

The three-year partnership is also supporting an update of national immunization and supply chain management policies. It will also assist with an upgrade to cold chain equipment and the supply chain system. This will help improve the immunization reporting system and integrate other essential health system strengthening activities that will contribute to a reduction in PCV, RV, HPV infections and other vaccine preventable diseases.

UNICEF and Rotary Australia and New Zealand will also support public health authorities in Pacific Island countries to engage communities on the importance of being vaccinated to save lives, and address misinformation about vaccination.

The People's Republic of China donates \$150,000 to the FSM's COVID-19 pandemic response

FSM Information Services

November 27, 2021

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 25th, 2021, the Honorable Marcus Samo—Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—received on behalf of the Nation a donation of \$150,000 from the People's Republic of China (China) in a handover ceremony with His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of China to the FSM. The donation comes as a result of the first-ever China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers Meeting held on October 21st, 2021. This donation is the fourth direct cash donation to the FSM from China over the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and is sourced from the China-Pacific Island Country Cooperation Fund Against COVID-19.

Consistent with previous donations from China and other friends, allies, and development partners, the FSM National Government will use the donation to purchase necessary medical supplies and equipment.

In his remarks, Ambassador Huang updated the FSM National Government with regards to recent events in China. The Ambassador described the recent Sixth Plenary Session of the Communist Party of China, which defined the guiding role of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the Chinese philosophy of Xi Jinping Thought.

“China will always stand on the right side of history and the right side of human progress,”

Ambassador Huang said. “China is a defender of world peace, a contributor to global development, and an upholder of the international order. ...This is the fourth time that China has donated in cash to help the FSM fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic, and this donation comes from a fund setup by China to help the Pacific Island Countries, including the FSM, to fight COVID.”

Ambassador Huang emphasized that the donation is a reflection of the FSM-China Great Friendship.

In his remarks, Secretary Samo said “Ambassador, you’ve spoken at length about the friendship our two countries enjoy, and that friendship remains unshaken and is even more solid than before. We thank you for this gesture, and this gesture of your donation speaks loudly, and will support the



Assistant Secretary Brendy Carl, DFA; Assistant Secretary Moses Pretrick, DHS; T.H. Marcus Samo, Secretary of DHS; H.E. Huang Zheng, Ambassador of China to the FSM; Deputy Secretary Ricky Cantero, DFA

great work effort that we’re trying to do with this Pandemic.”

“As you know, when the Pandemic unfolded, the FSM—like any other country—struggled in terms of trying to put the pieces together, in terms of a response in what it needs to do in preventing the virus from coming to our shore. I think today, in reflection, you would agree with me that we’ve done a great job, but not without a great challenge. The fact of the matter is that we still remain COVID-19 free, and that is the testament to the great work that this administration and all of its partners have put together to protect the health of this nation.”

“This particular donation you’ve extended will definitely support our obligation in terms of paying for those expenses we’ve now incurred in Guam, and also when it comes to quarantine at home.

...Your donation comes a long way, and so I take this time to formally, on behalf of His Excellency David W. Panuelo and the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, extend their appreciation, and the FSM’s appreciation, for this donation.”

China has previously donated direct cash assistance to help the FSM fight the COVID-19 Pandemic on three separate occasions. The first donation was \$100,000 in April of 2020; the second donation, given to Pohnpei State Government directly from China, was for \$20,000; and the third donation was \$50,000. Other significant donations from China include containerized medical isolation units, extensive amounts of personal protective equipment (PPE), and virtual trainings.

The FSM-China Great Friendship began on September 11th, 1989, when the FSM and China established diplomatic relations with each other.



• **Chuuk-based position**
• **Join the principal development organisation in the region**

The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Chuuk State Regional Project Coordinator –FSM SE Project. This position will be located at the Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation, Chuuk State, 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 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 United States territories of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Guam. The MRO opened in January 2006.

The role – the Chuuk State Regional Project Coordinator –FSM SE Project will provide support in the delivery of FSM.SE Project, under the direction of the Implementation Advisor.

The key responsibilities of the role include the following:

1. Support the PMT and Chuuk Public Utility Corporation (CPUC) in delivery and implementation of activities of FSM.SE
2. Provide project updates and timely reporting

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

1. Qualifications

- Tertiary qualification in development studies, sustainable energy, accounting, business, commerce, public finance.

2. Technical expertise

- At least 3 years’ experience in project coordination and reporting.
- Proven record of accomplishment of working with teams across sectors and sites with minimum supervision.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively engage with a range of stakeholders.
- Demonstrated ability to articulate and communicate complex issues and positions to senior administrators and community beneficiaries alike.
- Sound coordination, administrative, networking, and collaborative skills.
- Working knowledge on computer skills in applications such as Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Fluency in the Chuukese language and English are essential (written and verbal).
- Driver license.

Closing date: 9 January 2022 – 11:00 pm Pohnpei time
Job Reference: SH000111

Applicants must 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 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. Could you describe your experiences in project coordination, meeting facilitation and report writing?
2. Could you describe your involvement in working with Chuuk state communities and municipalities with minimum supervision?
3. What are your experiences on communication, networking and outreach activities?



Pohnpei SBDC Holds Series of Workshops Including Inspiring Women's Advancement

Over the span of four months and with collaboration between the International Office of Migration, the United States Embassy, and the Pohnpei Small Business Development Center (Pohnpei SBDC), a series of workshops were held for the "Inspiring Women's Advancement Through Collective Action Program (IWA) Program. The IWA is a \$2,200,000 program to remove barriers for women and implement gender equality in the Freely Associated States of Micronesia. It intends to do this through many programs such as a Youth for Art Initiative, Media Influencer programs, and an emerging women leaders' session, among other things. The outcomes of the IWA are that gender discrimination towards women in the workplace and business is reduced through awareness and the socio-economic empowerment of women. It also intends that the project partners have increased capacity to take action against gender discrimination in their institutions.

The Pohnpei SBDC held a series of financial literacy workshops from July to October. The first workshop was on July 15 with 28 participants, which went over the Basics of Bookkeeping, where participants learned about recording and organizing financial transactions for their business. The second workshop was on August 13 about Cash Flow Projection and Pricing. Participants learned how to estimate the money that would flow in and out of their business and price their products based on the local economy. The next workshop was on September 2, where they took a deeper dive into the Basics of Bookkeeping. The last workshop was on October 1, where the women learned about Profit and Loss for Business Gross Revenue Tax. They would know how to create an income statement, among other things. Before the workshops, Pohnpei SBDC assisted them through 1-on-1 business counseling to help them with their applications. The business counseling assisted with writing their business plans, cash flow projections, and completing their application packages. The office assisted 18 clients, three of whom were approved. The approved clients received \$5000.00 seed money and exhibited their business in an event called "Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship," an exhibition where the women participants showed their business and wares.

The event was a success and could not have been possible without the various groups involved, such as the International Organization for Migration, the US Embassy, Pohnpei SBDC, and Associates from the Center for Entrepreneurship from the College of Micronesia-FSM. Through their help, women such as Bernarda Mathia and Julie Warren will be able to pave the way for future generations of young girls and women to enter the field of business where they will be readily accepted and seen as equals.



For More Information contact:
(691)320-2480 ext. 149

Has COVID laid waste to your business efforts? At the SBDC we offer business training as well as one on one confidential advising and counseling.

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Timothy James M. Mamangon, P.O. Box 159 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 Tel: (691)320-2480 ext. 149 or 150 or Email pohnpei@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

We Care Aid & Student Laptop for Spring 2022

Will you be enrolled in Spring 2022?
If YES then do you need a:

FREE LAPTOP?
&
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Application for the College of Micronesia-FSM We Care Student Aid for the spring of 2022 is open Wednesday November 24, 2021, to Friday, January 14, 2022 (5:00 PM Pohnpei/Pacific Time).



Student Success is our Success

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
comfsm.fm

CONTACT US:

National Campus Admissions:

(691) 320-2480 ext 133, 137, 135, 136

Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC)

(691) 320-3795

We look forward hearing from you!

New upgraded Fiber optic service for FSM Government

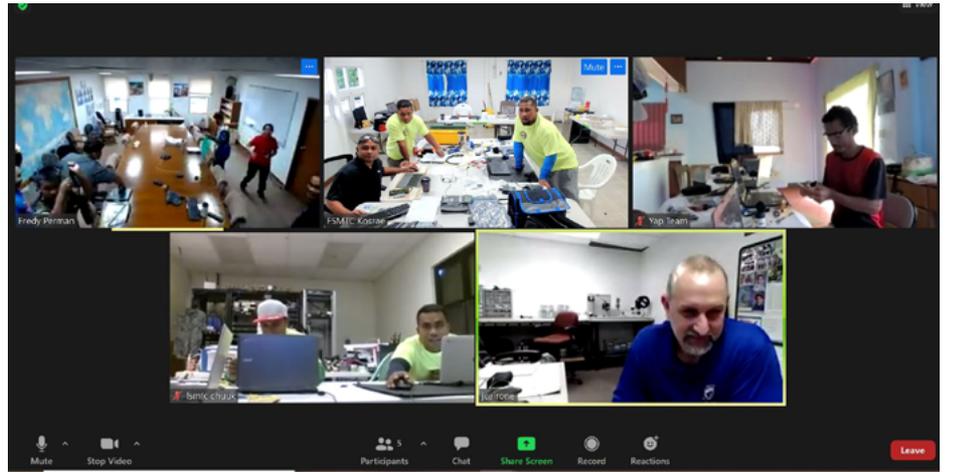
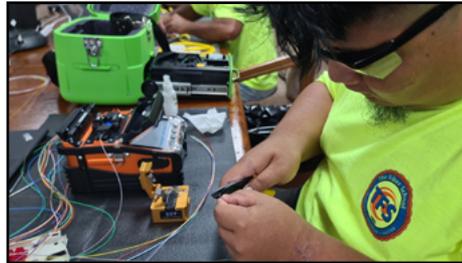
FSMTC and FSM Government signs new contract to deliver 1,000Mbps (1 Gigabits/sec) super-fast Internet on fiber to FSM's capitol

FSM TC&I is very pleased with the new high capacity Internet as Mr. Edward Albert stated "...quite a significant improvement". CEO Fredy Perman in his statement to Secretary Apis "This significant reduction in costs and massive pump to your Internet capacity is a result of FSMTC's hard work and efforts to meet our public mandate to provide reliable and cost effective communications for the nation. As you are aware, we recently successfully completed a major upgrade in our submarine cable from Pohnpei to Guam, which now gives us increased fiber capacity in our Internet. In fact, our submarine capacity from Pohnpei to Guam was originally designed for a total of 80 Gbps on all the wavelengths. FSMTC's upgrade now

gives us capacity up to 400 Gbps and potential to ramp up to 800 Gbps if allowed. It is fully our intention to make use of this increased capacity and pass on the benefits to our customers."

FSMTC thanks the FSM

Executive Branch and the FSM Congress for being its Gigabit customer on its premium fiber network. FSMTC will continue to work hard to bring lower cost Internet on its Fiber to the Home network to the public similar to what the FSM Government is now enjoying.



Pacific children celebrate and advocate on the importance of child rights to mark World Children's Day

UNICEF

November 20, 2021

SUVA, FIJI – Today, children in the Pacific region will join millions more around the world to celebrate World Children's Day, together with government ministries, schools, and communities, as part of UNICEF's global day of action for children, by children.

"I am happy to be one of the children in the world to stand up for our rights. Not every child gets the chance to have a childhood with all the things they need, like to feel safe, to have enough food and to be able to go to school," said Teanna Kei Asher, 10, from the Federated States of Micronesia. "You need to see us, you need to hear us, and you need to include us."

The anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, World Children's Day highlights critical issues affecting children's lives and supports the engagement of children and young people as advocates for their own rights.

This year, World Children's Day once again takes place during the global pandemic, but this time with a glimpse of hope. In the year that we commemorate UNICEF's

75th anniversary, UNICEF has been on the front-line delivering vaccines and is advocating for children to be prioritised in pandemic recovery plans. To date, UNICEF has delivered more than 500 million COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility to countries around the world.

"World Children's Day is more than a day to celebrate children everywhere. It is an ongoing commitment to ensure all children are able to live in a safe and protected world where they are able to freely access and express their rights," said UNICEF Pacific Representative, Jonathan Veitch. "The current global pandemic does put a strain on these child rights. Many children are still not able to access education in classrooms, they are feeling stressed and under pressure. This is where we need to put more work and effort in partnership with governments, communities and families to ensure that children remain their top-most priority."

Across the Pacific Islands, there are several actions taking place from today and into the following weeks:

In Fiji, we join thousands of students in Years 12 and 13 as they celebrate the return to school. After more than half a year of learning at home, not being able to interact with their friends and accessing the much-needed resources and support coming from a school environment, these children are now able to enter their school classrooms and fully

access their right to education.

In the Federated States of Micronesia, children will be taking to social media to advocate on the importance of valuing child rights as well as 'going blue' for World Children's Day. There will also be a launch of the Presidential National Advisory Council for Children.

In Solomon Islands, children are taking over on advocating on key issues including nutrition, mental health and education. They will be asking UNICEF about how we can all ensure that children are able to grow and live to their full potential.

In Vanuatu, children and youth will be invited to participate in a challenge to draw and write about a better world they want for ni-Vanuatu children as the country is on the path to enacting a Child Protection Act.

In Kiribati, a U-Report Pulse Survey will be launched on COVID-19 topic areas highlighting education, social protection and child protection. U-Report is a social messaging tool and data collection system developed by UNICEF to improve citizen engagement, inform leaders, and foster positive change.

UNICEF has been an unstoppable force for change in the lives of children around the world for 75 years, working tirelessly for child rights and for the well-being of every child, wherever they are and wherever they live.



**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



Senior Citizens SALE!



50% DISCOUNT

**ONLY SENIOR CITIZENS ENTITLED
TO THIS SPECIAL DISCOUNT!**

For Senior Citizens aged 60 and above, 5% discount on all payments on accounts for phone, internet and TV subscriptions, including purchase of cellphones, SIM card, telcards and accessories.

Terms & Conditions

- Discount cannot be combined with any other ongoing offer/promotion/discount.
- Discount cannot be transferred or shared.
- Valid only for customers aged 60 and above.
- Senior Citizen Discount goes into effect

Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021

- Discount cannot be applied to Prepaid Mobile Bundle or Data Plans.

New study from PICRC and Stanford University finds heat resistant corals widespread in Palau

Palau International Coral Reef Center

A recently published scientific paper from the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) and the Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University mapped the distribution of heat resistant corals throughout the Palau Archipelago. The study, which surveyed 221 colonies of *Acropora hyacinthus* across 37 reefs sites, found that heat resistant corals are widely distributed in Palau, and are particularly concentrated on reefs in Aimeliik State.

The paper, entitled “Widespread variation in heat tolerance and symbiont load are associated with growth tradeoffs in the coral *Acropora hyacinthus* in Palau” was published in the scientific journal *eLife*. PICRC researcher Victor Nestor joined researchers from Stanford as co-authors of this paper. Brendan Cornwell of Stanford University was the paper’s lead author.

The study identifies heat resistant corals as an important area of research, as these corals are more likely to survive increases in ocean temperature

predicted in the coming decades. As ocean warming drives coral die-off around the world, heat resistant corals could lay the foundation for resilient reefs in the future.

The authors hypothesized that the greatest numbers of heat resistant corals would be found in reef habitats that often experience high temperatures, such as shallow back reefs and intertidal zones. However, heat resistant corals proved to be much more common, and were identified on 24 of 37 sites, including reefs with cooler temperatures.

Some of the highest concentrations of heat resistant corals were found on reefs in Aimeliik State, in the Western Southern Lagoon. This result could signal that Aimeliik’s reefs will be more resilient to ocean warming than other reefs, and are better prepared to withstand the impacts of climate change.

However, the study also found that heat resistance comes with tradeoffs; corals with higher heat resistance tended to grow more slowly than their heat-sensitive counterparts. Both growth-rate and heat

resistance share a complex relationship with the coral’s symbiont load, or the amount of beneficial microorganisms living in the coral’s tissues. The authors identify this relationship as a topic for further research.

The results of this study have significant implications for coral reef managers and state governments. Reefs with high concentrations of heat resistant corals, such as the reefs in Aimeliik, could be strong candidates for marine protected areas. Heat resistant corals could also be used in coral restoration applications to replenish reefs impacted by rising sea temperatures. Despite their slower growth rates, these corals will likely be valuable assets for coral reef managers, and will play a role in building the reefs of the future.

The paper’s full text is accessible online at <https://elifesciences.org/articles/64790>



ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL OZONE2CLIMATE ART CONTEST

For more information or to enter the contest,
Go to: www.ozone2climate.org

16 September 2021 - 31 March 2022



Artwork Categories



Graphic Design

Computer assisted designs and graphic program/applications from computer or mobile phone applications



Drawing

Traditional hand-drawing/painting or other two-dimensional hand-made art and digital drawing

Photography



Original photographs taken from a camera without heavy digital manipulation



Artwork Content

1. Achievements, actions, benefits to ozone layer protection and climate change attributed to the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol including the Kigali Amendment.
<https://ozone.unep.org/ozone-and-you>



WORLD OZONE DAY

2. Theme of World Ozone Day 2021 - Montreal Protocol - Keeping us, our food and vaccines cool.
<https://ozone.unep.org/ozone-day/montreal-protocol-keeping-us-our-food-and-vaccines-cool>



Eligibility & Submission Info

- **Youth:** Age 15 years or below with parental consent
- **General:** Age above 15 years
- **Artwork submission:** in JPEG/ GIF/PNG; at least 2,000 pixels; Max size 1 MB with information of name, title, date and caption



About The National Contest

Please join!

Winner and runner up of each category at the national level will receive the following prizes:

Winner: \$ 200.00
1st Runner up: \$150.00
2nd Runner up: \$100.00

For inquiry about **The National Contest**, please contact:

National Ozone Unit (NOU)

Iakop Ioanis

E-mail:

iakop.ioanis@decem.gov.fm



unesco

...Christmas tree competition

1st Place: Pohnpei Catholic School (PCS)
2nd Place: Our Lady of Mercy High School (OLMCHS)
3rd Place: Nanpei Memorial High School (NMHS)
4th Place (TIE): Madolenihmw High School/Calvary Christian Academy

5th Place: PICS High School
6th Place: Ohwa Christian High School

Continued from front page



FSM kicks off 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

November 26, 2021

Pohnpei—This morning, the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs held a kickoff event for 16 Days of Activism for the elimination of violence against women, including a Market Day for local vendors.

The morning's heavy winds caused a delay to the opening of the event due to a downed power pole directly outside of the Kolonia China Friendship Gymnasium, the site of the event. That did not curb the level of enthusiasm among the participants despite the very long speeches once the event was able to begin.

Pohnpei Assistant Attorney General Vara Bulabalavu spoke briefly on behalf of the Pohnpei State Government indicating the government's support of eliminating violence against women.

Emiliana Musrasrik Carl, President of the Pohnpei Women's Council, next provided a lengthy history of women's rights efforts in the FSM, beginning with the FSM's accession to the United Nations Human Rights treaty for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women known as CEDAW 18 years ago. It took the FSM Congress eight years to agree for the FSM to become a signing member of that treaty.



Carl mentioned that FSM President David Panuelo had recently signed the Federated States of Micronesia Policy to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls 2021-2025. The document was actually signed later, but the intention was clear to do so, though at press time no information on that policy document had yet been released.

Musrasrik pointed out the many struggles that FSM women have had to overcome in the process. As example, she pointed out that Pohnpei Women had to go back to the Pohnpei State Legislature seven times before it finally passed its Family Protection Act. Ultimately, however, it was done and more needs to be done.

"Violence against women is a global crisis," she said. "It is one of the most pervasive violations of human rights, one of the least prosecuted crimes, and one of the greatest threats to lasting

peace and development."

FSM President David Panuelo was the keynote speaker. Speaking of the new policy to eliminate violence against women, "We must come together to pledge to give more political commitment, more resources to make sure that this happens and not just signing a policy."

"In the FSM, violence against women and violence against girls remains a pervasive problem. We know that at least one of three FSM women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime. Today marks a significant milestone for our nation and a step forward in our ongoing commitment to end violence against women and girls and promote gender equality and women's empowerment," he said.

"In order to address gender violence, a whole of government approach is required that engages communities, clearly specifies responsibilities and accountabilities, and encourages and directs actions from the village level to the State level and the National level," he said.

He said that the new policy is premised upon the State action plans that are ready for implementation to strengthen gender equality.

Newly recognized United Nations

Resident Coordinator Jaap van Hierden next addressed the assembled crowd. "Today is a day of celebration," he said, "a day when we celebrate our mothers, our sisters, our daughters; a day to celebrate women and girls. It is also a day of reflection; a reflection that today great harm is being done to those who are so important to us. There is no future without women and girls."

He said that before he came to the FSM he met the five permanent representatives to the United Nations from the five Micronesian nations that the United Nations has come to the FSM to support. He discovered that four of them were women, and he congratulated the Micronesian nations for that type of thinking.

"Gender violence affects all of society and not talking about it doesn't make it go away. We cannot just ignore it," he said. He also stressed the importance of the participation of men in correcting the problem. "Policies and words are not enough. We really need to turn them into action."

Ambassadors Jo Cowley of Australia and Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor of the United States spoke next and committed their two nations to support of the FSM's efforts to eliminate violence.

Patricia Edwin gave the last of the speeches that, unfortunately, we were unable to hear.

The Lien Alim choir closed the program.

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2021, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with BANK OF GUAM® are inactive and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective BANK OF GUAM® Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2022, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2022, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

CHUUK SAVINGS

KINSIANO ALWAYS
PO BOX 449 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

JOSEPH AJUMU
PO BOX 73 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

JOHN CARLLEN
PO BOX 1409 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

JULIET DAWE
PO BOX 714 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

HEILEEN A DEREAS
3215 ALA LILIMA ST APT 803
HONOLULU, HI 96818-0803

ANIWINA EDGAR
C/O TRUK TRADING • CHUUK, FM 96942

CASHMIRE EMMALU
PO BOX 1083 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

IOMITA O ENGICHY
1925 W JONATHON DR • APPLETON, WI 54914

KISAUO ESA
PO BOX 388 • CHUUK, FM 96942-0388

JOHN ESEMANAU OR ERKY EREICHY
OR NISIKO ESEMANAU
PO BOX 1299 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

AKINSON EWAR
PO BOX 1502 • CHUUK, FM 96942

MISAEAL FICHIOL
PO BOX 573 • CHUUK, FM 96942

JOE FREDRICK OR FEDERICK FREDRICK
PO BOX 491 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

JUSTIN P FRITZ
PO BOX 980 • CHUUK, FM 96942-0980

SOPHY HALLERS
PO BOX 355 • CHUUK, FM 96942

IOCHUO ILEISA
PO BOX 727 • CHUUK, FM 96942

KULAS INNOCENTI OR SILFA INOSENTY
PO BOX 32 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

FLORY IRONS OR MERCED ROCHON
DUBLON ISLAND • TRUK, FM 96942

NENCINA Y JOHN
PO BOX 1165 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

RGFINA JOSHGA
TRUK, FM 96942

RINCHER KALUS
PO BOX 273 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

KAREN TAKKY
PO BOX 70 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

LIWINA KELLER
PO BOX 352 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

MEMORINA KOFKAF
PO BOX 993 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

TORNITA JOHNMARK KOVAC
PO BOX 580 • CHUUK, FM 96942-0580

MARKARET MANNY
PO BOX 471 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

FRANCISCO MARIANO OR LORENZO MARIANO
PO BOX 20516 • CHUUK, FM 96942

SANDER S. MARK
PO BOX 213 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

DORNINA MATIN
PO BOX 430 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

KUKIE MAUFA
MOEN • TRUK, FM 96942

REIKINA MICKY
PO BOX 535 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

MOCH MUNICIPALITY
CHUUK, FM 96942

ADELYNE OKICHY MONY
PO BOX 1257 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

CATHERINE MOSES
PO BOX 672 • TRUK, FM 96942

JUNAITA MOSES
PO BOX 361 • CHUUK, FM 96942

PETERA MOSES OR JENNIFER MOSES
PO BOX 672 • TRUK, FM 96942

RUTH MOSES
PO BOX 412 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

ULULO JOSEPH MI MWICHIPIN NON
CATHOLIC MISSION FEFEN
FEFAN ISLAND • TRUK, FM 96942

MITER NAKAYAMA
T/F MARRY ROSE W NAKAYAMA
PO BOX 419 • TRUK, FM 96942

RUTSY NAMEWEL T/F KRYMSON JACK
PO BOX 1258 • CHUUK, FM 96942

ANTHERINO NETH
PO BOX 1449 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

FREDDIE NIFON
PO BOX 241 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

ROGER NIFON
PO BOX 241 • CHUUK, FM 96942

LORNA M NINO
PO BOX 542 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

WILLIAM NOSA
SAPETA FEFAN • CHUUK, FM 96942

NINGKO NOTA
PO BOX 1410 • CHUUK, FM 96942

TRILEEN NOWELL
PO BOX 1284 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

AKIKI NUOKIUS
PO BOX 864 • CHUUK, FM 96942-0864

RICKY ODO
PO BOX 546 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

MARINTA OLODAY OR ALINTA MIKAEL
PO BOX 1512 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

KANFIN JEROME OLOPUY
MECHITIW WENO • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

JOSHUA PHAYNID
PO BOX 175 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

EDNA RAIN OR TIRITEN RAIN
PO BOX 498 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

SKINORY RETONONG OR PERCY RETONONG
PO BOX 232 • TRUK, FM 96942

SYRIS ROBY
PO BOX 203 • CHUUK, FM 96942-0203

SACRED HEART CHURCH LEKINIOCH
PO BOX 250 • CHUUK, FM 96942

GINO SAIROS PCC DORM MEDALAI
PO BOX 370 • KOROR, PW 96940

JONATHAN SALLE OR STELLA SALLE
FEFAN SAPETA • CHUUK, FM 96942

MIEKO SANTER
PO BOX 12 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

SURELY SIRAUO
PO BOX 831 • CHUUK, FM 96942

SOCIETY OF ST VICENTE DE PAUL
PO BOX 427 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

JOANES SONY
PO BOX 743 • CHUUK, FM 96942

MANUEL D SOUND FOR LT. GOV.
PO BOX 314 • CHUUK, FM 96942

CECILIO TERRY
PO BOX 582 • TRUK, FM 96942

ENGKICHY TIM OR KENIA K PETER
PO BOX 943 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

GRACELINE TIMOTHY
PO BOX 66 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

TRUK HOUSING AUTHORITY
PO BOX 427 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

RIANITY UNGENI
PO BOX 188 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

IOCHUO USOR OR SATONO USOR
PO BOX 405 • CHUUK, FM 96942

THENINA O WALTER
PO BOX 1314 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

ORDER WESTERN
PO BOX 61 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

CURTINA WILLIAM
PO BOX 1088 • CHUUK, FM 96942-1088

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT MINISTRY (1)
BY BISHOP AMANDO OR SENRITA HAMELAI
OR MARGARITA CHOLYMAI
PO BOX 939 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

YAP SAVINGS

GLEN A DELA MADRID
PO BOX 1066 TALGUW RULL
COLONIA YAP, FM 96943

ELLENA GIBIG
ITF:: JAVEN W KOGNANG
PO BOX 594 NGOF RULL
COLONIA YAP, FM 96943

ELLENA GIBIG
ITF:: JACQUELINE L RUETINAM
PO BOX 594 NGOF RULL
COLONIA YAP, FM 96943

SONIA S GILWUYOCH
PO BOX 901 • YAP, FM 96943

SANDRA T PERKINS
PO BOX K3108 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-3108

POHNPEI SAVINGS

ABDUL AZIZ FOAZI
PO BOX 1149 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

ANNAMY ADALPRET
PO BOX 2121 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96

KILATRISSE ALBERT
PO BOX PS 356 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

EMERY R AMUSTEN
WONE KITTI • POHNPEI, FM 96941

ANNA ARMISAIS OR THOMAS ARMISAIS
PO BOX 2176 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

LACHHU TULJARAM ASNANI
ROOM 504 LEADER COMMERCIAL BLDG 54 56
HILLWOOD RD
TSIMSHATSUI KOWLOON HK

AURELIA PLAIS AUGUSTINE OR
BENDURA AUGUSTINE
PO BOX PS 202 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

DELTA LEI BERNARD
PO BOX 159 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

PETERIKO CELESTINE
PO BOX 2122 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

SONYOUNG CHO
PO BOX 520 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

SYLVIA JACK EDGAR
PO BOX 575 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-0575

IAKOPUS EDMUND
PO BOX 138 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

ESDM CULTURAL LEARNING CENTER
TWO SIG. REQUIRED
PO BOX 2375 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

NELPERSON ETSE
PO BOX 838 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-0838

NEILEEN GALLEN
PO BOX 1020
KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

JOHN JR GILFETEN OR LOVE-INA GILFETEN
PO BOX 446 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

RODRIQUEZ HADLEY
PO BOX PS 137 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

ARLYNN HELGENBERGER
PO BOX 986 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

ETRICK HELGENBEGER
PO BOX 1937 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

JUNE S HELLAN
PO BOX 1197 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

AURELIA HICKS
PO BOX PS273 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

FANG BI HUANG
PO BOX 2092 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

YONG JIN JANG
PO BOX 1036 • COLONIA YAP, FM 96943

SISTO JOHN
KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

TERESITA LODRONIO
PO BOX 1897 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

ERIHNE LOPEZ
PO BOX 752 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

MHINA LOYOLA
PO BOX 1655 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

PENIDES MIHKEL
PO BOX 1845 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

JURIN MILIVUJ
PO BOX 7 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

NANPARANGON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 1311 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

JOSTER NENA
PO BOX 933 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

WAINER NETH
PO BOX K2728 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

EDUARDO B NICANOR
PO BOX 1532 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

MAURINE PANUELO ITF: JENNIFER PANUELO
PO BOX 925 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

ERLY PAUL
PO BOX 1960 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-1960

MANUEL J PEREIRA
3400 CARLING AVE
NEPEAN ON CANADA

ENTRIHKA PETER
PO BOX 654 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

SARMEA M PHICHOL
PO BOX 1989 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

BESIHNER PHILLIP
ITF: BERNITA TIFFANY HEDSON
PO BOX PS 6 • PALIKIR POHNPEI, FM 96941

POHNPEI MULTI MEDIA STUDIO
PO BOX 779 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

CLEMENTE PRIMO
PO BOX 1905 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

RAJATHURAI RAJAMOHAAN
PO BOX 1210 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

JOANNE RAMON
PO BOX PS43 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

OLFER REPID
PO BOX K2659 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

MERLINDA ROBY
PO BOX 899 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

MARTHA ROSARIO
PO BOX 790 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

ANAGLEDA E SANTOS
PO BOX 329 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-0329

KAREL SANTOS
PO BOX 1109 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

MAYNARD M SERCY
PO BOX 826 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

ANDREW NELSON SITJAR
MIJARES ST POBLACION
IBANJAY AKLAN PI 05613

ALDIN SOLOMON
PO BOX 765 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

SENSILYNN SONDEN
PO BOX 2176 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

LEZILE GABRINEZ TAMPARONG
PO BOX 692 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

UBSA ACTIVITY FUND
TWO SIGNATURES REQUIRED
PO BOX 614 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

JOEL EVAN G VIAJAR
PO BOX 2401
KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

RENSELY VICTOR
PO BOX 445 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

VJEKO VITLOV C/O STATE PUBLIC FISHERIES
PO BOX 699 • WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

LORENZO WENDOLIN
PO BOX 1953 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

RENOLD WOLPHAGEN
PO BOX 796 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

KOSRAE SAVINGS

NENA REMOS LIVAIE
PO BOX 82 • TOFOL KOSRAE, FM 96944

KENYE I MONGKEYA
PO BOX 627 • TOFOL KOSRAE, FM 96944

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

CHUUK CHECKING

TARWIS T JOL
PO BOX 333 • CHUUK, FM 96942-0333

KELBIE R KENNEDY
PO BOX 1050 • CHUUK, FM 96942-1050

GABRIEL JORDAN MCCOARD
PO BOX D • CHUUK, FM 96942

JOHN PAUL SAIMON
PO BOX 225 • CHUUK, FM 96942-0225

JUGINA TEMAKI
PO BOX 1229 • CHUUK, FM 96942-1229

YAP CHECKING

KHALILUR RAHMAND DBA ORGANIC FARM
PO BOX 551 • KOLONIA YAP, FM 96943-0551

POHNPEI CHECKING

MARIA NELLEN M ALVA
PO BOX 1758 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-1758

EDITA SERRANO BORDA
PO BOX K2644 • POHNPEI, FM 96941

JOANNE HELD CUMMINGS
PO BOX 1286 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-1286

FSM JUNIOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION INC
PO BOX 1975 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-1975

LOU ANN GARVEY
PO BOX 2136 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-2136

DOHISIS HALBERT
PO BOX 220 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-0220

NOEL S LO
PO BOX 1002 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-1002

LYON ASSOCIATES INC POHNPEI
PO BOX 2355 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-2355

JULIE ANN S R MIRALLES
PO BOX 21364 • BARRIGADA, GU 96921-1364

HERBICH H NASHON
1712 CLARK ST 5 • HONOLULU, HI 96822

LIZA NENNIS
PO BOX 821 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-0821

PANUELO FAMILY CORPORATION
PO BOX 171 • KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941

PINGELAP MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
PINGELAP SATELLITE SYSTEM
PO BOX 641 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-0641

POHNPEI EXPORT ASSOCIATION
PO BOX PS74 • PALIKIR POHNPEI, FM 96941-0074

HOWARD L RICE
PO BOX 2724 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-2724

KRISTINE POTESADES SUSA
PO BOX 1002 • POHNPEI, FM 96941-1002



Rotary Club of Pohnpei hosts “Turkey Trot” Fun Run Fundraiser

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

[Click here for drone video of the Fun Run](#)

November 27, 2021

Pohnpei—Starting at 6:00 on a blustery Saturday morning, participants lined up to pay a five-dollar fee to participate in the Rotary Club of Pohnpei “Turkey Trot” Fun Run. For their \$5, participants took home a T-Shirt commemorating the event, a sense of pride for helping their community, and a few calories burned.

The route began at Palm Terrace in Kolonia through town on Kaselehlie Street, to Dekehtik on the causeway and back through town again concluding at Palm Terrace.

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei provides many services to the community, including College Scholarships, all supported by fund raisers like today’s “Turkey Trot”.



Pohnpei anglers participate in 18th Annual Budweiser Fishing Tournament

By *Pohnpei Fishing Club*

November 20, 2021

Pohnpei—Twenty-seven boats registered for the 18th Annual Budweiser Fishing Tournament in Pohnpei. The tournament was a “catch seven” tournament, meaning that prizes were awarded for the most number of species caught and the most weight for the combined species.

The boat “Katsamura”, skippered by Jayden Immanuel won the \$400 top prize landing three species, a 27.4-pound wahoo, a 17.7-pound yellow fin tuna, and a 6.6-pound barracuda for a total of 51.7 pounds of fish.

“Happy Tuna”, captained by Aaron Nighswander won the \$300 second prize with two species caught, a 23.9-pound wahoo, and a 7.8 pound barracuda for a total of 31.7 pounds.

“Pepe Erepani”, operated by James Wichman took the \$150 third prize, also with two species. They brought home a 23.5-pound wahoo and a seven-pound barracuda for a total weight of 30.5 pounds.

Anglers could also win a “largest of Species” Prize. Each of those winners received a \$100 cash prize. Oliver Nanpei, Jr. caught the largest Skip Jack at 13 pounds. Jayden Immanuel caught the largest yellow fin tuna at 17.7 pounds. He also caught the biggest wahoo at 27.4 pounds. Allois Malfitani landed the largest barracuda at 10 pounds.

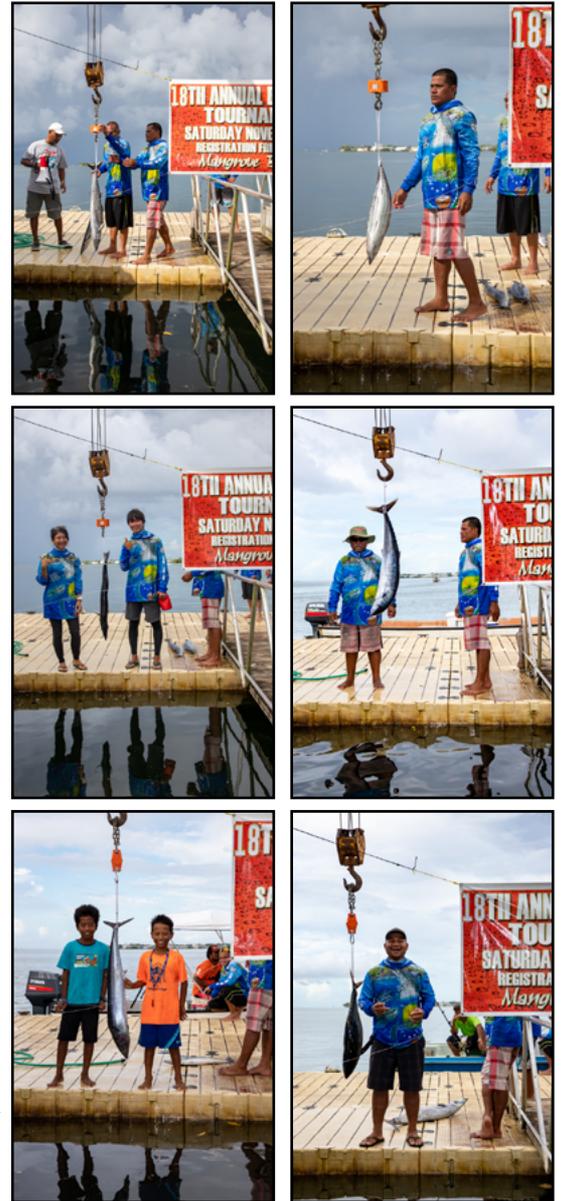
During the awards ceremony more anglers had an opportunity to win an EPIRB for boat safety. The U.S. Embassy donated two EPIRBs and FSM NORMA donated three. The winners of those EPIRBs were Lenson Nicholas, Emirano Epiriam, Falcam Hadley, Tommy Tun, and Ray John.

Safety is a big priority and this is five more boats that will be safer on the water.

Many thanks to all our sponsors, and especially Budweiser for all the support. Also a big thanks to all our helpers including Virginia, her daughter and all the guys on the dock.

This was the last tournament of the year. The winds are now picking up, and it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Next up is the Annual General Meeting next year in February.





Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Bank of the FSM currently maintains accounts for the following individuals & groups:

Shiro	Timothy	P.O. Box 322	Tofol	KOS
Gloria Kenye	George	P.O. Box 965	Tofol	KOS
Elvina	Aliksa	P.O. Box 985	Tofol	KOS
Richard	Leney	P. O. Box 480	Tofol	KOS
Aminis	William	2705 Hunt Cliffe Dr.	Augusta	GA
Manuel	Albert	3148 Ala Ilima 101	Honolulu	HI
Kenye	Benjamin	P.O Box 351	Tofol	KOS
Hilla	Rogers	P.O. Box 601	Tofol	KOS
Merlinda Belinda	Charley	P.O.BOX 451	Tofol	KOS
Jagdish Madhu	Daryanani	P. O. Box 305	Weno	CHK
Ana Maria	Eis	P.O. Box 51	Weno	CHK
PENTECOSTAL LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY		P.O. Box 943	Weno	CHK
Eoranei Youth Association		P.O Box 576	Weno	CHK
Chuuk Fairo Center		P.O Box 44	Weno	CHK
Chuuk State Government		P.O. Box 849	WENO	CHK
DEAL FAIR INCORPORATED		P. O. Box 185	Weno	CHK
Kieichy	Komusin	Munien Tol	Moen	CHK
Tanao	Willy	Uman Island	Moen	CHK
Batilda	Naich	P.O. Box 753	Chuuk	CHK
Rosinta	Mwangin	P. O. Box 539	Weno	CHK
Kenio	Kandito	P.O. Box 38	Chuuk	CHK
Komis	Daunny	P. O. Box 795	Weno	CHK
Soledad	Gozun Reynoso	P.O. Box 1559	Weno	CHK
Katary	Sop	Nema Eor Village	Weno	CHK
Kaios Junior	Wengu	P. O. Box 369	Weno	CHK
Atarina	Ezra	P.O. Box 1555	Weno	CHK
Mora	Juda	P.O. Box 988	Weno	CHK
Asoritom Coopnama Municipal		No Address From Source	Chuuk	CHK
Cyril	Chugrad	P.O. Box 952	Bugol, Tomil	YAP
Julie	Giltmag	P.O. Box 42	Gargey, Tomil	YAP
Elizabeth	Sulog	P.O. Box 295	Magachgil, Gilman	YAP
Geraldine	Dugwen	P.O. Box 5092	Mangilao	GU
Manuel	Faimau	P.O. Box 811	Arngel Dalipebinaw	YAP
Patricia	Googmow	P.O. Box 953	Colonia Yap State	YAP
Ignacio	Giltmag	P.O. Box 42	Colonia Yap	YAP
Shirley	Faanmog	P.O. Box 790	Colonia	YAP
Hermana	Kenyel	P.O. Box 1106	Colonia,	YAP
Torwan	Laman	P.O. Box 1432	Colonia	YAP
Joyce	Gurwan	P.O. Box 261	Colonia	YAP
Korine Adgil	Mangatmag	P.O. Box 368	Colonia	YAP
Eunicia	Gilpong	P.O. Box 216	Colonia	YAP
Peter	Fanagmoon	P.O. Box 183	Colonia	YAP
Kieichy	Komusin	Munien Tol	Moen	CHK
Tanao	Willy	Uman Island	Moen	CHK
Batilda	Naich	P.O. Box 753	Chuuk	CHK
Rosinta	Mwangin	P. O. Box 539	Weno	CHK
Kenio	Kandito	P.O. Box 38	Chuuk	CHK
Komis	Daunny	P. O. Box 795	Weno	CHK
Soledad	Gozun Reynoso	P.O. Box 1559	Weno	CHK
Katary	Sop	Nema Eor Village	Weno	CHK
Kaios Junior	Wengu	P. O. Box 369	Weno	CHK
Atarina	Ezra	P.O. Box 1555	Weno	CHK
Mora	Juda	P.O. Box 988	Weno	CHK
Asoritom Coopnama Municipal		No Address From Source	Chuuk	CHK
Theodore R.	Valentine	P.O.Box 1567	Kolonia	PNI
Annaleen	Augustin	P.O. Box 1534	Kolonia	PNI
Kapingamarangi Youth Commission Inc.		P.O.Box 1274	Kolonia	PNI
Marshall Islands Holdings, INC.		P. O. BOX J	Majuro	RMI
Bertin	Gilmete	P.O.BOX 1940	Kolonia	PNI
Kasiner	Chulak	P.O. Box 633	Kolonia	PNI
Harleen	Hainrick	P.O. Box 392	Kolonia	PNI
Patricia	Amor	P.O. Box 514	Kolonia	PNI

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2022. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2021.

Kosraean:

In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemye nusin Customers nukewa ma e akkalemyeyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemyeyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfa itukyan nusin Secretary lun Finance ke FSM National Government ke January 2022. In oralla account se lom an tia putatyan nuke oakwuk ku oiya se inge, kom enenu inuku nu Bank FSM oralla sie deposit ku withdrawal nuke account san meet liki December 31, 2021.

Chuukese:

Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 2022, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2021 Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.

Yapese:

Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan 1 January 2022, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2021.

Pohnpeian:

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2022. Mwon koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2021 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.

MEMBER FDIC

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

COUNTRY:

Federated States of Micronesia

NAME OF PROJECT:

Maritime Investment Project
(P163922)

Assignment Title:

Consultancy for the Design and Supervision of Safe, Efficient and Climate Resilient Maritime Infrastructure in FSM.

Reference No.:

FM-DOTCI-259098-CS-QCBS

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

The scope of this design and supervision assignment will be determined by the FSMIP Needs Assessment that is in its final stages of completion. The Needs Assessment consultant's final report will be provided as a reference document at the Request for Proposals (RFP) stage of this Design and Construction Supervision procurement activity. Likewise, the detailed scope of construction works to be designed under this assignment will be included as an appendix to the finalized TOR at the RFP stage of this procurement activity.

The consulting services ("the Services") will involve undertaking four consecutive stages - Design of Maritime Infrastructure Improvements at the Four FSM International Ports, Procurement Assistance, Construction Supervision and Contracts Administration, and Defects Liability Period.

Stage 1 – Design of Maritime Infrastructure Improvements at the Four FSM International Ports Concept designs have been completed for infrastructure improvements at all four ports, and these concepts are to be developed into detailed designs, drawings, specifications and bid documentation. The consulting firm will provide procurement support, supervision of construction and administration of works contracts for a subset of these concept design items, while the remaining concept design items will have detailed designs, drawings and specifications prepared only.

Concept design items for works that are not prioritized under FSMIP due to budget constraints will be recommended for inclusion in future project funding. NOTE: Some surveys were undertaken as part of the Needs Assessment consultancy but the output data from these will need to be verified for detailed design purposes.

Stage 2 – Procurement Assistance

Following acceptance / approval of the Design Completion Report and Bidding Documents, and the Client's decision to proceed with the works contract(s) bidding, the consultant shall assist DoTC&I with procurement of the works contractor(s), during and after the bidding period.

Stage 3 – Construction Supervision and Contracts Administration

The consultant will be fully responsible to the client for construction supervision and administration of the works contract(s). The consultant will be required to monitor, audit and perform independent testing of materials and systems put in place by the works contractor to verify their compliance with the required standards in accordance with the specifications.

Stage 4 – Defects Liability Period

The Consultant is required to carry out periodic inspections on a quarterly basis for the duration of the Defects Liability Period (DLP) stipulated in the construction contract.

To obtain the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this Expression of Interest stage of the assignment (and the TOR for the precursory Needs Assessment Study) you are encouraged to write to the Project Manager at gerard.osborne@tci.gov.fm or the Project Officer at sonia.kephas@tci.gov.fm.

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

1. General experience in the core areas of design and construction supervision

(a minimum of 10 years' experience will be required)

2. Experience on similar assignments as per the Terms of Reference (at least 3 similar assignments over the past 10 years of which at least 1 assignment should be in a small island developing state) 3. Proof of technical, managerial and financial capacity of the firm 4. Experience in the Pacific region is desired

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection Method (QCBS) set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1700 Pohnpei Time (Local Time).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 4:00 p.m. (1600 hrs) Pohnpei Time on Monday, December 20, 2021.

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

And cc to:
Ciu.tci@gov.fm
Central Implementation Unit

UNICEF Pacific celebrates World Children's Day 2021 in style

Alvie B. Cabañez

Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor



Taking place every year on the 20th of November, it's the World Children's Day. It is the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. World Children's Day is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, by children.

UNICEF Pacific started a campaign involving kids as media presenters. A short video was launched to highlight the kid's participation and engagement as news anchors themselves. The kids delivered newsbreak across the globe about WCD especially in the Pacific.

The casts were composed of elementary students namely: Teanna Kei Asher, Kope Remegio Irons, Anderson Shed, & Gabriella S. Gallen. They came to the set prepared. They memorized their lines and work their angles in front of the camera. The campaign didn't only highlight the kid's participation and engagement but also making them realize their importance in nation-building and provide them the opportunity to open their wings and fly high to achieve their goals.

Recently, President David Panuelo recently signed the Declaration on Children Youth and Climate Action- a symbolic expression of the nation's support of child rights.

[Click here for continuation](#)





Title: Assistant Representative, (FSM) Federated States of Micronesia

Call to Action

- Can you lead and manage teams effectively?
- Do you have a keen eye for detail and can you ensure high quality and accuracy of work?
- Can you multi-task, prioritize and manage programme outcomes? If so, this might be the job for you.

How You Can Make a Difference: UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA is seeking candidates that transform, inspire and deliver high impact and sustained results; we need staff who are transparent, exceptional in how they manage the resources entrusted to them and who commit to deliver excellence in programme results.

Job Purpose:

The Assistant Representative will contribute to the management of UNFPA programme activities in the areas of population and development, sexual and reproductive health and gender. Working to advance the ICPD policy agenda in a politically sensitive environment, you will respond to changing priorities of Governments. Promoting partnership and strategic alliances with counterparts in government, multilateral and bilateral agencies and civil society will be key to your role. S/he will coordinate technical advisers and contribute to UN systems coordination through participation in policy dialogue and provision of inputs into joint common system initiatives. Reporting to the UNFPA Director Pacific, the Assistant Representative will act on their behalf as required.

Qualification and Experience:

Your Education

- An advanced degree (Masters) in Public Health, Medicine, Sociology, Demography, Gender, International Relations, International Development, Economics, Public Administration, Management or other related discipline.

Your Experience

- Minimum of five (5) years professional experience in the field of development and population activities, including programme designing, appraisal and management.
- Demonstrated ability to refine programme design to ensure alignment of organizational programme objectives to national priorities/capacities.
- Proven ability to lead and manage teams to achieve demonstrable results.
- Familiarity with UN procedures and working methods, particularly with UNFPA's agenda, policies and procedures, is highly desirable;

Find out more and apply by clicking "Apply Now" at <https://bit.ly/3Ds8XK8> where full details of the position is available.

CLOSING DATE: Friday, 31st December 2021

President Panuelo receives Jaap van Hierden, the Inaugural Resident Coordinator for the United Nations Multi-Country Office for the North Pacific

FSM Information Services

November 22, 2021

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 22nd, 2021, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—received the Honorable Jaap van Hierden, the Resident Coordinator for the new United Nations Multi-Country Office for the North Pacific. The President received Resident Coordinator van Hierden's Letter of Appointment, and the two engaged in a substantive conversation on the North Pacific and the United Nations' role in it.

Citizens will recall that on the margins of the 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York, held in September 2019, that the five Presidents of the Micronesian Presidents Summit agreed that the FSM would host the new United Nations Multi-Country Office. Based in Pohnpei State, the United Nations Multi-Country Office will centralize the services provided to the FSM, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, and the Republic of Kiribati. Resident Coordinator van Hierden is the most senior United Nations official in the FSM, and an appointment of the Honorable Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In his remarks, Resident Coordinator van Hierden noted that "This is the first United Nations Multi-Country Office to open in twenty years...and so it is extremely special." Mr. van Hierden correctly noted that the North Pacific has been working more than fourteen years for this representational office, and commended the FSM for maintaining its COVID-19 free status. "You have kept your country safe, and this is something to be really commended upon. I cannot tell you how joyful I am."

Mr. van Hierden emphasized that the United Nations would like to support the North Pacific as much as possible, that he is keen to support innovations and creative technologies, and that the United Nations is interested in helping the Micronesian countries to stop, fight, and adapt to Climate Change. The Resident Coordinator described how the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework is presently being developed, and that he looks forward to co-chairing with the Honorable Andrew R. Yatilman, Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management, the steering committee to help the United Nations to be more effective in providing support.

In his remarks, President Panuelo spoke on the history behind the North Pacific's



President Panuelo & First Lady Edwin pose with Resident Coordinator van Hierden and his wife and youngest son

unity, including the unity on advocating for a United Nations Multi-Country Office, and the deep and sincere

appreciation the FSM has for the office's opening. The President noted that the FSM, and the North Pacific more generally, remains COVID-19 free in part due to technical assistance and cooperation from the World Health Organization, alongside other partners such as the United States of America.

President Panuelo described at length the urgency behind taking action on Climate Change, and cited concerns on behalf of the FSM—and arguably the North Pacific at large—regarding the outcomes of the recent COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, where there was substantial focus on language use, such as whether or not coal should be phased out or phased down, and perhaps not enough focus on practical actions for countries to take moving forward.

Throughout his remarks, however, President Panuelo emphasized the Nation's utmost joy for the new United Nations Multi-Country Office, and the arrival of Resident Coordinator van Hierden. "This is a milestone achievement. We are grateful that you are here," President Panuelo said, "Be assured that the FSM warmly welcomes you into our country and our region, and that the FSM National Government will do everything in its capacity to help ensure that your office is able to help leverage partnerships and innovation in Climate Change adaptation, social development, and inclusive, sustainable economic growth."

"I would like to encourage you to work closely with the relevant entities—the steering committee, the other Micronesian Presidents, and our island societies—to

ensure that we maximize benefits for our countries," President Panuelo said.

While presently the United Nations Multi-Country Office temporarily operates out of existing infrastructure, President Panuelo and Resident Coordinator van Hierden brainstormed about the need for granting an appropriate parcel of land, and the construction of a dedicated building (or group of buildings), for the office to operate effectively long-term. President Panuelo noted, and wished to emphasize for the purpose of this release, that the permanent United Nations Multi-Country Office in the North Pacific would ideally be carbon-neutral or carbon-negative in its operations, and that the design of the structures and rooms should be equally complementary to traditional and culturally appropriate designs from the across the FSM, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati.

After the formal discussions, President Panuelo said in a statement that "The FSM National Government has full trust and confidence in Jaap van Hierden to lead the new United Nations Multi-Country Office and their work of providing tailor-made, demand-driven support to the five sovereign Micronesian countries. Mr. van Hierden has more than thirty years of development, peacebuilding, and humanitarian assistance experience in countries ranging from Afghanistan and Cambodia to Denmark and Sierra Leone. I encourage all National, State, and Non-Government agencies and officials to see Mr. van Hierden and his team as a partner and ally in our collective

efforts towards eradicating poverty, discrimination and exclusion, and reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind."

Interior's Office of Insular Affairs celebrates completion of Colonia Wellness Center in Yap, Micronesia

Yap State plans opening ceremony for the public

U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs

WASHINGTON – The United States (U.S.) Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs applauds the completion of the Colonia Wellness Center in Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The project was jointly funded by the United States government through the Compact of Free Association and the Government of Japan to support and benefit the people of Yap.

"We are excited to see the opportunities for health care management that can be provided in this newly constructed facility for the families of Yap and are pleased to partner with Yap and the FSM in this tangible way," said Deputy Assistant Secretary Keone Nakoa.

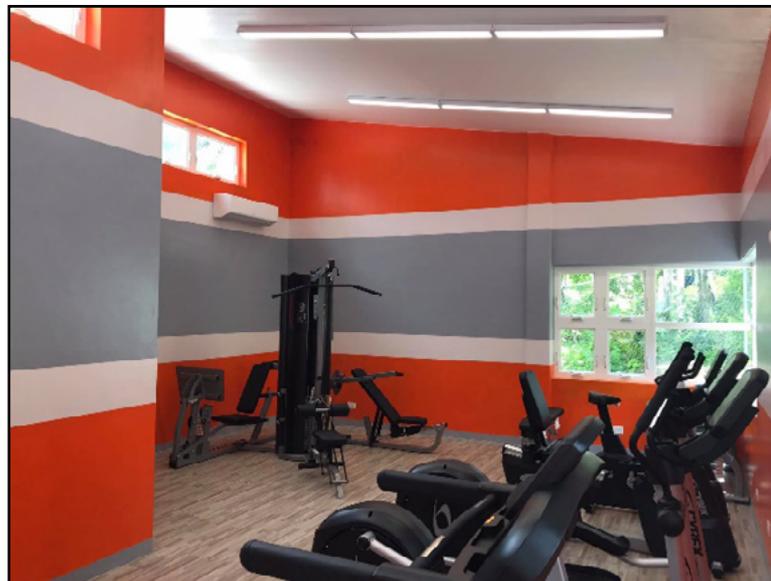
Aerobics area in the recently constructed Colonia Wellness Center Gym room with exercise equipment

The Colonia Wellness Center in Nimar, Weloy, Yap is a one-story structure with approximately 2,865 square feet of floor area that houses a reception area, a lounge, a gym, an aerobics area, an administrative office, showers and locker rooms, training and conference rooms, storage, and other screening and evaluation areas. Planned and designed to help develop and grow a stronger community, the center serves as a location where people may participate in physical activity classes such as zumba or yoga; learn about nutrition and other health topics; receive health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, and A1C; monitor personal health progress; and the like.

The building was constructed and furnished with Compact of Free Association infrastructure sector grants of \$373,000 as jointly approved by the bilateral Joint Economic Management Committee. Additional grant funding of \$90,000 was provided by the Government of Japan's Grassroots Grant Program. All grant funding provided under the Compact of Free Association is distributed and managed by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

For additional photos of the Colonia Wellness Center please visit the Office of Insular Affairs on Facebook. All pictures and information have been shared as a courtesy by the FSM National Government and Yap State Project Management Offices.

The Assistant Secretary of Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the insular areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.



...World Children's Day

Continued from page 14

The Department of Health and Social Affairs will formally launch the Presidential National Advisory Council for Children (PNACC) on November 29. The council's formation is created to provide a platform to raise children's issues both at state and national levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how inequality affects the rights of every child. From climate change, education and mental health, to ending racism and discrimination, children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation and calling for adults to create a better future.

Cromwell Bacareza, Chief, UNICEF North Pacific organized the campaign with much appreciation for the assistance from Micronesia Productions, UNICEF staff, and the proud parents and guardians.



Enhancing Capacity for Emergency Communications and Disaster Resilience

United Nations Development Programme

15 November 2021

Pohnpei, FSM – An online training on solar system installation, operation and maintenance was conducted between 1 and 2 November 2021, and civil work for rehabilitation and augmentation of water supply was initiated in the State of Yap in early November 2021, to enhance the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Government’s capacity for emergency communications and disaster resilience.

Organized by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), through the Japan funded Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience (EDCR) project, the two-day online training brought together 35 participants from the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM), Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (TC&I), State Governments of Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and private sector representatives. The participants learned how to install, operate and maintain off-grid solar systems that were provided by the UNDP EDCR project to be used for operating high frequency (HF)/very high frequency (VHF) radio in remote islands for emergency communications.

Luan Lavern Gilmete from the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management said, “women’s role in technology is largely overlooked, but if we see the bigger picture, women are the key to change if we want to reduce the use of kerosene and firewood in our homes.”

She added, “Ensuring women have access to sustainable energy is a fundamental human right, and I hope more opportunities like this are available to

our women in underserved communities.”

The project also initiated a discussion with the Southern Yap Water Authority (SYWA) to embark on their rehabilitation and augmentation of water supply in the Southern Yap district. The Southern Yap Water Authority in FSM received a drilling rig, air compressor, drill pipes and other materials from the UNDP EDCR project earlier in June.

These will be used to rehabilitate five wells in the Southern Yap State and develop an additional water source from the Quarry Pond to help ensure sustained water supply and greater climate resilience in the face of drought.

Kevin Petrini, recently appointed as Deputy Resident Representative and Country Manager for the newly established UNDP North Pacific Office in Pohnpei, FSM highlighted the need of strengthening the country’s capacity to prepare and respond future disasters. He further added that the UNDP EDCR project’s support to the solar system for emergency communications, and the sustainable water supply combined with the relevant capacity building and training are timely and crucial.

The UNDP EDCR project in FSM was initiated in March 2019. The overall project



A team from DECEM, TC&I and UNDP at a solar system training (Photo: UNDP)



Solar system training participants at DECEM (Photo: UNDP)

goal is to effectively address the consequences of, and responses to, geo-physical and climate-related hazards to protect lives, sustain livelihoods, preserve the environment, and safeguard the economy. The project aims to strengthen gender sensitive disaster communication and climate monitoring systems; enhance gender sensitive national and state disaster responder’s readiness capacity; and enhance community disaster resilience through improved water resource management and integrated gender and social inclusion awareness.

Gerard F. Figueras elected as UFCP President

Alvie B. Cabañez
Kaselehlie Press
Volunteer Contributor

On November 21, 2021, the Filipino community casted their votes and elected a new set of officers for the United Filipino Community in Pohnpei (UFCP). It was held at Kolonia Elementary School, Kolonia.



Despite the weather condition, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) were able to stage the 2021 election. Filipinos started to flock the venue around 09:00AM until 03:00PM. They voted for President, Vice-President, and 9 Board of Directors of their liking.

The candidates came from diverse background, working from different companies, and has been on the island for years.

A few voters and candidates stayed until the final tally of votes while enjoying some refreshments from generous donors. At exactly 03:00PM, John

Darrell Nablo, COMELEC Chairman, announced the polling precinct closed.

After the canvassing, a total of 90 voters were casted and tallied but 2 was declared null and void by Chairman Nablo.

Gerard F. Figueras, who ran for President, got 82 votes. Rodelio A. Pulmano, Vice-president candidate got 78

votes.

Leading the Board of Directors bid was Marites Delos Reyes, who got 77 votes. In second rank, was Virgilio San Jose, who got 76 votes. Rommel Lemana, got 75 votes while Mharzelexxis Caga, and Karleen Meneses both got 71 votes.

Girlie Figueras got 70 votes while Julius Tullao, Joel Cumarista, and Margarita Tecson all got 67 votes. The winners were officially proclaimed at 03:55PM.

The COMELEC Committee, headed by John Darrell Nablo were composed of Darwin Musngi, Emmanuel Resurreccion, Jermaine A. Garcia, Leonor Hulgain, Dann Alcantara, Alizon S. Valdez, Mae P. Balderrama, and Mike Kelvin H. Aclan.

The committee were grateful for the assistance of the outgoing UFCP officers, Principal Jimmy Gallen, Kolonia Elementary School, and the entire Filipino community for the support.

President Panuelo requests Congress' support for pending legislation on maternity leave, Freedom of Information Act, & cybersecurity

FSM Information Services

November 17, 2021

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 15th, 2021, the 22nd Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia began its 2nd Special Session. After the opening session, His Excellency David W. Panuelo virtually received the Committee to Wait on the President, Chaired by the Honorable Ferny S. Perman, with committee members inclusive of the Honorable Aren B. Palik, the Honorable Isaac V. Figir, and the Honorable Robson U. Romolow.

The first topic of discussion was with regards to pending nominations. President Panuelo noted that he was hopeful that Congress would soon hold hearings on his nomination of Salomon Saimon to be the next Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court. Additionally, the President spoke of his enthusiasm for Maker Palsis and John Chugen, the former of whom is the President's nominee to be the National Election Commissioner in the State of Kosrae and the latter of whom is the President's nominee to be the National Election Commissioner in the State of Yap.

The next topic of discussion was with regards to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

President Panuelo noted that more than 70% of the Nation's adult population is fully vaccinated, and that the FSM has recently received the capacity to implement booster shots of the vaccine, as well as providing the vaccine to children aged five (5) years and up. The President advised Congress that, to his understanding, the States of Yap and Kosrae are ready to implement the pediatric vaccines immediately, and that the States of Chuuk and Pohnpei intend to begin this process in the coming weeks.

The COVID-19 vaccine mandate remains in effect and, by extension, all children aged between 5 to 11 years and all adolescents aged between 12 to 17 years will be required to be vaccinated against the virus.

Additionally, the President noted that the State of Kosrae would be conducting a repatriation activity on November 15th; that the State of Yap would be conducting a repatriation activity on November 28th; that the State of Chuuk would be conducting a repatriation activity on November 29th; and that the State of Pohnpei would be conducting a repatriation activity on December 1st.

The next topic of discussion was with regards to various supplemental budget

requests. The President asked Congress to consider appropriating \$600,000 to the Department of Transportation, Communications, & Infrastructure (TC&I) and Caroline Islands Air (CIA) so that the Nation can purchase two aircraft to replace those that crashed in Mwoakilloa and Ta. Additionally, the President requested funding for the hiring of consultants to assist the Department of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management (DECCEM) in writing proposals and concept notes to access resources from the Green Climate Fund, and for office-space related funding for the United Nations Multi-Country Office and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The final topic of discussion was with regards to various pending legislation. Though the President spent the bulk of the meeting advocating on the importance of extending maternity leave from six weeks to twelve weeks, the President also noted that the Executive Branch has submitted proposed legislation on the Freedom of Information, Cybersecurity, non-communicable diseases, passport



President Panuelo describes to Senator Perman the importance of receiving funding for a Chief of Staff at the nearest opportunity

extensions, bunkering and provisioning of vessels, penalties for the importation of prohibited plastic materials, legislation to enhance the Secretary of Finance's tax enforcement capacity, the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court, the safe release of sharks, the Maritime Surveillance Revolving Fund, and a law for the registry of nonprofit corporations.

Following the President's formal agenda, he entertained questions from the Honorable Senators on topics ranging from the status of airport renovations and inspections to the usage of the funding appropriated for the Low-Income Household Assistance program.

The FSM has become the 195th member of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

FSM Information Services

November 23, 2021

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 23rd, 2021, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) became the 195th member of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Joining INTERPOL has been a priority of the administration of President David W. Panuelo and Vice President Yosiwo P. George, first announced in the President's inaugural address.

The vote occurred on the first day of the 89th General Assembly of INTERPOL, where the FSM is represented by Assistant Attorney General & Chief of Law, Leonito Bacalando Jr., Assistant Secretary & Chief of the FSM Cybersecurity & Intelligence Bureau, Adam Caldwell, and Department of Justice Legal Attache & Legal Adviser

to the FSM Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Clement Yow Mulalap.

Headquartered in the city of Lyons in the French Republic, INTERPOL provides investigative support, expertise, and training to law enforcement worldwide, with focuses on terrorism, cybercrime, and organized crime. INTERPOL also facilitates cooperation among national law enforcement institutions through criminal databases and communications networks.

A politically neutral entity, INTERPOL's primary aims—described in Article Two of its constitution—are “to ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the law existing in different countries, and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

“I am deeply humbled and honored by the international community's vote to grant our Nation membership into INTERPOL,” President Panuelo said in a statement. “The FSM is committed to the rule of law and the international rules-based order. By joining INTERPOL, the FSM, the Micronesian subregion, and the whole of the Indo-Pacific more generally, just became safer today than it was yesterday.”



Secretary-General of INTERPOL, Jürgen Stock, shakes hands with Chief of Law Leonito Bacalando Jr.

“On behalf of the People and Government of the FSM, I extend our appreciation to the President and to the Secretary-General of INTERPOL, and to all of INTERPOL's members. I enthusiastically and categorically announce our Nation's promise to uphold INTERPOL's



SOLICITATION NUMBER: 72049222R10005
ISSUANCE DATE: November 22, 2021
CLOSING DATE/TIME: December 21, 2021
 11:59PM Philippine time

SUBJECT: Solicitation for USAID Project Management Specialist (Resilience), FSN-11

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking offers from qualified CCN (Cooperating Country Nationals) to provide personal services as described on the USAID website: <https://www.usaid.gov/pacific-islands/careers>.

The USAID Project Management Specialist (Resilience) serves as the primary staff for the USAID/Pacific Island sub-office in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) which covers primarily the FSM, but at times may provide support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau. The Specialist performs a variety of research, analyses, reporting, coordination, monitoring, outreach, and administrative functions in support of USAID's Pacific Islands Main Office located in Manila, Philippines. The Specialist supports and closely advises the USAID Country Coordinator in FSM as well as the General Development Officer (GDO) and USAID/Philippines technical and support offices to help achieve the following objectives in the Pacific: to support the U.S. Government's (USG) broader foreign policy objectives in the region; to address regional and country priorities; to complement other donor efforts; and to report on the latest news, developments, and perspective from the field and advise on how the portfolio can be adjusted accordingly.

To be considered for this position candidates must meet the following **minimum qualifications:**

1. Education (10 points): Bachelor's Degree with a focus on subjects such as environmental engineering, environmental management, water and sanitation management, economics, and international development and governance or a similar related degree is required. Note: Additional education may NOT be substituted for experience.
2. Prior Work Experience (30 points): Minimum of five years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience in the development field is required. Three years of this should have been in development assistance or related work with the USG, FSM government organizations, other donor agencies, or the private sector. Experience should include project design, program planning and implementation, performance monitoring, and/or the analysis and interpretation of large amounts of complex sector/program/project/activity

information. Note: Additional experience may NOT be substituted for education.

3. Language Proficiency/Communication Skills (20 points): Must have excellent communication skills in English, both in oral and written forms, in order to communicate effectively with USAID Mission staff and external contacts at various levels. Writing skills are required to prepare regular and ad hoc reports, project documentation, and briefing papers.

4. Job Knowledge (20 points): The Specialist must have a demonstrated knowledge of priority sectors that are important to economic growth and demonstrated expertise in designing activities that effectively applies science and technology for informed planning and decision-making. Knowledge and understanding of the economic, political, social, and cultural characteristics of all of the above countries; and, their economic development problems, resources and resource constraints, and development prospects and priorities, is required. Knowledge of all of the above countries' disaster response policies and capabilities. The Specialist must have a good knowledge, or the potential to quickly acquire such knowledge, of USG legislation, policy, and practice relating to development assistance; USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures, and documentation; and, of the objectives, methodology, and status of assigned activities. Knowledge and understanding of the organization and respective roles of local governmental institutions and the host country governments.

5. Skills and Abilities (20 points): The demonstrated ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate sectors/programs/ projects/activities is required. The Specialist must have good verbal communication skills, tact, and diplomacy. Analytical ability is required in order to interpret public policies, and to assist in the development of revised policies, as required; and, to develop and monitor the performance of budgets, and the development of periodic work plans. The ability to work independently with minimal supervision. The ability to work effectively in a team environment, and to achieve consensus on policy, program/project/activity, and administrative matters is required. Good computer skills are required, in order to manage activity goals and achievements, both technical and financial.

Further details on the statement of duties, evaluation, and selection factors and how to apply can be found on the USAID website: <https://www.usaid.gov/pacific-islands/careers>

Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers named #1 Value of Resort



November 18, 2021

Colonia, Yap - Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers has been voted the #1 resort in the Pacific/Indian Ocean region in the value-for-money category in Scuba Diving magazine's annual readers' poll of the best destinations, dive resorts, dive operators and liveaboard vessels.

To give "a better idea of consistent winners regardless of recent travel restrictions," the 29-year-old publication averaged the scores from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 surveys to arrive at the current results to inspire divers "to get back in the water and visit someplace new."

Located on the island of Yap in the western Pacific Ocean, the small, family-owned luxury resort was also named among the top ten in eight additional categories including Best Overall Dive Operators, Quality of Dive Shop Facilities, Quality of Dive Staff, Attention to Safety within Dive Operations, Best Overall Resorts, Quality of the Resort, Quality of the Rooms and Quality of the Restaurant.

"Throughout our 35-year history we've been given multiple awards, but this year's recognition is a welcome shot in the arm," said the resort's owner, Bill Acker. "This year's results combining three consecutive years of surveying show that, together with our staff, my family and I manage to give our guests the experience, service and value they expect and are looking for," Bill added.

"We were one of the first islands to close the borders and may be the last to reopen, but we'll be back stronger and better than before," said Patricia Acker, Bill's wife and cofounder.

Operating since 1986 and serving only 1,000 divers a year, Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers is Micronesia's only premier dive resort offering guests crowd-free dive sites, VIP service, spa treatments, award-winning micro-brewed beer, and a unique dining experience aboard their 120-year-old Schooner, The S/V Mnuw.

Go to Scuba Diving Magazine or #scubadivingmagazine for details of this year's Best of Readers Choice Awards. For more information about Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers, visit www.mantaray.com or #mantaraybay.



Editorial

Global Climate and Health Alliance: COP26 outcomes not nearly enough to protect health

Glasgow, 13 November, 2021— Responding to the outcomes of COP26 in Glasgow, Dr Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, said:

“The health community came to COP26 with clear demands from 46 million health workers on issues critical to protecting people’s health and social equity - yet COP26 has delivered on just a few of them.”

“Where progress was made it was incremental, when what was required was a great bound forward by governments. People’s health and lives remain grievously in harm’s way from climate change - and the clock is still ticking to achieve the 1.5C target. Coming out of this COP, governments cannot assume that they can now rest - they must instead push far beyond what is asked of them in the Glasgow Climate Pact in order to achieve what is required to protect human health from climate change.”

“Governments must focus on what is needed for a healthy and equitable future, and to ensure the protection of people’s health from the worst impacts of climate change: they must deliver on their commitments to limit warming to 1.5C; and they must deliver on the climate finance that redresses the outsized benefits wealthy countries have enjoyed from their high carbon economies, and addresses the devastating impacts on people’s health outsourced around the world”.

“They must also act upon and enforce the protection of human rights, the right to health, Indigenous rights and intergenerational equity, which are clearly stated in the final text of COP26.”

“We welcome the strong language within COP26’s Glasgow Climate Pact that re-commits governments to limiting temperature rise to 1.5C, in line with the most recent science. However, the Glasgow statement is painfully thin on substance as to how countries plan to deliver this”, said Miller. “Limiting

warming to 1.5C is vitally important to protecting people’s health - every tenth of a degree matters when it comes to protecting lives from devastating climate impacts.”

“We also welcome the request for countries to align their climate commitments (their Nationally Determined Contributions or “NDCs”) with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, which will require many countries to submit updated NDCs in the coming twelve months.”

“While it seemed that COP26 was set to deliver the crucial commitment of governments to phase out coal and end fossil fuel subsidies, this language was progressively whittled away during the drafting process of the Glasgow statement - a shameful act, given that air pollution from burning fossil fuels kills millions of people per year, with coal the worst offender”.

In the final hours of COP, India, South Africa, Iran and Nigeria expressed opposition to even the more diluted language, with the potential at one point for the mention of coal to be entirely removed. The text finally adopted referred to a coal “phase down”, rather than coal phase out, in response to which Fiji expressed astonishment and immense disappointment, noting that phase ‘down’ has no quantifiable end point. Meanwhile, Fiji’s own suggestions days earlier, to strengthen text on loss and damage, were dismissed.

“It is notable - and reprehensible that even this weak language indicates progress, as it is the first time the need to phase out fossil fuels has ever been mentioned in a UNFCCC agreement”

“To top it off, governments failed to deliver the \$100bn USD per year of climate finance that had been previously promised by last year, and any approach to compensating low income countries for the health and other impacts they are already struggling with is absent from the COP26 outcome documents. In vulnerable countries and communities, lives are being lost and people’s health is being harmed, now. Developed countries cannot just keep talking about finance for loss and damage and adaptation - they need to deliver the necessary resources. This has got to be a major focus of COP27, which will be hosted by Egypt on behalf of the Africa region.”

New report paves the way for Pacific Sea Turtle Extinction Risk Model



SPREP

Apia, Samoa. 17 November 2021 – A report released today by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the first step towards assessing the risk of extinction of sea turtles in the region and developing appropriate management plans for their effective conservation.

The Review of the status of sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean 2021 brings together the most recent and relevant literature and knowledge about the reproductive biology, movements and populations of sea turtles and presents these alongside relevant threats to their populations.

“This is the first time that comprehensive data on each of the six species of sea turtles has been compiled in one place and at this scale in the region,” says SPREP Acting Deputy Director General – Technical Programmes, Stuart Chape.

“This is a forward-looking document with the information being collated towards input to a risk extinction model for sea turtles in the Pacific. The model will be used as a predictive tool to identify the most pressing threats and allow the development of management and conservation programmes that will ensure sea turtles continue to play their important ecological roles and continue to be part of local customs and traditions,” says Mr Chape.

The lead scientist for the study, Dr Nicolas Pilcher, says, “There is a wealth of literature on marine turtles, both published and grey. Our challenge was to identify the most recent and most relevant, and extract and synthesise the information that will enhance the usefulness of the extinction risk model.”

Dr Pilcher credited the host of authors and researchers who have developed and own this knowledge and stressed that the report draws on their work. “The ownership and credit for this work is theirs alone, with the report simply bringing it all together in one place,” he says.



The report sets out the relevant biological aspects of sea turtle reproductive output, survivorship, movements and genetic linkages and assesses threats to sea turtles such as by-catch, direct take and consumption, illegal trade, lighting, climate change and ocean health.

Dr Pilcher cautions that the report is not exhaustive and notes that there are areas lacking in information. “For example, while we do have some information on by-catch of sea turtles in the commercial fisheries industry, less is known about levels of use of sea turtles by coastal communities and impacts of small-scale fisheries across the Pacific,” explains Dr Pilcher.

Similarly, little is known of the impacts of climate change on sea turtles and their important habitats across much of the Pacific, and of the status and trends of sea turtle populations at the local levels. Sea turtles have played a significant role in the customs and traditions of Pacific island communities for thousands of years – and continue to do so to this day – featuring in many myths, legends, songs and traditions. However, sea turtles have been subjected to increasing pressure as customary practices have eroded and their popularity in commercial markets has increased, outside threats such as by-catch in commercial and artisanal fisheries has increased, and climate change threatens important nesting and feeding areas, along with sea turtle reproductive biology.

In parallel with the status review, a series of turtle monitoring and community use surveys are being conducted in Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu to better understand the impacts on turtle populations of climatic changes and local use of turtles. The sea turtle review and risk assessment process is an activity of the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative being implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) through the 45 million Euro Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden.

UN Resident Coordinator presents credentials to FSM President

United Nations

22 November 2021

Palikir –The United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to the people in Micronesia when UN Resident Coordinator Jaap van Hierden, presented his credentials to H.E David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), today.

Appointed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in October 2021 as his official representative, Mr van Hierden, a Dutch national, will be the most senior UN official in the country, responsible for the overall running of UN operations of the multi-country Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), which includes FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Mr. van Hierden has devoted about 30

years to development, peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance. Prior to taking up the position of UN Resident Coordinator for Micronesia, he headed the international NGO Cordaid in Afghanistan. From 1991-2016, Mr. van Hierden held numerous managerial and leadership positions at the country, regional and corporate levels in Sierra Leone, Malaysia, USA, Denmark, Thailand, Cambodia and the Phillipines with the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UNOPS. After having been part of the team that built up UNOPS, Mr. van Hierden went on to become the UNOPS Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific from 2009 to 2013 and Country Director and Representative for Cambodia and the Phillipines from 2013 to 2016.

Mr. van Hierden holds a Master’s degree in Agricultural Economics



from Wageningen University with specialisations in development economics, marketing and business administration.

Mr van Hierden’s appointment underscores the UN’s commitment to Small Island Developing States and support towards Micronesia’s realization of the central, transformative

goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals represent the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals.

In his remarks to the President Panuelo, Mr. van Hierden confirmed that the UN will strengthen its support to the FSM government across all national priorities, leveraging partnerships and innovation in support of climate change adaptation, social development and inclusive, sustainable economic growth. It is anticipated that the UN presence in FSM and the other Micronesian countries, will be gradually reinforced due to the establishment of the multi-country office.

The Resident Coordinator is supported by the multi-country Resident Coordinator’s Office, which, in accordance with the UN Reform launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2019, leads in UN strategic planning, communications and advocacy, partnerships and development finance, development analysis, as well as UN results monitoring and reporting. The multi-country RCO will work in close collaboration with all UN agencies, funds and programmes.

The appointment of a representative of the UN Secretary-General and the opening of the multi-country Resident Coordinator’s Office Micronesia demonstrates a stronger focus on providing tailor-made, demand-driven support to the Micronesian countries.

Mr. van Hierden is married and has four children. He is accompanied in FSM by his wife and youngest son.

Kosrae

The island of the sleeping lady
With mountains and valleys
Lush and greeny!

An island state
Let us not be late
Climate is changing
Let the lady wake

It is a beautiful state
Let us not wait
For climate is changing
Sea level is rising
Our weather is changing

So wake the lady
For now we fight
As climate changes
We all shall remain!

- Joe Rosey Nea Roby, 13, Kosrae - Federated States of Micronesia

© UNICEFPacific/2021/Perez

unicef WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY NOVEMBER 20

Chuuk

My island, My home
Chuuk it is known
A divers paradise
Where the sun rises
Scattered are the islands
With love and joy
So apparent

But danger looms as climate changes
Our sea level rises

Let us stand together
To fight the changing weather
Be brave for
Chuuk shall never surrender

- Paul Oliver David Peter, 13, Chuuk - Federated States of Micronesia

© UNICEFPacific/2015/Sokhin

unicef WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY NOVEMBER 20

Pohnpei

Far as the eye can see
Clear blue skies and vast ocean
Swelling tides rush ashore
Reaching places, once untouched

So many changes, constant, ever present
Our beloved lands, so small, so tiny
Drowning ever slowly as
Both we and our ancestors once safe,
now no longer

May we keep our fighting spirit
To face this battle called climate change
Together, let us stand and with one voice
say,
“We are not drowning, we are fighting”

- Kope Remigio Irons, 13, Pohnpei - Federated States of Micronesia

© UNICEFPacific/2021/Perez

unicef WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY NOVEMBER 20

Yap

Island of the stone money
With unique people and culture
Surrounded by the deep blue sea
Life is abundant and free

Now, danger looms
Our climate is changing
Sea level is rising

With dry wells, we will not fare
Natives are relocating
For our islands are disappearing

United we stand
To fight this battle called
Climate change

- Aranea Leyangiuma, 13, Yap - Federated States of Micronesia

© UNICEFPacific/2021/Bocanegra

unicef WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY NOVEMBER 20

Mercury-free Pacific campaign featured during Third Clean Pacific Roundtable

SPREP

Apia, Samoa—Since entering into force in 2017, only two Pacific Island countries have ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury while five others have acceded to it, joining 135 countries from around the world as Parties to the Convention.

In an effort to protect Pacific islanders from the dangers of mercury pollution, a campaign is in the early stages of development to empower more Pacific islands to ratify the Convention.

Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have acceded to the Convention, however it is hopeful that with support more Pacific islands will sign on.

Development of the Mercury-free campaign was endorsed at the Annual General Meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in September this year and further introduced to Pacific waste practitioners during the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable now underway.

“The Mercury Free Pacific Campaign to address the high levels of environmental and human health threats posed by mercury in the Pacific. To ensure full ownership

from our Members this is a campaign that we want to develop, and action, with you,” said Mr Joshua Sam, the Hazardous Waste Adviser of SPREP.

“We’d like to help our Pacific islands to take the necessary steps to protect our environment and communities from the adverse impacts of mercury pollution. We feel this is a journey that we will inevitably have to take, and we’d like us all to work on this collectively.”

While mercury is a natural substance it turns into methylmercury as a reaction to bacteria when in water, soil, or plants. Methyl mercury is particularly dangerous in that it enters the food chain and can be passed on when eaten. Poisoning has occurred in people that have eaten fish, or animals that have absorbed methyl mercury.

The Mercury Free Pacific Campaign will aim to raise awareness about mercury exposure and encourage safer alternatives as well as help SPREP Members to incorporate mercury-free policy and legislation.

It is also hoped this will empower Members to become Parties to the Minamata Convention on mercury as well as to collect and dispose of legacy mercury

waste in the Pacific island’s region.

To have a fuller understanding of mercury in the Pacific islands, SPREP is implementing the Minamata Initial Assessment Project with funding from the Global Environment Facility. This includes an assessment of national capacity to address mercury and develop mercury inventories. These inventories will capture sources of mercury emissions and industries that produce or import mercury containing products.

The findings of these assessments will guide actions to help Pacific Islands ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

“Known as the MIA Project we are working with the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to learn more about mercury and the available capacities to address mercury,” said Mr Sam.

“They join similar projects in Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Samoa which are under bilateral arrangements with the UN Environment Programme. This will help us develop a baseline to take us to the next step. All of which is part and parcel of the work that will be supported through the Mercury-Free Pacific Campaign.”



Mr Joshua Sam speaking during the Mercury-Free Pacific side event

Now in the initial stages of development, which will include consultation and engagement with SPREP Members, the Mercury-Free Pacific Campaign will be in line with the Cleaner Pacific. It is planned that by 2025 all SPREP Members will have ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Pacific will be free from mercury containing equipment, materials and products, regional mercury monitoring will be underway, and the Pacific will be fully aware of the dangers of mercury.

The Mercury Free Pacific side event was held on Friday, 19 November during the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable. A virtual meeting the 3-CPRT is held from 16 – 25 November 2021.

Our journey towards a Cleaner Pacific 2025

SPREP

When it comes to waste management, the Pacific knows where we want to be, and we have a new five plan to help us get there – together.

Striving for a Cleaner Pacific 2025 guided by the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016 – 2025. There is now a new Cleaner Pacific Implementation Plan 2021 – 2025 to navigate us through the range of actions to be done.

Learning from lessons of the Cleaner Pacific 2016 – 2019 Implementation Plan this next phase has a smaller number of activities that address priority gaps identified in a mid-term review that was undertaken.

It found the 2016–2019 Plan was ambitious with 124 activities to be completed, while good progress was achieved for 29 activities, only six of 20 performance indicators exceeded, or met, their 2020 targets.

“Like nearly everything we know that was

planned, the emergence of COVID-19 was something that we had not anticipated. As such this really knocked us back when it came to achieving key milestones we had planned,” said Mr Anthony Talouli, the Acting Director of Waste Management and Pollution Control at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

“Considering this major challenge, we still managed to accomplish excellent outcomes, and adapt quickly to ensure we were still serving our Pacific islands region in the strive for a Cleaner Pacific. This new plan helps us propel this progress forward.”

Some major outcomes are to be commended during the first phase of our journey towards a Cleaner Pacific 2025. Working towards Strategic Goal 3: Improve life-cycle management of residuals, when it came to the quantity of used oil stockpiles in meters cubed, the baseline in 2014 was at 2,961 m3. While the 2020 target was 1,480 m3 there was an amount of 4,886 m3 that was collected.

Yet there were also lessons learnt which

have identified priority issues for the Pacific islands to focus upon ensuring all activities are aligned with the Cleaner Pacific’s 2025 performance indicator and strategic goals for the 2021 – 2025 plan.

The vision being a Cleaner Pacific Environment, with the mission being to implement practical and sustainable solutions for the prevention and management of waste and pollution in the Pacific. There are 31 activities to be undertaken in line with performance indicators to keep this work on track and address the four strategic goals. These four goals span prevention and minimising generation of wastes and pollution and their associated impacts, recovery of resources from waste and pollutants, improving the life-cycle management of residues, and to improve the monitoring and reporting of actions.

“We’re pretty excited to roll this out – we see this waste challenge growing in new areas such as that from COVID-19 – we know we have a mammoth task ahead of us to achieve a Cleaner Pacific 2025, but



we believe that by working together, across our Pacific islands region, we’ll be able to get there,” said Mr Talouli.

“It will take everyone to understand that they play a role, and then making sure they play it well for our Pacific islands people. We look forward to working with everyone to get this second phase going.”

The Cleaner Pacific 2021 – 2025 Implementation Plan was presented during the Island Forum with 26 SPREP Members session held on Day One of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable.

For more information, please visit: www.cleanpacificroundtable.com

Inga's health journey inspires change at waste and pollution conference

SPREP

16 November 2021

Apia - The health journey of a global rugby legend, who admits that he could have faced an early death because he neglected his body, has been used to inspire behavioral change among Pacific Island populations, in dealing with waste management and pollution.

A slim and fit-looking All Black and Manu Samoa icon, "Inga the Winger" shared his story during the Call to Action Session of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3rdCPRT) opened virtually on Tuesday.

"I was very, very obese, my health statistics were very poor and I was looking at an early grave hadn't I changed my attitude and changed my behaviour," said Fesolai Vaaiga Tu'igamala. "I didn't take care of myself physically, I didn't look after my health and I suffered the consequences. It wasn't just me who suffered, those who were close to me suffered, my wife, children, friends and my family suffered."

Thankfully, Inga responded and transformed his habits by changing his diet and lifestyle. He is a lot healthier

today and he wants to inspire others by sharing his story. Drawing comparisons with the waste crisis in the Pacific, Inga raised the alarm bells about the consequences of negligence.

"I liken what happened to my body to the earth. When we don't look after our environment, when we don't take care of our own backyard then we will suffer the consequences. I had to learn to get my health back physically, mentally and spiritually. We need to do the same for our environment."

Statistics show that waste and pollution management is a major issue for many Pacific Island countries. Studies have shown that 40% of all the marine plastics that end up in the Pacific comes from Asia. Furthermore, a different study by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation predicted that on current trends, there would be more micro-plastics in the ocean by 2050 than fish.

"The reality is that waste in our community is a major problem and we need to take action today. We need to pay attention to the impact waste and pollution have on our health is huge," Inga said.

Having lived in Samoa for many years,

Inga said he saw the problem first hand and it is what piqued his interest when SPREP asked him to speak at 3rdCPRT.

"The reality is that we (Pacific islands) cannot make any more land."

But he encouraged people to change their mindsets.

"It's the small things such as encouraging people to take pride in themselves and their homes. As a sportsman, I was brought up with these two words, TEAM and PRIDE. Team stood for Together Everyone Achieves More. Pride stands for Personal Responsibility In Delivering Excellence and that's the message, I want to get people to take pride in their homes, that's where we can start, that's where we can make a big difference."

Fesolai acknowledged the importance of forums like the 3rdCPRT and the collective effort of everybody involved. He said he followed the progress of COP26 where the world is looking at solutions to climate change.

"But for us when it comes to waste and pollution, we can start in our backyard. I've got no doubt that as you embark on the discussions in this 3rdCPRT,



the challenge will be how do influence our own backyard," Fesolai said. "We must deal with what we can control, do our part. I was fortunate to play rugby and got to travel the world. As Pacific islanders, we are privileged to live in this part of the world, the Pacific Ocean. We have a duty to protect it."

"Inga the Winger" was a dual international who became the Pacific's first sporting millionaire. He represented both the All Blacks and Manu Samoa, and he played rugby league professionally for many years, including an extremely successful stint at Wigan. But his passion doesn't stop with rugby. He loves boxing and when he moved to Samoa in 2015, he used the sport of Boxing to reach out and equip people of all ages and backgrounds. He is married to Daphne, and has 4 children and 4 grandchildren. He is from the villages of Faleasiu, Saanapu, Sataua and Safune.

Marine Litter, Plastics Pollution, and Human Rights: Factsheets on preventing plastic pollution launched at premiere regional waste forum

SPREP

16 November 2021

Apia, Samoa—Despite not being producers of plastics, and contributing as little as 1.3% to global plastics pollution, the Pacific region is on the frontline of the plastic crisis and is disproportionately impacted by plastics pollution.

In a bid to support Pacific Island policy makers in their efforts to develop strategies to address this issue, a range of factsheets have been produced, focused on preventing plastics pollution in the Pacific. The five factsheets were launched on the first day of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable.

Hosted by The University of Newcastle, Australia, the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Massey University, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Plastics Pollution Prevention in the Pacific Region side event brought together

[Click for continuation](#)

The collage features five distinct factsheets. The first, 'Plastics Impacts on Human Health in the Pacific Region', includes a diagram of a human torso with labels for 'Direct health impacts' such as respiratory issues, skin irritation, and reproductive health. The second, 'The Business of Plastics: The impacts of plastics pollution on human rights in the Pacific Region', highlights that 'A CLEAN, HEALTHY, AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT IS A HUMAN RIGHT'. The third, 'Plastics Pollution Policy Gaps in the Pacific Region', shows a map of the Pacific with various policy gaps identified. The fourth, 'A safe(r) circular economy for plastics in the Pacific Region', illustrates a circular flow from 'SAFE DESIGN & MANUFACTURE' through 'SAFE USE & MAINTENANCE' to 'SAFE REPAIR & REUSE' and 'SAFE RECYCLING & RECOVERY'. The fifth, 'Plastics, Marine Litter, and Climate in the Pacific Region', depicts a 3D landscape with litter and CO2 emissions, noting that 'Plastics are made from fossil fuels' and 'CO2 emissions from fossil fuel based systems contribute to climate change'.

New Caledonia opens Third Clean Pacific Roundtable with call for ambitious response to waste crisis

SPREP

16 November 2021

Apia, Samoa— The Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3rdCPRT) has been officially opened by New Caledonia's Minister of Environment, Hon. Joseph Manaute, who has called for an ambitious global and coordinated response to waste management and pollution control.



New Caledonia Minister for the Environment, Hon. Joseph Manaute

Addressing the virtual opening ceremony as the keynote speaker, the Minister, who is also the new Chair of the 3rdCPRT, reminded that

waste management and the prevention of pollution is everyone's responsibility, both at the local and international level.

"Although our local contexts are different, all our countries are faced with global challenges requiring local responses," he said, highlighting a number of initiatives New Caledonia has taken to address what he described as a waste crisis. These include efforts to eliminate the illegal dumping of waste, organised waste collection and encourage recycling and reuse channels for members of the public and more.

"We need to be more ambitious, to act effectively and to form regional coalitions to raise awareness on waste management issues and change mindsets, to find political and technical solutions to this environmental crisis," the 3rdCPRT Chair said. "Together let us provide an ambitious global and coordinated response to limit consumerism, resources waste and waste generation. Let us provide leadership for our planet because the sustainability and survival of humanity depends on our collective efforts to heal the earth, our common home, the land for our children."

The Roundtable, scheduled from 16th to 25th November 2021, is facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). It is designed to facilitate networking and

dialogue, improve donor coordination, mobilise technical and financial resources and to monitor the progress of the Cleaner Pacific 2025. The Director General of SPREP, Mr Kosi Latu, said waste and pollution management is a major problem for the Pacific, threatening sustainable development.

"We have witnessed the increase of unprecedented waste and pollution pressures from human induced activities such as industrial and agricultural runoff, marine debris, oil and chemical pollution, population growth, coastal development and modernization, over-fishing and resource extraction," said Mr Latu. "These pressures have been exacerbated by the challenges of climate change (sea level rise, sea temperature

Click for continuation

...Marine Litter

Continued from page 23

experts from government, academia, private sector, and civil society to promote awareness and enhance understandings of the impacts of plastic pollution, and discuss strategies needed to address them.

The factsheets cover five key areas:

- 1: A Safe(r) Circular Economy for Plastics in the Pacific
- 2: Plastics Pollution Policy Gaps in the Pacific Region
- 3: Plastics, Marine Litter, and Climate Change in the Pacific Region
- 4: Plastics Impacts on Human Health in the Pacific Region
- 5: The Business of Plastics: Impacts of Plastics Pollution on Human Rights in the Pacific Region.

"Factsheets, although they may sound simplistic, are actually one of the key tools used to communicate plastic pollution in the Pacific," said Lagipoiva Cherelle Jackson, Editor of Pacific Environment Weekly and moderator of the session.

"Most of our schools, organisations and ministries still depend on paper to communicate so these factsheets are key to communicating changes on the ground."

Ali'imua Setoa Apo, Principal Solid Waste Advisor for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Samoa congratulated all the collaborators involved in the development of the factsheets.

"These will be very useful for the Pacific as awareness and educational materials," he said.

Funded by UNEP, the factsheets were developed by Dr Sascha Fuller of The University of Newcastle Australia, and Dr Trisia Farrelly of Massey University, New Zealand in partnership with CIEL, Nadya Va'a, and Pacific Island countries.

Dr Farrelly noted the factsheets were developed from the results of the 2020 EIA Pacific Islands Plastic Pollution Prevention Policy Gap Analysis. Pacific Islands Plastic Pollution Prevention Policy Gap Analysis The study showed that national plastics pollution prevention plans and policy frameworks are urgently needed to prevent problematic plastics from entering the region.

"The study also highlighted that a legally binding plastic pollution treaty would significantly increase the success of those plans and policy frameworks."

Ms Patti Pedrus from FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management discussed the increasing dependency of Pacific Island

nations on imported food and beverages which is contributing significantly to the plastics problem, concurring that a strengthened policy framework is needed.

This would also protect Pacific communities from the human health and climate impacts of plastics pollution, which do, as Ms Imogen Ingram of Islands Sustainability Alliance, Cook Islands, pointed out, occur all along the plastics lifecycle.

For these reasons, Dr Marcos Orellana, UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights made clear that the plastics crisis is not just about waste, as the whole life cycle of plastics has serious impacts on people and their rights.

"A human rights-based approach is critical to an effective and legitimate global instrument. Human rights principles can and should inform the transition towards a chemically safe circular economy. A rights-based approach to the plastics crisis can ensure that solutions actually work and do not come at the expense of those most vulnerable in society"

Speaking on behalf of UNEP, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Head of UNEPs Pacific office, said, "UNEP has always supported and been the convener for the work on waste and marine plastic pollution and we will continue to serve this role."

"There are valuable lessons from the Pacific's global engagement on climate change, biodiversity and oceans to apply to waste. UNEA 5.2 in February 2022 is the next step in the negotiations process and it is crucial that Pacific States prepare and engage effectively."

Mr Nawadra thanked countries and partners who worked together to produce the factsheets, while they are an excellent first step in the collection of the science and knowledge, there is still work that needs to be done to translate the information contained in these factsheets into policy briefs to help countries when they go into negotiations for various fora.

"Supporting Pacific voices is of utmost importance, particularly as we move towards a critical milestone in global governance of plastics at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) in February 2022," he added.

The factsheets are freely available for download and can be accessed here:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/factsheet/marine-litter-plastic-pollution-and-human-rights>

For more information, please contact Dr Sascha Fuller at sascha.fuller@newcastle.edu.au and Dr Trisia Farrelly at t.farrelly@massey.ac.nz or Mr Sefanaia Nawadra of UNEP at sefanaia.nawadra@un.org

Managing disaster waste to strengthen country resiliency

17 November 2021

Apia – As Pacific countries prepare to enter the cyclone season, participants of the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable, Deep Dive side event on Disaster Waste Management, were encouraged to recognise the importance of including disaster waste management into National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) operations and how it can contribute towards disaster risk reduction.

The interactive Deep Dive Session emphasised the complexities associated with modern disaster waste streams, highlighting issues and challenges faced by Pacific islands in addressing disaster waste and stressed out the importance of a holistic approach to managing disaster waste to build the Pacific’s resilience.

Discussions and presentations during the session focused on the vulnerability of the Pacific Region to increasing natural disasters and the impact of natural disasters, especially of cyclones on local communities, informed participants on the goal of the FRDP and re-introduce the Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline.

Participants of the session learnt that disaster waste historically was dominated by fallen trees and damaged traditional houses, made from tree stems and woven leaves, which did not pose many risks to people and the surrounding environment as it was mostly organic matter that degraded

naturally.

However, as economic development progressed in the Pacific, combined with the increasing population, and changing lifestyles, the nature of wastes generated after disasters became more complex and costly to manage.

In the Pacific, the intensity and frequency of natural disasters such as tropical cyclones are evidently increasing and when these natural disasters occur large amounts of waste are generated from damage to both the natural and man-made environment.

Latest data from the World Risk report 2021 reveals that within the top 10 at risk countries in the world to disasters, three countries are from the Pacific, namely, Vanuatu ranked as number one, followed by Solomon Islands ranked at the second at most risk and Tonga rated as the third most at risk country. A total of six Pacific islands are also in the top 20 most at-risk countries from natural disasters.

Presenters and participants commended the collaboration by NDMO and Ministry of Environment in Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Federated States of Micronesia in changing the Status quo for National Disaster Management Framework to not only focus on health and infrastructure rebuilding but also



include Disaster Waste Management.

Presenters noted some of the challenges of managing disaster waste included National waste facilities and infrastructure were usually under pressure from the large volume of bulky wastes generated following a disaster. In addition to this, waste infrastructure had to deal with expired relief packages.

Participants were told that the establishment of new cluster within the NDMO framework to deal with Disaster waste can often be a challenge. However, there is an opportunity for disaster waste management to be included in existing sectoral Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) such as Infrastructure.

With limited capacity, lack of adequate funding and waste facilities in many Pacific Island countries and territories, there is a high likelihood of greater environmental and potential health impacts on communities, ecosystems

and sustainable economic development following natural disasters.

To address this, SPREP is mobilising resources from several donor-funded projects and partners to support members and facilitate the inclusion of waste management issues into national disaster management systems. The implementation and operation of disaster waste management within NDMO structures would

enable countries to seek assistance from FRDP Pacific Resilience Partnership.

The FRDP, in addition to providing highly technical guidance, is designed to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters in ways that contribute to and are embedded in sustainable development elements.

Participants were informed that while past efforts have been considerably focused on predicting and building resilience to climate related disaster index in the Pacific, the national management of debris and waste after a disaster is still undertaken in an ad hoc and uncoordinated manner.

Disaster waste management issues are not typically included in operational plans of NDMOs, despite waste management often being an immediate

Click for continuation

...New Caledonia

Continued from page 24

rise, Ocean acidification, extreme storms and droughts) as it is fresh in our minds from COP26 in Glasgow where the region together with OASIS and others called for a 1.5deg to stay alive. The impact of all these activities threatens our environmental, social and economic resilience.”

But this is why forums like the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable are crucial since they become conduit for progressing innovative solutions and capitalising on new initiatives towards a pollution-free Pacific. The Cleaner Pacific 2025 is a regional Blue print which combines the efforts of SPREP’s key regional partners, EU, AFD, JICA, and Australia Aid, to assist Pacific

island communities to improve waste and pollution management practices.

“To achieve the vision of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 and the Implementation Plan 2021-2025 it is imperative that Pacific Island countries move from a linear economy to a circular economy that advocates sustainable production and consumption,” Mr Latu said.

“At this Roundtable we will be discussing what does this mean and why is it important to create a safe Pacific Circular Economy that promotes the whole life cycle of products: from the design of the product and production processes to better informed consumption choices, to modern waste management, and the provision of secondary raw materials that feed back into the economy.

“We are mindful that indigenous and traditional knowledge already embodies Circular Economy approaches such as composting and farming. We also want our Pacific countries to put in place processes and policies that will enable a Circular Economy, which include but are not limited to bans on products that we do not want, such as single-use plastics.”

The opening ceremony was facilitated by Manina Tehei, of New Caledonia. The outgoing Chair of the 2ndCPRT and Fiji’s Permanent Secretary of Waterways and Environment, Joshua Wycliff, expressed his best wishes for all participants, organisers and speakers of the meeting for the next seven days.

The Roundtable consists of four technical sessions, three roundtable sessions, ten deep dive and side events

and two consultation sessions for all stakeholders. They will focus on a broad range of waste management issues including hazardous chemicals, healthcare medical waste, asbestos, mercury; used oil, solid waste management; disaster waste management, sustainable financing, legislation and policy.

The Talanoa sessions will focus on key themes of creating a safe Pacific Circular Economy; waste industry-based enterprise with enhanced public-private partnerships through technology innovations; and bridging people and waste by enhancing consciousness in managing waste.

“Like climate change, we are at a crisis, where we now need to ACT,” Mr Latu concluded.

Women share waste management stories at CPRT side event promoting South-South cooperation

17 November 2021

Apia, Samoa—A Samoan mother and businesswoman is looking at more innovative ways to manage plastic waste to ensure she leaves behind a clean and healthy environment for her children and her children's children to live and thrive in.

Ms Nua Va'ai is the Vice President of the Samoa and Tokelau Association of Recyclers (STAR), and is also the co-owner of Samoa Pure Water, a bottled water company based in Samoa.

She was among women who shared their experiences in waste management during a side event titled "Talanoa on how effective the role of women, youth and communities are in the implementation of the regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in addressing waste." The side event was held at the culmination of the second day of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable.

Ms Va'ai acknowledges that being the owner of a bottled water company, she is one of the biggest sellers, distributors and importer of plastic bottles in Samoa. Her company exports a substantial number of bottled water to Tokelau

every two weeks. It is because of this that she is passionate about finding new and innovative ways of dealing with plastic waste, which includes repurposing of plastics into new objects and materials that have a longer lifespan.

"In 2015 we expanded our business and it was then that reality kicked in for me as a businesswoman and as a mother because it was then that I actually saw the accumulation of waste," she said. "I asked myself, 'What am I doing? At the end of the day, what am I portraying to my kids?' It dawned on me then to think outside of the box as to how this accumulated waste can be handled.

"As much as I wanted to stop what I was doing, I couldn't because this is my bread and butter and how I provide for my family."

She realised that the only way forward was for her to be innovative, and that is where her journey into waste management and researching ways to manage plastic wastes began.

Ms Va'ai is inspired that what she is advocating for is indeed possible. The



challenge now is how to downsize these innovations to suit Samoa, which does not have millions to invest in waste management, but Mrs. Vaai believes that here is a partner out there who will work with her in achieving her dream.

In 2019 her company launched a side project of cages in rural areas to collect plastic bottles in order to reduce the amount of discarded plastic waste in the environment. She has been stocking them on private property awaiting an opportunity of a partnership to support her vision of repurposing plastic waste.

Ms Va'ai stated that as businesses, they are the biggest waste generators. However, not many businesses are taking responsibility and thinking of ways to get back the waste that they put out into the environment. Ms Va'ai's

believes that businesses have a moral responsibility to their communities and to the future generations and need to be responsible for the waste they generate.

It is her belief that as a mother she is the protector of her family, especially her children, and it is on this that she has based her business and moral principles on, and why she strives to ensure that her children and future generation live in a clean and safe environment.

The side event also featured key activities involving women and youth in the Caribbean as well as the Western Indian Ocean. The presentations by the two regions informed the effectiveness of involving women, youth and communities which is producing positive outcomes in terms of reduction of waste and converting waste into a valuable commodity. The side event also gives the opportunity for the ACP MEA Hubs to share and learn from each other and to strengthen our networks while implementing the ACP/MEA Phase 3 Project activities. More on these initiatives are on our ACP MEA webpage: www.sprep.org/acpmea

...Disaster waste

Continued from page 25

issue requiring response directly following a disaster, for example, roads blocked by debris, power lines down, asbestos in buildings posing a significant health risk to the public and response workers.

Presenters and participants commended the collaboration by NDMO and Ministry of Environment in Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Federated States of Micronesia in changing the Status quo for National Disaster Management Framework to not only focus on health and infrastructure rebuilding but also include Disaster Waste Management.

Some of the challenges raised by countries during the side event in terms of managing disaster waste included National waste facilities and infrastructures were usually under pressure from the large volume of bulky

wastes generated following a disaster. In addition to this, waste infrastructures had to deal with expired relief packages.

Participants were told that the establishment of new cluster within the NDMO framework to deal with Disaster waste could potentially be a challenge and to explore the possibility for disaster waste management to be included in existing sectoral Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) such as Infrastructure.

SPREP and JICA, through their Waste Management and Pollution Control programme, is implementing projects to support members such as the J-PRISM II programme, which is working on the development of capacity of disaster waste (DW) management in the Pacific to reduce damages to infrastructure and promote 'Build Back Better' after disasters with the development of a Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines (DWM).

The Disaster Waste Regional Project

by the European Union-funded PacWastePlus programme is designed to guide participating countries to establish structured disaster waste planning and management activities to reduce vulnerability and contribute towards protecting communities' livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets, and ecosystems, thus strengthening disaster resilience.

This project is aligned to and supports the JPRISM II Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline and is also directly linked to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and designed to improve the capacity of Pacific countries to be prepared for a disaster and respond effectively to disaster waste management.

SPREP has commenced the 'Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific' (SWAP) Project, funded by l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which supports seven Pacific countries and territories in implementing

various activities for cost-effective and sustainable waste management.

SWAP will support other projects by the development and delivery of a regional bi-lingual training programme and assisting countries to conduct scoping studies to identify disposal facilities that can practicably be rehabilitated and climate proofed

While some Pacific countries have established national disaster management frameworks including national disaster management plans and associated institutional arrangements, there was still limited recognition and priority given to disaster waste management. The implementation and operation of disaster waste management within NDMO structures would enable countries to seek assistance from FRDP Pacific Resilience Partnership.

For more information, please contact Ms. Sainimili Bulai at sainimilib@sprep.org and Mr. Sione Fulivai at sionef@sprep.org

Private sector lends support to Cleaner Pacific campaign

SPREP

18 November 2021

Apia, Samoa - We are part of the problem and we need to be part of the solution. This was the general consensus from speakers and presenters during the technical sessions on the Private Sector Industry on the third day of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3rdCPRT).

Moderated by Dr Karl Baltpurvins, of ENTECH Solutions, the virtual session focused on the question of why it is necessary for the private sector to be involved in waste management and pollution control. During the discussion, it became quite clear that the role of the private sector is pivotal since they offer solutions to communities that governments on their own would otherwise be unable to provide.

The session also heard from leaders in the industry on how they are supporting waste management with services such as waste storage, collection, treatment and transportation. For instance, the work done through the Moana Taka Partnership (MTP) where SWIRE Shipping vessels carry containers of recyclable waste from Pacific island ports, pro bono, to be sustainably treated and recycled in suitable ports, was applauded by the meetings participants.

“We believe in doing the right thing environmentally, sustainably,” said Mr Simon Bennett, General Manager Sustainable Development Division SWIRE Shipping. “You’re responsible in the Pacific

for ten percent of the world’s oceans and there is a huge amount of solid waste, a lot of plastics which is ending up there, affecting the fisheries, tourism and it shouldn’t be there.”

Moana Taka partnership container
The MTP was birthed from the realisation of this grim reality. In December 2017 at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, SWIRE Company, then known as China Navigation Company, started the discussion with SPREP. Three months later in 2018, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SPREP was signed.

“We got together and we set up the Moana Taka partnership because we recognized that as a shipping company, we are part of the problem. We’re bringing all this stuff in, we’re emptying our containers, and then we take the empty container back out to the Pacific Rim ports, and load it with more barbie dolls and printer cartridges and soy sauce and bring it back in again. So we need to be part of the solution.”

From just three shipments at the start, the Moana Taka Partnership has grown from strength to strength with more than 100 shipments sent to different countries which process recycling materials in Asia Pacific. It has also expanded recycling capabilities to liquid waste such as used oils, which can then be recycled back into mechanical lubricants.

But there is more growth in the pipeline and Mr Bennett’s message to SPREP’s Pacific members during the 3rdCPRT was very

simple.

“We can move far more than we are already moving. We have a lot of spare capacity at the moment so we need your help to fill it. We just need you to talk to us,” said Mr Bennett.

“Tell us what you’ve got. Tell us where you want to send it to because we, as a shipping company, have no knowledge or expertise in that area. There is nowhere on our route network that we cannot ship from and there is nowhere on our route network that we cannot ship to. So, if you know where you can ship it to, we will provide the container for free, and we will ship it for free to a place where it can be responsibly recycled.”

Mr Bennett clarified that the MTP ships hazardous waste too. “It’s not true that hazardous waste cannot be shipped. We can ship that provided we have a Waigani or Basel Convention Prior Informed Consent between the country where you’re shipping it from and the country where you are shipping it to.” He encouraged Pacific countries to get in contact with Mr Anthony Talouli, SPREP’s Acting Director of Waste Management, Pollution Control/Pollution Adviser, for assistance to arrange the suitable Consents.

The invitation was immediately welcomed by participants from the private sector – including other speakers. Ms Nancy Vito of



One of the containers used to ship out waste from Pacific Islands countries through the Moana Taka Partnership. Photo SPREP

Samoa Stationery and Books, highlighted the achievements of their Toner and E-Waste Take Back project and said they would love to work with MTP to increase the capacity of what they are doing.

“I couldn’t agree more that we are all part of the problem and as such, we all need to be part of the solution,” Ms Vito said.

Other speakers during the session were Ms Aurore Gloaghen, of ACOTRED, New Caledonia, Mr Tony Khoury, Executive Director of Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW, Mr Lindsay Teobasi, President of Solomon Islands Recyclers and Waste Management Association and Mr Kori Chan, Founder and Managing Director of Total Waste Management Papua New Guinea.

Solomon Islands Recyclers and Waste Association eye a cleaner country and a green Pacific Games

SPREP

18 November 2021

Apia, Samoa - The Solomon Islands Recyclers and Waste Management Association (SIRWMA) is doing its best to keep their country clean and pollution-free but with an eye on an event that is going to attract thousands of visitors to their shores in November 2023, The Pacific Games.

The Games, last staged in Samoa in 2019, is the Pacific region’s premiere sporting showpiece, which attracted more than 5,000 athletes and officials. In terms of the environment, the Samoa Games was known for the Greening of the Games with several citywide clean up sessions and a ban on single-use plastic items. Athletes and officials also planted trees to off-set their carbon footprint prior to at the home countries and during the Games in Samoa.

Speaking during the third day of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3rdCPRT), Mr Lindsay Teobasi, President of Solomon

Islands Recyclers and Waste Management Association, said on top of efforts to address waste and pollution in their country, they want to ensure that come 2023, Solomon Islands would be ready to host the Games visitors.

And they are making steady progress with SIRWMA, established in 2019, launching a Strategic Plan 2021-2030. The Association has more than 20 registered members consisting of recyclers, waste management advocates, manufacturers, NGOs and government agencies.

“We really want to enhance the capacity of waste management in Solomon Islands through the active participation of the private sector,” Mr Teobasi said, adding that the Association wants to improve collaboration with the government, development partners and strengthen relevant policies and legal frameworks to support a cleaner Solomon Islands.

Like most Pacific countries struggling with waste and pollution, the President of

SIRWMA said the challenges across the board are similar. Littering and the illegal dumping of waste is a major problem they are moving to curb. Infrastructure-wise, he lamented the lack of waste management services, limitation of government lands for waste disposal and the expensive cost of shipping to outer islands in efforts to promote recycling.

“When it comes to waste management services, most of it is available in urban and town areas but rural areas have no services,” he said. “Recycling operations are mostly focused on non-ferrous metals, while other waste are still going to the waste disposal sites.”

But Mr Teobasi is positive that if SIRWMA continues the work outlined in its Strategic Plan 2021-2030, focusing on the 3Rs plus Refuse and Return, they can overcome the problem “especially plastic waste that starts on land and ends up in our oceans.”

“The call is for all our stakeholders to

come together to keep Solomon Islands clean,” he said. “This includes families, communities, institutions, government, development partners and donors. We all need to work together to implement Recycling and Waste Management activities to mitigate impacts of climate change both in technical and financial support.”

For the 2019 Pacific Games, all athletes and officials were given reusable water bottles in lieu of the usual single-use plastic bottles. Over 300 water stations were erected around the venue where both athletes and spectators could fill up with fresh, clean water which resulted in an estimated over 1 million, 500ml single use plastic bottles were not used or discarded as rubbish during the Games.

SPREP and all its partners played a vital role to ensure this and the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands will present another opportunity to continue this legacy.

Clean Pacific Roundtable enables Pacific islands to enhance understanding of waste management sustainable financing systems

19 November 2021

APIA- Pacific Island countries pursuing implementation and expansion of sustainable financing systems, such as an Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit (Deposit and Levy), as an effective way to respond to increasing challenges of waste management, were provided with a learning opportunity from a panel made up of other Pacific countries with successful schemes in operation, during the Clean Pacific Roundtable Sustainable Financing Deep Dive session.

Advance Recovery Fee and Deposits schemes provide an ability to sustainably fund the collection and recycling of end-of-life products that would have ended up in landfills, stockpiled, or released into the environment creating pollution and environmental harm.

The intent of sustainable financing mechanisms for waste management is to create an “Extended Producer Responsibility” framework where importers and in-country manufacturers share the management and cost burden for end-of-life products accepted by Pacific islands countries and territories.

The purpose of these mechanisms is to charge the true cost of management, transport, and recovery or final disposal, and apply this fee to the importer or manufacturer.

An additional ‘deposit’ is then added to the sale of the product, which is returned, when the product is returned for recycling, incentivising recycling behaviour. This system is more commonly known as a ‘Container Deposit’ system applied to beverage containers.

Countries that contributed to the

informative Deep Dive sessions included Palau, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Discussions during the session included details of the systems operating in the Pacific, what items are included, how is the fee collected, who manages the fund including options, and opportunities to implement or expand systems.

recycling

Several donor-funded projects are supporting the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy which encourages the adoption of sustainable financing mechanisms to fund sound waste management activities.

Donor funded projects managed by SPREP include the GEF ISLANDS Pacific Child Project which will be supporting several countries to complement sustainable financing initiatives that are being implemented under the European Union-funded PacWastePlus programme and the Commitment to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project, funded by l’Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

JICA’s Technical Cooperation Project J-PRISM II has been providing technical support to Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, and Fiji to enhance the financial capacity of waste services, and the has assisted the development and implementation of a Container Deposit System in RMI, FSM, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands.

The J-PRISM II project is assisting the peer-to-peer learning among member countries on financially sustainable waste management by actions such as the publishing of a guidebook and case studies of the Deposit-Refund



System for Pacific Island countries on experiences at the national level.

The PacWastePlus programme is providing a range of programmatic support to the region to implement sustainable financing systems. Several activities include undertaking a feasibility study of applicable products that could be included in an ‘Advance Recovery Fee & Deposit’ (ARFD) system, and initial assessment on the economics of the system introduced into the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The programme will also investigate the provision of legislative support, facility/equipment procurement, system design and community awareness to assist system design and implementation and undertaking a feasibility study of applicable products that could be added to the existing ARFD system with the provision of legislative support to assist system design and implementation.

The PacWastePlus programme will be undertaking the development of regional tools and guidance based on the outcomes and learning from the national interventions described above and the

development of a tool kit of guidance and resources to guide process development and community engagement.

The proposed pathway for sustainable financing mechanism, developed by PacWastePlus to assist participating project countries outline 21 priority steps around the topics of identification of the need for legislation, research, political will and support, preliminary systems concept, feasibility study, consultations, confirmation of sustainable finance system design, legal drafting, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and auditing.

SPREP will continue to assist members implement as well as coordinate this Pathway through the Cleaner Pacific 2025 and capitalising on current donor-funded projects such as the PacWastePlus Programme, GEF ISLANDS, SWAP and JPRISM II as well as any new projects that would be mobilised as part of the proposed pathway.

For more information, please contact Ms. Hillary Boyes at hillaryb@sprep.org or Ms Mayu Namura at mayun.ext@sprep.org / nmr.mayu@gmail.com

Vanuatu plastic bottle buyback project pays school fees, puts food on the table

19 November 2021

Apia, Samoa—A plastic bottle buyback programme in Vanuatu recently injected 10 million vatu (AUD\$17,000) into the local economy, helping members of the community to pay school fees, put food on the table and most importantly preserve the island nation’s beautiful environment.

In June this year, the Salem Plastik blong Sevem Solwora campaign offered members of the community 10 vatu for a plastic bottle. Run by World Vision Vanuatu’s Waste Not, Want Not Project, the organisers were hoping to collect a moderate million bottles within a week. What

happened, however, far exceeded their expectations.

“Our target was met within the four days of the event. We managed to receive more than a million bottles on the fourth day,” said Ms Florence Bule, WNWN Programme Manager at World Vision Vanuatu. “With support from the

Vanuatu Environment Science Society and Vanuatu Recycle Cooperation over 42 ton of waste plastic was removed from Port Vila Environment.” More than 1.4 million bottles were counted with money paid to 892 community

Click for continuation

...Vanuatu Plastic

Continued from page 28

members from all over Efate Island.

World Vision Vanuatu is a child-focused organisation. But the organisation's Waste management project, Waste Not, Want Not Project, funded by ANCP, is making a huge difference in the nation's battle against waste and pollution, ultimately contributing a better future for the children of Vanuatu.

"The goal was to prepare the greater Port Vila area for participation in potential future plastics buy-back schemes and lessen the negative impacts of waste and plastics in Port Vila environment and advocate for policy to start thinking about creative ways to keep the environment safe."

Ms Bule shared the success of the project on the 4th day of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3rdCPRT) during a panel discussion on "Rallying communities around waste management." She said World Vision Vanuatu was excited to be part of the 3rdCPRT, a forum that allows people from across the globe to share their experiences in how they are keeping the environment protected.

"Working together is the best part of bringing change, one person or organization cannot impact a greater change, our partnership and sharing of learnings will ignite change," she said. "It is important to be part of this meeting to share learnings and encourage one another to continue to do good for our environment."

Looking at the wider Pacific, Ms Bule said we cannot be ignorant about the risk of waste and pollution.

"If communities and individuals can recognize the risk of increase plastic containers in our environment, we can increase the frequency of conversations around encouraging recycling and proper waste management to lessen the negative impacts of waste plastics in our environment," she said. "In order to achieve this, I feel that we must all speak the same language, take action to ensure our generation can live a long healthy and resilience lifestyle."

Getting back to the Waste Not, Want Not Project, Ms Bule said working with the communities in Port Vila and Luganville to strengthen the livelihood of community members to increase economic resilience and health, through improved waste management practices and business opportunities, has been one of the highlights. "Working with youths to empower them, strengthening their rubbish collection business by providing business trainings and connecting them with their customers is another highlight," she said.

There are also challenges. "The biggest challenge is getting policy makers and individuals to understand the importance and planning towards a more sustainable waste management system," she said.

But she is hopeful that as the work in Vanuatu and the Pacific continue to address waste management, these mindsets would eventually change.

The 3rdCPRT continues next week.



Volunteers ridding the streets of Vanuatu of plastic waste

Innovator sees possibilities in waste management, inspires national movement against plastics

SPREP

19 November 2021

Apia, Samoa - An innovator from the Solomon Islands has encouraged the Pacific community to see the possibilities in waste management, particularly the chance to empower women and young people in the process.

Ms Rendy Solomon, Founder and Chairwoman of PlasticWise Gizo, an initiative to educate communities on waste management including turning plastic waste into colorful handicrafts, shared her experience on the 4th day of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3rdCPRT) during a panel discussion on "Rallying communities around waste management."

PlasticWise Gizo is a leading Non-Government Organisation based in Gizo Western Province. Ms Solomon leads a growing army of women, schools, provinces and churches who are passionate to find fun ways to reduce plastic waste and turn them into money making products for the local and tourism market.

"We recognise that women are limited in terms of decision making," she said. "So we see PlasticWise Gizo as an empowering tool for women in different ways, including the ability to earn income to look after their families. One of the engagement strategies is to recognise women leadership and empowerment capacity. It allows sustainability in whatever policy that we implement to advance our cause."

Ms Solomon is adamant that PlasticWise Gizo is not just for women, it is about changing mindsets in the community on waste and pollution. From humble beginnings, the movement has been recognised nationally and internationally because of the positive difference it is making to the environment and the lives of its members.

"We work hard to engage everyone including schools and one of the most pleasing aspects is the enthusiasm shown by the young people towards what we are doing," Ms Solomon said. "The churches are also a very powerful force and they play a crucial role in disseminating information. There is a culture of volunteerism in the church, that is one of their strengths and we are very pleased to work with them."

PlasticWise Gizo uses all sorts of single use plastics to create their recycled handmade crafts.

So how did this movement start? In 2014, Ms Solomon, who is an environmental health specialist, had the opportunity to study in Kitakyushu, Japan. She was so inspired by the innovative solutions to address waste management in Japan, that when she returned to the island home, she

wasted little time in putting her newfound knowledge into action.

In 2017, a group of five women started cleaning the beach, collecting plastics, mosquito nets and all the waste that had come in from the sea. The small and humble clean up activity had a ripple effect and soon Ms Solomon and other like-minded people who were passionate about cleaning Gizo, were organizing activities such as school projects on waste disposal, radio programmes on waste separation and compost, dance competitions and more. They have no plans to stop and they are determined to do what it takes to keep their country clean.

But if there is one thing Ms Solomon is particularly proud of, it is the positive impact the project is having on women in the Solomon Islands.

"Some of the women we work with can't read or write," she said in an interview when the World Bank featured her in their World Oceans Day media coverage in 2019. "A lot of them are housewives and before they joined the movement were sitting home thinking: 'Oh I can't read. I can't speak English,' and feeling like they had limited value and couldn't contribute. But when they pick up the plastics and make handicrafts to sell, suddenly they are making money and that's how they survive. It really changes their minds about themselves. And once they start picking up rubbish, they begin to feel responsible for it, and it's empowering."

"I think women are crucial in the fight against plastic pollution, but they need to believe that their contribution is valuable. In our society, men make most of the decisions – but women must be part of the solution."

The Rallying Communities around waste management panel was facilitated by Mr Dwain Qalovaki, an international award winning Sustainability Manager from Fiji, and it also featured Ms Georgina Bonin, of Caritas Samoa, Ms Florence Bule, of World Vision Vanuatu and Mr Camden Howitt of Sustainable Coastlines NZ.

The 3rdCPRT continues next week.



Handbags made with recycled aluminium can pop tabs. Photo PlasticWise Gizo Facebook

Global youth programme tackling plastic pollution to launch Pacific chapter

SPREP

19 November 2021

Apia, Samoa – A global youth movement, which focuses on emerging waste issues like plastic pollution, will soon reach the Pacific.

The Plastic Tide Turners programme is spearheaded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under their Clean Seas platform. The programme is currently being implemented across 32 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, and it aims to engage youth across the globe to address the issue of plastic pollution that is threatening life in oceans, rivers and on land.

It will soon be launching its Pacific chapter.

Introduced at the Third Clean Pacific

Roundtable by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme's (SPREP) Hazardous Waste Management Adviser, Mr Joshua Sam, the Tide Turners programme aims to educate young people on single use plastics and on actions that will help reduce land and marine plastic pollution.

It also aims to motivate youth to alter their behaviour and norms around plastic usage both at home and in their communities.

“The Tide Challenge is looking at partnering with more than 3,500 institutions which includes SPREP. We should be excited and look forward to this as we have many good organisations within the region that can take this partnership to the next level,” said Mr Sam.

The programme was piloted in African

and Caribbean countries and has since gained more than 200,000 participants. It is expected that by December 2021, the number will have increased to 250,000 youths.

The next phase of the programme will include expanding into the Pacific, with recruitment already underway for a team to kickstart the Tide Turners programme in the region. They will be reaching out to all youth organisations in 14 countries across the Pacific once established.

It was acknowledged during the session by participants that the launching of the Tide Turners programme in the Pacific would greatly benefit the youth organisations that already exist within Pacific Island countries. These organisations are made up of young people who are passionate about keeping their islands plastic free, but are limited in what they can do because of the lack

of resources and support.

Mr Dwain Qalovaki of Fiji, who moderated the session, agreed that the foundation has already been set in the Pacific – the youth have organised themselves and the will to address plastic pollution is there. All they need now is support, which programmes such as the Tide Turners can and will be able to provide.

“What we can do as a collective and what this programme can provide is a framework and common place for young people to come together to access resources and materials. They will then return to their communities and their islands adequately supported to be able to run their own programmes and figure out solutions that work for them,” he said.

Third Clean Pacific Roundtable turns focus to circular economy

23 November 2021

APIA, Samoa—The first Clean Pacific Roundtable session on Circular Economy attracted speakers from the European Union, Ellen McArthur Foundation, ANZPAC, MRA Consulting, and the University of Wollongong.

Circular Economy requires changing the paradigm for waste management from the current linear model of ‘Import, Consume, Dispose’ to one of resource utilisation.

“The existing model treats our resources as infinite and assumes the environment can absorb our waste indefinitely. It is unsustainable in the long run. Landfill and end of life disposal needs to be phased out to protect our people and environment” said Mr. Jocelyn Blériot from the Ellen McArthur Foundation.

A Circular Economy minimises extraction, keeps materials in the economy for as long as possible and ensures they are able to be reused, repurposed or recycled at the end of their first life.

Participants at the Roundtable were engaged in the topic of how Circular Economy is already working in the Pacific, demonstrated by Mr Shalend Singh, who operates a successful composting programme using organic “waste” from the Lautoka market in Fiji and turning it into compost for sale to the community at an affordable price.

Mr Jack Smith, who assisted the 2019 Samoa Pacific Games and 2017 Vanuatu Mini Games to be environmentally friendly and single-

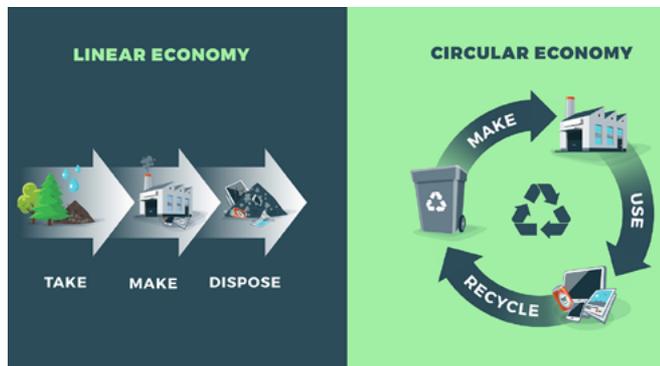
use plastic free, and Mr Taufia Patolo, Secretary Ministry of Agriculture in Tuvalu, who discussed two new pieces of legislation Tuvalu has implemented that will provide an enabling environment for Circular Economy; the Prohibition on the Importation of Single Use Plastic and the Levy Deposit Regulation (Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit).

Key discussions noted as “pathway” for the Pacific included developing a legislative environment that enables and incentivises a circular economy, and disincentivises landfill and end of life products, developing an environment that recognises the core role of industry and institutions to partner with governments to bring their skills, technology.

The need for financing to bear and deliver the quality outcomes sought, and ensuring our communities are engaged and understand that their consumer choices impact on the Pacific way of life were part of the engaged discussions.

Outgoing and incoming SPREP Directors General, Mr Kosi Latu and Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, said Pacific success is turning discussion into action, and prioritising legislative tools such as the Container Deposit or Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit systems to enable long-term change towards a more sustainable future.

“SPREP stands ready to support the actions of all countries to create the Pacific Circular economy, as a successful circular economy, will not only reduce pollution, and generate the necessary



resources to manage the waste created, but will create new jobs, and be an integral part of the Pacific’s commitment to reducing our climate footprint, and remaining below the global 1.5-degree threshold,” said Mr Latu.

The Director for Global Sustainable Development at the European Union, Ms Astrid Schomaker, described the issue with the current model and the progress towards the solutions of Circular Economy as “Challenges are global, as are the solutions”.

The European Union Circular Economy Action Plan has an objective to make products sustainable, starting from product design. We need to work together to promote schemes to prevent single use products and assist to reuse resources. The EU is currently assisting the governments of the Pacific through the financing of the Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus.

Mr. Mike Ritchie from the MRA Consulting Group echoed sentiments from presenters and

set the challenge for the region over the next 5 years.

“Levy imported goods that are not recyclable, impose a landfill levy and dedicate revenue to new recycling infrastructure and build local recycling collection infrastructures,” said Mr Ritchie.

He encouraged the need to develop Extended Producer Responsibility (Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit) schemes to fund collection, ban organics to landfill and impose government purchasing policies that favour recycled products.

Mr. Ritchie noted that if Pacific Island countries could achieve that in the next 5 years, they would be at the front of the pack globally.

“It is not difficult, all it requires is political commitment”, he commented during the interactive session.

SPREP will continue to assist members progress towards a Circular Economy through the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Regional Waste Strategy and by capitalising on current donor-funded projects such as the PacWastePlus Programme, GEF ISLANDS, SWAP and JPRISM II.

For more information, please contact Mr. Anthony Talouli anthonyt@sprep.org.

Lautoka market waste composting success highlighted in global forum

SPREP

23 November 2021

Apia - The success of the Lautoka Market Waste Composting Project, in addressing the harmful impact of waste on the environment and public health, was highlighted in front of a global audience on the fifth day of the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable.

Mr Shalend Prem Singh, Senior Health Inspector Lautoka City Council, shared how Lautoka has converted green waste from the market to FJ\$63,458, money which has benefitted the Fijian community in different ways.

Since 2011, the project has turned waste that would have otherwise ended up in the landfill into 2,172 tonnes of compost. Some 121 tonnes of those have been sold to farmers and used to improve the state of the land and environment.

While he admitted that there are lots of challenges, including the impact of the COVID19 pandemic, Mr Singh said they see more value in persisting with a project he believes can only be good for the Fijian people and the environment.

He referred to the threats to public health if the waste is left unaddressed, noting the alarming increase in the volume of waste generated on a daily basis. The project deals with an average of 1.2 tonnes of waste per day, which is transported to the Vunato Landfill where it is sorted and converted to compost.

Aside from the growing popularity of the project on farmers who have been buying the compost from the Lautoka market, more and more families in the Fiji province have gotten into home composting. With the help of the Fijian government, close to five hundred households have started home composting in their backyards, which is a positive indicator for the bid to keep Fiji clean, Mr Singh said.

He added that they are strong believers in the 3Rs and is adamant that they are on the right track. He also acknowledged the assistance of their key partners including the Fijian government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



Technology Sydney, and Ms Kate Noble, World Wildlife Federation (WWF), the Circular Economy Summit was divided into three Talanoa Sessions.

The Talanoa 1 Session on “What is Circular Economy” featured Mr Jocelyn Beriot, Executive Lead, International Institutions & Government, EMF, Ms Astrid Schomaker, Director for Global Sustainable

Development, European Commission’s Directorate General for Environment, Ms Meredith Epp, of ANZPAC and Dr Karen Raubenheimer, Lecturer ANCORS. The Talanoa 2 Session on “What does Circular Economy look like in the Pacific” featured Mr Mike Ritchie, Managing Director, MRA, Consulting Group NSW, Australia, Mr Singh and Mr Jack Smith, former Operations Manager, Samoa Pacific Games. The Talanoa 3 and final session “How to achieve Circular Economy in the Pacific?” featured Mr Kosi Latu, Director General SPREP, Mr Taufia Patolo, of Tuvalu and Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Pacific Office.

Mr Singh spoke during the Circular Economy Summit Roundtable of the 3rd CPRT, which looked at what circular economy means from a global perspective, a Pacific perspective and how the region can achieve circular economy. The concept of Circular Economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended.

Co-moderated by Mr Damien Giurco, Deputy Director, Research: Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of

SPREP Director General calls for fundamental shift in import mindset

23 November 2021

Apia, Samoa—A fundamental shift in the importation strategy is urgently needed for countries in the Pacific region to enable a circular economy, eliminate waste and address marine pollution. For example, instead of importing anything and everything, Pacific governments should seriously consider only importing items necessary for survival.

The call comes from the Mr Kosi Latu, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), as the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable reaches the business end of the seven-day virtual meeting. The 3rd CPRT, which started on 16 November and ends 25 November 2021, is focusing on “Creating a safe Pacific Circular Economy,” among other key thematic areas.

A Circular Economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials so that the life cycle of products is extended.

Speaking during a session that focused on how the Pacific can achieve circular economy, Mr Latu said the opportunities in shifting from a linear economy to a circular economy in the Pacific are obvious but the

progress has been quite slow. One of the stumbling blocks identified is the region’s heavy reliance on imports.

“We’ve talked a lot about the heavy reliance on importation which is what characterises us in the region, it is one-way traffic,” Mr Latu said. “Something needs to change in terms of that system where everything comes into the Pacific, very little leaves the region. I think that is a very fundamental issue that needs to change and I think it begins with changing our thinking in terms of what we really do need and influencing consumer choices.”

There are simple questions everyone needs to be asking but governments must play an active role in facilitating the conversation and implementing the necessary plans to make it happen.

“Do we really need to import some of this stuff? Can we look at some of the local substitutes? Is that possible? That mindset in terms of importation needs to change and when it does, hopefully we can see some knock on benefits.”

The Director General lamented the current



skills, technology, and financing to bear and deliver the quality outcomes sought,” Mr Latu said. “We need an engaged community, that understands their consumer choices impact on the Pacific way of life, and consider the end-of-life options for waste management, and utilise new recovery services to be offered, and not look to dump or landfill their waste.”

SPREP applauded member states that are leading the way in implementing importation bans of problem wastes such as single use plastics and hazardous wastes. The organisation also encouraged all members to continue to explore, consult, and implement bans that will continually increase the protection of human health and the environment.

“We acknowledge the leading work of our members that are designing and implementing sustainable financing systems to create the community incentive, and provide the finance and legislative environment to encourage industry activity,” Mr Leota said, adding that he believes a successful circular economy in the Pacific will not only reduce pollution and address climate change, it will also create new jobs.

waste paradigm, which involves importing, consuming and disposing. He encouraged governments and their partners to change this. “Landfill and end of life disposal needs to be phased out to protect our people and environment.”

Mr Latu added that he is encouraged by the active role played by the private sector in many Pacific countries to make the transition from linear to circular economy. In that regard, he reemphasised the importance of creating a legislative environment that enables and incentivises a circular economy, and disincentivises landfill and end of life products

“We need an environment that recognises the core role of industry and institutions to partner with governments to bring their