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WHO declares FSM to again be COVID-19 free Positive case historical and not contagious

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 30, 2021

Pohnpei, FSM—On January 29, 2021, the World Health Organization reported that the FSM is once again COVID-19 free. Medical professionals have deemed that the only confirmed case of COVID-19 aboard the MS Chief Mailo to be negative and historical, posing no threat to the FSM's residents.

The case never posed a hazard to the FSM, but it is a testimony to the effectiveness of the FSM's readiness plans that the positive case was discovered and isolated while that determination could be made.

"This is great news for the people and Government of the FSM," FSM President David Panuelo said in a statement published by his public information officer. "It is a testament to the continued dedication of our National and State medical teams, who have been collaborating diligently, and in partnership with our friends and allies at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the World Health Organization. While the Government's top priority at this moment is the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program, it is worth taking a moment to thank the collective efforts of our Nation's medical experts, and our



See "COVID-Free" on page 4

FSM processing PUA taxation reimbursement payments for beneficiaries

In this EDITION
of the KPress:

Pohnpei begins to
share information on
COVID-19 vaccination
process
Page 2

President Panuelo begins
developing an FSM
Building Code
Page 8

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 29, 2021

Pohnpei—The FSM National Government is in the process of issuing reimbursements of withheld taxes to recipients of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). The US Department of Labor (DOL) issued the grant to the FSM for the purpose of aiding FSM residents who, because of the COVID-19 crisis, found themselves either unemployed or significantly under employed.

In the middle of last year, the FSM Congress passed a bill requiring that a 10 percent income tax and 15 percent Social Security payment should be withheld from each payment to approved beneficiaries of the

PUA. FSM President Panuelo vetoed the bill and returned it to Congress. Congress overturned the veto.

"Your Committee has reviewed Congressional Act No. 21-120, and the accompanying veto message (P.C. No. 21-301)," the Ways and Means Standing Committee Report recommending the override of the veto said. "Your Committee notes that the unemployment assistance grant that is forthcoming is more than enough to compensate an unemployed citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia even after the taxation is taken into account. Your Committee believes that the revenue generated by taxing this

windfall will benefit many other programs in the nation that are now struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Your Committee further notes that during hearings on this bill, the Department of Finance and Administration and the Social Security Administration both supported the tax. Taxing for social security purposes would, in fact, protect the benefits and eligibility of the unemployed to the social security safety net. Your Committee has reviewed the President's comments in P.C. No. 21-301 and your Committee has determined that the veto is

See "PUA" on page 6

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With more doses arriving Pohnpei begins to share information on COVID-19 vaccination process

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 31, 2021

Pohnpei—On January 28, 2021, after a month of issuing vaccines, Pohnpei State Enginkehlap issued its first press release on the availability of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to residents of Pohnpei. The press release appeared on social media and as of today had not been posted to the Pohnpei State news website.

The text of the Press Release follows:

“Peilapalap, Kolonia, Pohnpei---The Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force would like to inform the General Public that the first batch of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are available and currently being administered to Front line and Essential Workers; individuals

60 years and older; and those with underlying chronic medical conditions. This is in line with guidelines to prioritize people considered most at-risk and vulnerable to COVID-19 for now while more vaccine supplies come in to cater for other eligible persons.

“As of today, individuals 40-59 years old are also now eligible to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

“The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is now available at the Public Health Division of the Department of Health and Social Services, located across from the Pohnpei State Hospital.

“The Public Health Division is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday. Eligible persons will be required to fill out a brief questionnaire before they are

vaccinated. The vaccination is voluntary! “The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is a two-shot vaccine, with the second dose recommended to be taken 28 days apart. The shot is given in the muscle of the upper arm.

“According to the US Centers for Disease Control, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is safe and about 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19 illnesses in people who received the recommended two doses.

As of 26 January 2021, Pohnpei State has administered 1,290 doses of the vaccine, having received an additional 3,800 doses.”

In the absence of any previous widely publicized State public information on who was eligible for the vaccine or where residents could get it if they were eligible, many were left guessing. Many people reported having simply shown up and getting the vaccine just by asking. Others reported having no idea where they should show up to ask in the first place.

Dr. Rally Jim, during an informal interview said that he didn’t know how Pohnpei was getting the information out

about the availability of the vaccine and who was eligible at any given time. He said during that interview, held at the vaccination center at Public Health early last week at the location described in the press release issued two days later, that they were only giving the vaccine to people aged 60 and up, and to front line responders. He also said that the vaccination is being given only in one place due to the difficulties of storage of the vaccine that limits their ability to deliver it in the villages.

Meanwhile, photos of smiling young people holding up their “I got vaccinated” stickers, many of them half the age of the lower age limit, and most not first responders, began to proliferate on Social Media leaving some residents to wonder “What gives? How did they get it and I can’t even find out how?”

It is absolutely vital that as many residents receive the vaccine as possible—70 to 80 percent would be the ideal minimum, which in Pohnpei means at least 24,500 people, each requiring two doses of the vaccine. In the entire FSM that number is over 70,000 at a minimum. FSM President

See “COVID Vaccination” on page 6

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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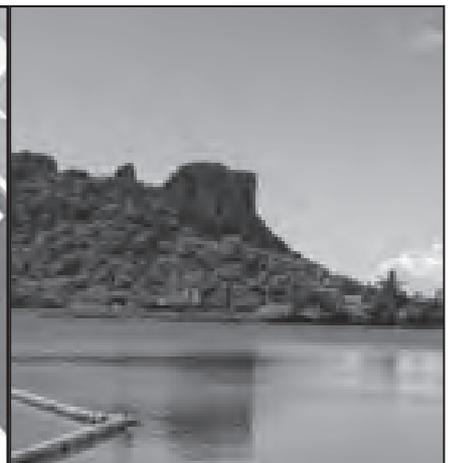
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European Union provides FJD 14.3 million to strengthen Pacific Trade Capacity

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

27 January 2021

Suva, Fiji – The European Union (EU) and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) have today signed a new project worth EUR 5.75 million (equivalent to FJD 14.3 million) to enhance the trade capacity of Pacific countries.

The project titled "Strengthening Pacific Intra-Regional and International Trade (SPIRIT)" (SPIRIT) aims at boosting and increasing intra-regional and international trade by strengthening institutional and technical capacity in the region. It will facilitate the implementation of trade agreements, in particular the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and of the Pacific's Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020-2025. SPIRIT will also contribute to the development of a statistical monitoring framework that will foster greater regional economic integration.

In her remarks, Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Dame Meg Taylor said that, "The implementation of SPIRIT will ease trade challenges faced by the Pacific ACP[1] countries and focus on creating opportunities to trade regionally and internationally. Most importantly, it will strengthen the capacities

of trade departments in the region through the provision of a technical position at the sub-regional level in each of the three sub-regions in the Pacific."

Today's announcement outlines the significant partnership and commitment between the EU and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat in advancing the Pacific countries' benefits from trade agreements by promoting their efficient and streamlined implementation. Three Long-Term Trade advisers will be deployed in the sub-regions of

Melanesia (including Timor-Leste), Micronesia and Polynesia to assist with the development and implementation of trade and investment policies. These Trade Advisers will also deliver a range of capacity-building and training initiatives to the Pacific countries.

The Ambassador of the European Union for the Pacific, H.E. Sujiro Seam said: "The European Union is not only a development partner for the Pacific, it is also the best success story of regional trade and economic integration following the Second World War. With a market of 500 million consumers, the European

Union is a business partner for the Pacific. This SPIRIT project comes at the right time, to alleviate the catastrophic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Pacific economies, build value and growth in the region and take advantage of the business opportunities offered in the European market."

The Pacific ACP benefitting from the initiative are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Animated video takes home top TikTok Challenge prize

By: Olivia Blinn International Organization of Migration

FSM—When Destiny Etse first heard that she had won the FSM COVID-19 TikTok Challenge for her animated video, she did not believe that it was true. Posts on social media and an FSM-wide SMS blast confirmed it — Destiny had won the Gold prize for the FSM TikTok Challenge, a competition launched by the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA), International Organization of Migration (IOM) with the support of USAID, the Pacific Community (SPC) and Micronesian Productions.

"It's the first time I've ever won something, so it was a surreal experience," Destiny said.

The contest encouraged youth to engage with COVID-19 preventative measures — all while having a chance to win prizes worth up to \$1100. Although FSM has not had any cases of COVID-19 within the community, DHSA and its partners hoped prepare young people to act accordingly in the event of an outbreak.

TikTok, the popular video-sharing app, is often known for dance videos created by its users. The app became the perfect platform to allow for encouraging COVID-19 awareness in a creative way. The contest hosts created a song with

lyrics such as, "if you wanna do the island way, do the shaka six feet away," which describes the practice of social distancing, as recommended by the World Health Organization for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

In order to submit an entry to the contest, FSM residents created videos to the provided music and posted them with the hashtag #FSMCOVIDchallenge from December 11-21, 2020. Destiny decided to take her video a slightly different direction, though.

"I've been wanting to do animation for a public app like TikTok, so I seized the opportunity and decided to go with the animation style for the TikTok Challenge," she said.

Destiny spent two days animating the lyrics to the song, hoping to catch the attention of viewers and educate them on COVID-19 precautions. She particularly hoped it would engage young children who enjoy watching cartoons. Destiny

posted her video to TikTok just before the entry period closed and waited for the results.

By December 22, when the judging period began, 21 videos had been submitted and the hashtag had gathered over 23,000 views. A panel of judges, consisting of representatives from the FSM DHSA, U.S. Embassy, SPC, IOM and Micronesian Productions selected Gold, Silver and Bronze winners of the challenge, based on creativity and adherence to the theme. A Most Valuable Player (MVP) prize was also given to the video that received the most shares. Jamie Elizabeth Boni Yoshida of Yap received the Silver prize, Pearcylyta D. Cubacub of Pohnpei received the Bronze prize, and Susana Saballe of Pohnpei received the MVP prize.

For Destiny to win the Gold prize for her animated video, it affirmed the career that she is pursuing. Destiny is currently majoring in Art at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and she began her online classes on January 18. As she takes her next steps in her education, she now has one of the tools that she will need, a new Microsoft Surface Go tablet, a part of her prize from the TikTok Challenge. She hopes to animate films or illustrate storybooks that retell local legends, allowing young Micronesians to see themselves represented in the media.

"It's been something that I've wanted to do — to help educate many of our youths in the future about their island home," Destiny said,



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...COVID Free

Continued from front page

international bilateral and multilateral partners, for their tireless efforts to keep our Nation safe.”

“...Since the crew and passenger of the CM (Chief Mailo) have been thoroughly tested and assessed as posing no risk to our FSM community, I am authorizing their disembarkation in the FSM at the completion of their required quarantine and isolation period,” President Panuelo wrote in a January 28 letter to Pohnpei Governor Reed Oliver and copied to all FSM State Governors.

Governor Oliver responded in a letter on the same day. “As much as we are very thankful that the result of the medical finding concluded that the crew had completed their quarantine requirements and pose no threat to the community, there is still one positive case onboard. The people of Pohnpei State remain very concerned. The State Task Force strongly recommends full compliance with the decrees and respectfully honors both the the FSM and Pohnpei State Resolutions prohibiting disembarkation on Pohnpei of any passengers from a COVID-19 infected areas at this time,” he wrote.

“The Pohnpei State Task Force had polled the crew and all Chuukese crew want to go home to Chuuk and likewise all Filipinos go home in the Philippines. In short, no disembarkation on Pohnpei,” he concluded.

The quarantine period for the people aboard the MS Chief Mailo ended on January 28.

The exchange between Pohnpei’s Governor and the FSM’s President led to speculation that Pohnpei does not support repatriation of any kind even for its stranded citizens. However, a source who witnessed a meeting between the two leaders last week said that Governor Oliver is still pushing for the repatriation process to begin as soon as possible, beginning with people who were stranded due to medical referrals.

The successful identification of the positive case of COVID-19, which is now known to have been a non-contagious remnant of COVID-19 in the body of a person who previously had COVID-19 but recovered, gives witness

to the fact that the processes set up by Pohnpei are effective in protecting its current residents.

“Our citizens stranded abroad are eager to know when they can return home. Something that we have learned over the course of this past month with the return of the Chief Mailo is that, while our frontline responders, and our procedures and protocols, are resilient, there remains a great deal of fear in the hearts of many of our citizens and decision-makers. I believe we can extinguish that fear by achieving herd immunity through our COVID-19 vaccination program,” President Panuelo said during a speech last week.

“I had been saying that we need to achieve a 100% vaccination rate for the FSM to make this happen. A 100% [vaccination] rate is still our Nation’s overall target and objective, but per the sound medical advice we have received from the U.S. CDC and the WHO, an overall target of 70% to 80% will be our foundation for the repatriation of our citizens,” he said.

Though the vaccination program began at least a month ago as evidenced by the fact that President Panuelo received his second dose of the Moderna vaccine, the program as it is proceeding now is going to take quite a while before the 70 to 80 percent vaccination level is reached.

President Panuelo said that so far 3500 people have received first doses of the vaccine in the FSM. He said that some States were moving faster than the others and pointed to Chuuk, where 1500 doses have been given as an example for other States. He said that so far Yap has given only just under 150 doses. Another source said that Pohnpei had as of last week administered 1200 doses. We could not obtain any information on the number of doses Kosrae has so far administered.

Some FSM Health Officials have said that the somewhat slow rate of vaccination is due in part by unfounded concerns regarding the safety of the Moderna Vaccine. “According to the US Center for Disease Control, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is safe and about 94.1 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 illnesses in people who received the recommended two doses,” said Pohnpei State’s first press release on the availability of the vaccine in Pohnpei that the government issued only on January 28.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT:

Assistant (G5)

Fixed Term Appointment for WHO-CLO/FSM

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking a qualified individual to serve as the Assistant (G5, Fixed Term Appointment) for WHO/CLO-FSM office. The duration of the contract for this position is two (2) years.

The Assistant will be based at the WHO/CLO-FSM office in Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, and will provide general support, administrative and finance assistance to the country office.

Description of duties:

Under the guidance and supervision of the Country Liaison Officer (CLO), the incumbent provides support in the following areas:

1. **COMMUNICATION:** Drafting official correspondences related to technical programme and monitoring correspondences/reports for signature/clearance. Maintaining close liaison/coordination with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, International Partners, and other government agencies and non governmental organizations (NGOs) on administrative matters to facilitate the implementation of programme activities. Establish an effective follow-up and monitoring system.
2. **RECRUITMENT:** Facilitating recruitment of consultants, SSAs and APWs and other service requirement of the technical programmes.
3. **PROCUREMENT:** Administering the request for goods and services procurement; monitor and receipt of deliverables including payments as needed.
4. **TRAVEL:** Assisting on travel arrangements for the CLO and other technical staff as appropriate.
5. **MEETING:** Assisting HQ and other regional office's meetings, seminars and workshop events including document preparation, support to participants, site logistics and any other meeting requirements.
6. **BUDGET & FINANCE:** Monitoring progress review of country work plans/project activities in the Global Management System (GSM) including encumbrances and expenditures; managing country office Imprest account and month-end reports.
7. **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT:** Maintaining an effective filing system to store documents and through SharePoint/Shared Folders.
8. **OFFICE SPACE and VEHICLE:** Monitoring office building/facility requirements such as supplies and equipment, as well as fuel and maintenance of office vehicle. Overseeing the fixed assets inventory for annual reporting.
9. Performs other duties as may be required.

Required Qualifications:

Education:

Essential: Equivalent to graduation from secondary school with secretarial/administrative training.

Experience:

Essential: Five (5) year experience in secretarial/administrative posts.

Desirable: Experience in administrative support positions in WHO or another UN agency an asset. Experience in Oracle-based or other Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems an asset.

Skills:

Good communication and interpersonal skills; Ability to act with tact, diplomacy, discretion and respect for confidentiality; Ability to prepare correspondence, summary of meetings, documentation and notes for the record, etc; Ability to discern routine from non-routine; Good computer skills and ability to adapt to various software applications; Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a team, adapt to diverse educational and cultural backgrounds, and maintain

a high standard of professional and personal conduct.

Required Competencies:

- Teamwork
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
- Communication
- Producing results
- Ensuring the effective use of resources

Timeline/Duration of assignment:

Two (2) years at Pohnpei, FSM country office.

Interested applicants should complete their application online by 12 February 2021 through this Stellis website:

<https://careers.who.int/careersection/jobdetail.ftl?job=2100190&lang=en>

Full Terms of Reference (ToR) can be obtained from WHO/CLO-FSM office in Palikir, Pohnpei or call (691) 320-8804 for further questions regarding this job vacancy.



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February 08-13, 2021

FSM National Virtual Workshop reconnecting and furthering stakeholder engagement with GCF

The FSM National Designated Authority (NDA)

The FSM's National Designated Authority (NDA) office this week welcomed workshop participants from all four states, Direct and Regional Accredited Entities to the GCF, development partners, civil society members and the private sector to the FSM-GCF National Virtual Workshop.

Secretary/NDA, Eugene Amor, welcomed and opened the workshop noting that although FSM's efforts under GCF have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, we will continue to do our best to respond or tackle the adverse impacts of climate change. This workshop is a key part of the NDA office's efforts to work with stakeholder groups to implement the FSM Country

Program for GCF and improve access to and management of climate finance.

Through a realignment exercise to ensure identified priority projects are in line with the nation-wide priorities as well as the GCF results impact areas, climate proofing road infrastructure surfaced as a shared project thematic area of interest among four states.

To better engage with GCF and eventually further develop key ideas into proposals, participants were introduced to the



...COVID Vaccination

Continued from page 2

David Panuelo said during his speech last week that the FSM would need to reach that minimum level of vaccination before he could allow repatriation of stranded FSM residents. However, a large percentage of the total population of the FSM are under the age of 18 and the Moderna vaccine is not approved for people in that age range, which further complicates matters.

As far as the application of the vaccine goes, the more, the merrier, however, at the time that the photos of young people getting the vaccine began to appear while older people in Pohnpei hadn't even yet heard they could get it, Pohnpei had only 1500 doses. One "older person" commented that the process seemed to be "more fair for some than for others".

Dr. Jim intimated during our informal conversation that the vaccine needs to be rolled out in an orderly fashion because there aren't unlimited doses, but that they also needed to make room in freezer

storage for the 3800 doses he expected to arrive on the next day. He did not say, but seemed to imply that in order to do so, Public Health was sometimes vaccinating people who, strictly speaking, didn't yet qualify.

Vaccines come in packages of 10 doses and have a short "shelf life" once they are brought to room temperature. With that in mind, often when a couple came in together to get a vaccination and only one of them actually met the 60 and up age group, first responder, or underlying health issue criteria, Public Health often gave both of them the vaccine at the same time in order to avoid spoilage of vital doses of the vaccine that were ready for use.

At least one person, taking the incorrect advice of her friends who told her that she should just go to Public Health and ask for the vaccine, did just that but was rightly turned away. Pohnpei Health staff members were polite but told her that if she was younger than 60 or wasn't "on the list", they could not give her the vaccine until it was made available to her age range. They told her that "the list" consisted of "essential employees" and that the names on it were provided

developing and integrating, and monitoring and evaluation systems for GCF projects and they deliberated on sustainable pathways to keeping the Country Program alive and relevant.

The four-day workshop ended with a more realistic view of GCF complexity and an

better understanding of the lengthy processes. The participants came away with an understanding that not all national and state priority projects are suited for GCF funding but rather that the GCF may be able to fund only projects that clearly demonstrate a clear linkage to climate change impacts.

...PUA

Continued from front page

purely based on policy," the report said.

At the beginning of the ongoing sixth regular session of Congress, FSM President David Panuelo sent a bill to Congress that if enacted would rescind the PUA taxation law. Accompanying the bill and the President's message urging its passage was a legal opinion issued by the FSM Department of Justice saying that the grant terms did not allow for the taxation of the benefits. Also accompanying the bill was the letter from the DOL that listed its reasons for curtailing the grant if withheld taxes were not reimbursed to beneficiaries.

According to Joses Gallen, the FSM Secretary for the Department of Justice, though Congress did not act to rescind the

law, the reimbursements are still going out to PUA beneficiaries and will not be withheld in future. He said that Congress did not feel the need to rescind the law because their legal counsel advised the members that the law already had a "saving clause" built into it. That clause says that the legislated taxes would be paid unless the grant conditions prohibit.

"When the US Dept of Labor sent its decision that no tax was a grant condition, we all agreed that no tax can be deducted," Secretary Gallen explained in a Facebook message. "This was the AG's legal position, but it was not really clear before. It became clearer when we submitted that question to the Department of Labor legal counsel responding that yes the stimulus grant has the condition that no tax can be deducted."

"Ultimately, with or without the repeal, the deducted taxes will be reimbursed," Secretary Gallen wrote.

by employers. Her name wasn't on "the list".

Though in two separate emails Governor Oliver instructed staff members to answer our questions regarding the vaccination process, no one responded to our specific questions on the matter of "the list" and how it was assembled. One government staff member replied only that he wanted to know where the questions came from. None provided direct, or even indirect answers to the simple questions of what types of employers were contacted to provide the names, how they were contacted, or what standard was used to define an "essential employee" for those employers who were contacted and who responded. From the photos on social media of happy people who received the vaccine, it didn't appear that there was any standard other than their employers having been contacted to provide their list.

Even with "the list", Pohnpei did not use up its doses of Moderna vaccine before the next, and larger shipment provided by the U.S. Government arrived and so now, public announcements are at last being made.

Editors Note:

Once I got through the information obstacles, I found the process of receiving the vaccine to be simple and it took very little time. The injection was nearly painless and the dedicated attendants were friendly and efficient. Other than being a bit drowsy at the end of the day, which I often am anyway, the only other side effect I had was a sore shoulder that reminded me of when my brother and I used to trade punches as kids trying to raise a goose egg on each other's arm. For me, that dull pain lasted for three days—a tiny price to pay.

For the sake of the community, this editor strongly encourages every resident who qualifies to get the vaccine, if not for their own individual protection, which is also very important, then for the good of the community as a whole—for your parents, your sisters, your brothers, your children, your aunts and uncles and for everyone else's relatives as well.

I also encourage residents to listen to the advice of respected scientists rather than to social media quacks and conspiracy theorists.

RE-ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward a **COMPLIANCE CONSULTANT** to be working with FSM NORMA in Pohnpei, FSM. Remote work is most likely with some travel to FSM when COVID19 situation permits.

OBJECTIVE & SCOPE OF WORK

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

- Consolidate relevant information and prepare a Port State Measures (PSM) National and State operational needs and capacity assessment; undertake State and National consultations and research to develop PSM implementing guidelines and a SOP template for State PSM implementation; develop a PSM (entity-based) risk assessment process; and finalise PSM implementing guidelines and a SOP template for State PSM implementation and PSM (entity-based) risk assessment process.
- Develop and implement data analysis policy and guidelines for NORMA and the FSM Department of Justice (DoJ) including to support the compliance risk-assessment process, PSM, administrative penalty implementation and investigations; develop and implement one-to-one training and mentoring Teaching/Learning Materials (TLM) to strengthen NORMA and the DoJ's data analysis capacity; and deliver the TLM and data analysis capacity development to the DoJ.
- Develop recommendations on PSM training needs and develop approaches to meet these needs including: train the trainer TLM; and identifying regional training opportunities.
- The Compliance Consultant will also provide advice/support to NORMA and its working groups.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. Advanced degree in marine policy, fisheries science, fisheries management and/or natural resources management or other qualifications relevant to the demands of the role and / or minimum of 15 years' demonstrated progressive experience in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), compliance and enforcement measures; previous experience directly working in a fisheries compliance or enforcement role.
2. Demonstrated extensive experience in: fisheries data analysis and investigation; in developing and implementing compliance risk-based processes; in the application of compliance theory and developing compliance and/or MCS strategies preferably including voluntary compliance initiatives; and in developing and delivering PSM trainings.
3. Excellent written and spoken English skills; demonstrated strategic thinking, research and analytical skills.
4. Working knowledge of FSM stakeholders, natural resource management and/or oceanic fisheries with oceanic fisheries experience in the Pacific is a plus.

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND REMUNERATION:

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

APPLICATION

The FSM NORMA invites applicants to indicate their interest in providing the above-mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of a) Letter of Interest, b) CV or resumé, c) relevant support Degrees/Certificates and d) Name & current working contact of 3 referees. This position will remain open **UNTIL FILLED but applications submission is preferable by February 08, 2021**. Selection will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition). Full Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from the following and applications can be sent to:

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

Government of Japan pledges new USD 9.6 million agreement with UNICEF and WHO to strengthen immunization in the Pacific

27 January 2021

Suva, Fiji- Today, the Government of Japan pledged a new USD 9.6 million agreement with UNICEF and WHO to strengthen immunization in the Pacific region. The agreement will support Pacific governments including Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands. UNICEF and WHO in the Pacific will work collaboratively with national health authorities to strengthen health programmes through effective and safe immunization.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, H.E. Kawakami Fumihiro said, "This is truly an auspicious occasion for people of Japan, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Palau. We just committed the Project titled, 'Strengthening Immunization Programs in Pacific Island Countries.' UNICEF and WHO, with their learned expertise and proven processes and systems will be implementing the project in the five island countries."

"Essentially, this project will improve five island countries' immunization coverage for children, identification and response to vaccine preventable disease outbreaks as well as maintenance of vaccine availability and quality. I shall also stress this project is crucial for the introduction of COVID vaccines," His Excellency added.

Providing quality immunization services is one of the safest and most cost-effective tools to end vaccine preventable child deaths. However, despite a high average national immunization coverage across the Pacific, a significant number of the most vulnerable children in the region living in remote areas still miss out and do not receive the recommended number of vaccine doses. Healthcare workers in the Pacific region will be supported to better respond to vaccine preventable disease outbreaks through this four year partnership, with more than 110,000 children benefitting from improved immunization programmes.

"Ministry of Health & Medical Services reaffirm its commitment to protecting the lives of infants, young children and adolescents through the immunization programme and now with COVID19 vaccines for the adult population. I extend my deepest appreciation to all the stakeholders, particularly the Government of Japan for continuously assisting Fiji and the Pacific Island Countries in their efforts

to improve the lives of our people through the provision of enhanced medical care," Health Minister Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said.

"While we struggle to address the current pandemic, we can't ignore the devastating impact of other vaccine preventable diseases on children," said UNICEF Pacific Representative, Sheldon Yett. "We thank the Government of Japan for supporting our joint efforts to improve routine immunization coverage, and ensuring that a strong cold chain is in place to reach all children and their families."

The Government of Japan supported programme will aim to strengthen immunization services in the Pacific island countries in line with their commitments to polio eradication, measles, rubella and neonatal tetanus elimination and hepatitis B control in the Pacific region. Key components of the programme will include developing immunization policy and procedures; building surveillance and in-country laboratory capacities for the early detection, investigation and management of vaccine preventable diseases; improving cold chain capacity; and management and strengthening of information management systems.

This support to Pacific island governments will reach those children who are located in the remote rural areas and outer islands who are most at risk of missing out on important recommended vaccinations.

WHO Representative Dr Corinne Capuano said, "WHO is grateful for this generous support from the Government of Japan. Recent outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases like measles have highlighted gaps in routine immunization systems across the Pacific. This support will enable us, in close partnership with UNICEF, to work with five Pacific island countries to address these gaps and ensure they have the systems in place to quickly detect and confirm vaccine preventable diseases. It will also enable us to ensure efforts to strengthen their routine immunization systems follow the latest guidance and technical advice."

UNICEF and WHO will be working closely with the Governments of the five Pacific Island countries to ensure that the WHO immunization target of more than 95 per cent coverage for childhood vaccines is achieved with overall improved quality of immunization services and optimally maintained vaccine cold chains.

Micronesian Productions works with women's groups across the nation to sew masks for all students

Micronesian Productions

January 29, 2021

On January 12, 2021, Micronesian Productions works with women's groups across the nation to sew masks for all students. This donation stemmed from a grant that Micronesian Productions received from the Government of Canada under the Canada for Local Initiatives grant. The grant outputs were to sew and give away 25,000 masks across the nation to all school-aged children, to develop Public Service announcements in local languages to play on all state AM stations to help people learn more about COVID-19, and to promote the uptake of accurate government information in the form of news stories on Facebook. The entire project was focused on helping FSM prevent the spread of COVID-19 should the virus arrive.

At the meeting with Pohnpei State DOE, Director Etse expressed his sincere thank you for the donation of the masks and noted that the masks will be distributed right away.

The Kosrae Women's Council was the first organization who completed the sewing of their 2,500 masks. All masks were turned over to the Kosrae State DOE back in October of 2020.

For Yap State, the Yap Women Association completed the required 3,000 masks and provided them to the Yap Director of Education.

In Chuuk State, the Chuuk Women's Council is working with local women to sew 10,000 masks for all the students in Chuuk. Deliveries of the masks started before Christmas with priority given to schools on Weno and closest to the airport. By the end of January, they have given out 1,284 to the following schools: Iras Demo, Mwan Elementary School, Berea Christian School, and Seventh Day Adventist. They have sewed over 6,000 masks and will continue to deliver them to the other schools in Weno with the assistance of Chuuk State DOE. They are in contact with the neighboring schools in the lagoon to being the pick-up the facemasks for their students.

Executive Director for Micronesian Productions, Mr. Patrick Blank, noted that it was a priority of the project to work with women's groups around the nation to assist with the project. "We wanted to provide funds to women's organizations to help them with their

capacity building and also to be an integral part in protecting our children from the spread of the virus, should it arrive in FSM. They were eager to help and did a fantastic job working together and with the state DOEs to see that over 20,000 masks were made and delivered to our schools around the nation. I especially want to thank the FSM Risk Communications team for assisting us with the proper messaging and information for the project, and to the Government of Canada, for making this important prevention program possible."



L-R: Mrs. Angie Lambert from PNI DOE, Ms. Shelyane Lohn from MP, Executive Director Patrick Blank (MP), Director of Pohnpei State Department of Education Hon. Stanley Etse, Chief of Primary Education Mr. Arwelson Arpona, Mr. Chief of Secondary School Mr. Jolden Lipai, and DOE staff.



Women from the Kosrae Women's Association celebrate the completion of their mask sewing project.



Students and teachers from Mwan Elementary School along with the representative from the Chuuk State DOE regional office

President Panuelo begins developing an FSM Building Code

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— In an effort to harmonize the Nation's development needs with appropriate attention to public safety and utility, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), has instructed the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure (DTC&I) to develop an FSM Building Code. To develop the FSM Building Code, President Panuelo has requested that a Working Group be formed, comprised of the Secretary of DTC&I, the Honorable Carlson D. Apis, the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure, the Program Manager for the Program Management Unit (PMU), and at least one representative each from the States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

The lack of an FSM Building Code, it could be argued, means that both internal and external stakeholders in the Nation's development must look at each individual infrastructure project in a piecemeal manner. This can result in the duplication of efforts to ensure infrastructure meets the needs of the FSM's tropical environment, and at times ignores the local environment's needs in order to accommodate the Building Code for the country, organization, or individual funding or constructing a given piece of infrastructure.

"Too many crucial infrastructure projects are hampered by disagreements among designers and peer reviewers as to which design standards are appropriate for FSM conditions," President Panuelo said in a statement. "We have faced delays on projects such as the Kosrae State Hospital and the College of Micronesia. We have seen points of difference, both within the National Government and within the State Governments, and between National and State agencies, on appropriate construction techniques. We have seen wildly different construction techniques from U.S. funded infrastructure projects in the FSM, and infrastructure built by the People's Republic of China. There is an obvious solution to these self-imposed infrastructure problems: the development of our own FSM Building Code, which will apply Nation-wide for all future infrastructure projects."



H.E. David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, poses with T.H. Carlson D. Apis, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure

In letters sent to the Governors of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae, President Panuelo has requested the Governors to nominate representatives for the FSM Building Code Working Group no later than January 29th, 2021. "It would be helpful if your representative has a technical background with responsibilities for the planning, design, and construction of building infrastructure," President Panuelo wrote in these letters. "If you consider it preferable to nominate two representatives, this will also be fine with us."

President Panuelo has requested Secretary Apis to ensure that the development of the FSM Building Code be a top priority for DTC&I, particularly in its Division of Infrastructure, with the goal being that a proposed FSM Building Code be available for public review and comment at the nearest feasible opportunity.

"The Department has already begun some initial discussions with the International Code Council (ICC), to explore technical support opportunities to guide us through the process of developing our own FSM Building Code," Secretary Apis said in a statement. "Per President Panuelo's request, we are forming a Working Group with the State Governments so that we can undertake the important work of ensuring that our Nation's infrastructure projects reflect the needs of our citizens and our communities."

As part of the broader project to develop the FSM Building Code, President Panuelo has also instructed every National Government office and agency to designate parking spaces for persons with disabilities. "We anticipate that the FSM Building Code will require ramps for persons with disabilities," President Panuelo said, "And if that's the case, we'll make it happen so that we have equal access for all citizens. In the meantime, I have instructed that all offices and agencies designate parking spaces for persons with disabilities."

Pohnpei Department of Education receives four new school buses

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

January 22, 2021

Pohnpei—On January 22, 2021, T.H. Reed B. Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, and T.H. Feliciano M. Perman, Lt. Governor of Pohnpei State, attended a brief ceremony to acknowledge the receipt and transfer of four brand new school buses. The ceremony was held in front of the Pohnpei State Administration Government Building at Peilapalap Kolonia with three of the four buses available at the ceremony.

Wanpoaran Roddy Robert from the United Church of Christ Pohnpei (UCCP) Mand congregation opened the brief ceremony with a prayer. Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Rickson Higgins, Department of Education's Public Information Officer.

Lt. Governor Perman's remarks started with an explanation that the ceremony was not a handover ceremony as they are commonly known, but rather a ceremony to acknowledge and appreciate the receipt of the new buses received through a request for proposal for school buses by the Department of Treasury and Administration. Lt. Governor Perman noted that only three school buses were

present because one school bus sustained minor damage during shipment and is being repaired. What is important, Lt. Governor noted about the school buses, is that they will help transport Pohnpei's school children to and from school. He wanted to ensure that the maintenance and care of these school buses are in place to drive Pohnpei's schoolchildren safely and for a long time. The school buses each have a 52 passenger capacity and were made by the Cedar Bus Company. The engines on the sturdily built buses are from an English manufacturer and the chassis were built by a Chinese manufacturer.

Before the Director of the Department of Education closed the ceremony with his remarks, the keys to the school buses were presented to him by T.H. Feliciano M. Perman, Lt. Governor of Pohnpei. Director Etse thanked Governor Oliver and Lt. Governor Perman, on behalf of the Department of Education, for their guidance and leadership. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of these

school buses to carry out the Department's responsibilities to provide transportation for Pohnpei's school children. He expressed gratitude to Mr. Resio Moses Jr., representing RSM Imports, for his assistance in sourcing and shipping the school buses to Pohnpei. Director Etse acknowledged Lt. Governor Perman's remarks to take care of the buses so they can be operated safely and for a long period of time. He also thanked the DOE Bus Drivers for sharing their concerns about having enough buses to transport Pohnpei's schoolchildren safely and on time. He closed by referencing the Oliver/Perman administration's motto of Enginkehlap as a reminder to work together and take care of the needs of not only the Department of Education but all Departments serving the people of Pohnpei.

The Department of Education currently has a total of 48 school buses including the additional four school buses received on January 22, 2021.






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Strengthening vital partnerships in the Pacific to support health sector responses to COVID-19

25 January 2021

Joint Press Release, Suva, Fiji- The European Union (EU), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Pacific Community (SPC) today signed an agreement that will strengthen their existing partnership to support health sector responses to COVID-19 across the Pacific.

This follows the new Financing Agreement the EU and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) signed, to repurpose funding to support the Pacific's response to COVID-19.

Under the EU-SPC-WFP-WHO agreement, the EU will contribute over US\$24 million (equivalent of EUR €20 million) of the funding repurposed under the EU-PIFS Financing Agreement to support Cook Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, the Republic of Marshall Island, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. This funding includes WHO's contribution of over half million USD (equivalent to €448,000) to the implementation of this agreement.

At the signing ceremony in Suva, the EU Ambassador to Fiji and the Pacific, Sujiro Seam, said "in response to COVID-19 in the Pacific, the priorities of the European Union are to address its health and socio-economic impact. The agreement signed today allocates EUR 20 M to strengthen the medical systems of Pacific Island Countries, to allow them to deal not only with COVID-19, but all health challenges."

Thanking the EU for their contribution, WHO's Director of Pacific Technical Support Dr Corinne Capuano articulated some of the areas this funding will help to bolster; and its timeliness. "The EU's support will help strengthen testing capacity, WASH, infection prevention and control, and preparedness for the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. It comes at a time when PICs are preparing for the arrival of the first allocations of COVID-19 vaccines which are expected in the coming months."

SPC's Deputy Director General Dr Paula Vivili said "Supporting national efforts collectively has resulted in proactively developing and implementing regional mechanisms to address the significant impacts of the pandemic in our region, such as the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19. SPC acknowledges PIFS for enabling the repurposing of EU funding towards the COVID-19 response.

SPC will use this funding to support PICTs COVID-19 response through public health surveillance and laboratory services, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening the One-Health approach as well as risk communication".

Ms Jo Pilgrim, Director of WFP's Pacific Multi-Country office stated that: "Since mid-2020 the WFP-managed Pacific Humanitarian Air Service has proudly supported the work of Pacific governments, WHO, SPC and other partners to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 through the delivery of crucial medical equipment and supplies. We are grateful to the European Union for its commitment to ensure this vital operation continues to serve our partners in the Pacific throughout 2021."

The agreement has five main outcomes including: Increased readiness of countries

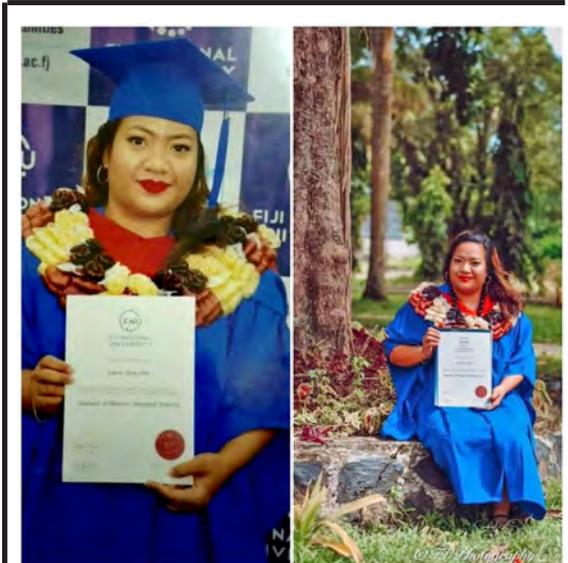
for effective COVID19 response operations with a special attention to those living in vulnerable situations; strengthened ability to test, detect and monitor for COVID-19 presence in partner countries; reduced risk of spread and excess morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 and other health issues; improved collaboration between environment, animal and public health sectors and an efficient logistics and delivery mechanism for COVID-19 response.

These outcomes are aligned with the Phase 2 COVID-19 Pacific Health Sector Support Plan; and the EU's support fills a gap in the Plan's budget, which is focused on stopping or delaying the spread of the virus and mitigating the negative health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

The plan is led by WHO's Division of Pacific Technical Support and implemented by the Joint

Incident Management Team (JIMT) which includes SPC and WFP along with other multilateral partners working in and with the Pacific who bring resources together to improve the readiness for and response to COVID-19 across 21 Pacific Island countries and areas.

To date, the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu are yet to report a confirmed case of COVID-19. Fiji has gone more than 250 days without reporting a case of COVID-19 in the community. The Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have occasionally reported cases in travelers arriving from overseas, picked up through border quarantine.



Congratulations to our Australia Award recipient Karmi Soar Alik, who recently graduated from the Fiji National University with a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science. Below is Ms Alik story regarding her study program

...Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts. -Winston S. Churchill

"Pursuing my studies in medical laboratory science in Fiji School of Medicine for the past 4 years was a challenge worth striving for. To help my people and my country is a humbling task that I am very thankful for the Fiji School of Medicine-Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science (FSM-BMLS) program which have better shaped me to what and where I am standing today. Now as a proud alumni of FSM-BMLS program, mother, wife, daughter, aunty, friend, and a servant of my country, I encourage the young generation and those in doubt that you can and still can accomplish anything. Let not doubt determine your capabilities. If you put yourself into what you are passionate about, you will get through. I always tell myself when I am exhausted and in doubt that "I am a step closer and I can." So be determined and let daily challenges serve as daily motivations in what you do "

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Class 31: Grains [cereals]; edible sesame, unprocessed; edible linseed, unprocessed; fodder; stall food for animals; animal foodstuffs; draff; cereal seeds, unprocessed; shellfish, live; malt for brewing and distilling; vegetables, fresh; fruit, fresh; trees; plants; litter for animals; beans, fresh; preparations for egg laying poultry; seaweed, unprocessed, for human or animal consumption; garden herbs, fresh; undressed timber; nuts, unprocessed; seeds for planting; live animals; plants, dried, for decoration; sanded paper [litter] for pets; truffles, fresh; pollen [raw material]; raw and unprocessed agricultural, aquacultural, horticultural and forestry products; raw and unprocessed grains and seeds; fresh herbs; natural plants and flowers; bulbs, seedlings and seeds for planting; foodstuffs and beverages for animals; Soya beans, fresh, including all the goods in this class.

Class 32: Non-alcoholic beverages; non-alcoholic fruit juice beverages; soya-based beverages, other than milk substitutes; plant-based beverages; soft drinks; non-alcoholic fruit extracts; beer; non-alcoholic preparations for making beverages; rice-based beverages, other than milk substitutes; fruit nectars, non-alcoholic; waters [beverages]; energy drinks; soda water; vegetable juices [beverages]; powders for effervescing beverages; malt wort; isotonic beverages; kvass; cocktails, non-alcoholic; syrups for beverages; protein-enriched sports beverages; carbonated water; preparations for making carbonated water; whey beverages; syrups and other preparations for making beverages, including all the goods in this class.

United launches industry-exclusive technology to ease the burden of COVID-19 travel restrictions

United

United's "Travel-Ready Center" will allow customers to upload and validate test results, review local entry requirements, find testing providers, and store vaccination records – all in the United app and United.com

January 25, 2021 – United Airlines today launched the "Travel-Ready Center" - a new, digital solution where customers can review COVID-19 entry requirements, find local testing options and upload any required testing and vaccination records for domestic and international travel, all in one place. United is the first airline to integrate all these features into its mobile app and website.

"While pre-travel testing and documentation are key to safely reopening global travel, we know it can be confusing for customers when they're preparing for a flight," said Linda Jojo, Executive Vice President for Technology and Chief Digital Officer, United. "Starting today, our 'Travel-Ready Center' gives customers

a personalized, step-by-step guide of what is needed for their trip, a simple way to upload required documents and quickly get their boarding pass, fully integrated within our app and website."

In the weeks and months ahead, United will add more innovative, industry-first features to the Travel-Ready Center platform to make navigating evolving entry requirements even easier. United customers will soon be able to:

- Schedule a COVID-19 test at one of more than 15,000 testing sites around the world, right from the app or website.
- Access the recently launched "Agent on Demand", a United-exclusive feature that gives customers the ability to video chat live with a customer service agent to answer any questions about pre-travel requirements or documentation.
- View details about visa requirements for the countries they plan to visit.

Customers with an active reservation can access the Travel-Ready Center through the "My Trips" section of the United App and on united.com. The Travel-Ready Center will provide tailored details on requirements for all travelers 18 and older on a customer's itinerary, with status indicators noting if they are travel-ready based on specific requirements each individual needs to meet in order to board their flight, including any additional requirements for connecting flights. Documents uploaded by a passenger will be reviewed by designated personnel for verification. The individual status indicators for each passenger will then note whether they are "travel ready" and they will be allowed to complete the check-in process. Customers should still plan to bring the physical documents to

the airport in case further inspection is needed along their journey.

The Travel-Ready Center is just one of many new technologies the airline has introduced to create a safer and more efficient experience for customers. United recently redesigned its mobile app with new enhancements intended to make travel easier for people with visual disabilities, introduced Destination Travel Guide, which allows customers to filter and view destinations' COVID-19 related travel restrictions, and debuted a new chat function to give customers a contactless option to receive immediate access to information about cleaning and safety procedures.

This year, United made numerous enhancements to its business that improve the travel experience for its customers. The carrier eliminated most change fees, pledged to reduce its greenhouse gases 100% by 2050, teamed up with Clorox and the Cleveland Clinic to guide its cleaning and safety protocols as a part of United CleanPlusSM, extended MileagePlus[®] Premier[®] status to all customers through January 2022 and made earning status for the next two years easier for all MileagePlus members. United also announced this year that beginning in January, all customers will be able to fly standby on another flight to the same destination on the same day for free, and all MileagePlus Premier members will be able to confirm a new flight on the same day to the same destinations at check-in when space is available in the same fare class.

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PATA Micronesia Chapter welcomes new Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for Calendar Years 2021 - 2022

PATA Micronesia

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Pohnpei, FSM – The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Micronesia Chapter proudly announces its new Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for term 2021 / 2022.

Incoming Board of Directors are:

Chairwoman Paula Monk, United Airlines, Guam;

Vice-Chairwoman Priscilla M. Iakopo, Marianas Visitors Authority, CNMI;

Secretary Luciano Abraham, Pohnpei Port Authority;

Treasurer Francis Carlos Domnick, Office of Commerce, Investment & Tourism, Marshall Islands;

Alternate Board Member, Ed Arriola, Jr., Blue 46 Associates, Saipan; and

Immediate Past Chair, Stephanie Nakamura, Paradise Comfort Rentals, Palau.

They will be assisted by Standing Committee Chairs:

Culture, Heritage and Environment Committee Chairwoman Rita Pangelinan Nauta, Guampedia Foundation, Guam &

Vice-Chairwoman Sandra Iseke Okada, Traditions Affirming Our Seafaring Ancestry (TASA), Inc. Guam;

Education Committee Chairwoman Denise Mendiola, Guam & Don Evans, Yap Visitors Bureau, Yap;

Marketing Committee Chairman Mark Manglona, Guam Visitors Bureau, Guam & Vice-Chairman Ed Arriola, Blue 46 Associates, Saipan;

Membership Committee Chairwoman Victoria Blas-Toves, Asea Guam & Beverly Borja, Guam; and

Public Relations Chairman Perdus Esha, Jr., Seabreeze Hotel, Pohnpei & Vice-Chairwoman Lou Aguon-Schulte, Paradises, Australia.

Incoming Board Chairwoman Paula Monk said, "I am honored and look forward to working with our board. I believe I can speak for our board and members by saying that we have a very important job to do this term, which is to help our region recover from the effects of a loss year and to make safety as our top priority. We are motivated to join forces and share knowledge and resources that can help the region safely rebuild to its once-

thriving tourism economy."

PATA Micronesia also recognizes and thanks outgoing Chairwoman Stephanie Nakamura for her service for the past two years. She led the Micronesia Chapter alongside Vice-Chairwoman Paula Monk; Secretary Marstella Jack;

Treasurer Mark Manglona; Alternate Board Member Perdus Ehsa, Jr.; and Immediate Past Chair, Pilar Laguaña. They

were supported by Marketing Chairwoman Lori DeBrum & Vice-Chairman Luciano Abraham; Membership

Chairwoman Lou Aguon-Schulte & Vice-Chairwoman Victoria Blas-Toves; Education Chairwoman Denise Mendiola & Vice-Chair Don Evans; Culture,

Heritage and Environment Chairwoman Rita Nauta & Vice-Chairwoman Sandra Okada; and Public Relations Chairwoman Judy Torres & Vice-Chairwoman Catherine Perry.

This past term, the Micronesia Chapter successfully held tri-annual meetings throughout the Micronesia region;

co-sponsored tourism-related training, workshops, and seminars; and secured a

partnership with United Airlines to assist with travel for trainers, speakers, and presenters.

PATA Micronesia's 2021 mission will focus on continuing to assist in the development of the region's tourism industry

to include sensitivity for environmental issues, respect for Micronesian cultures, adherence to high operational standards, and providing opportunities for education, training, and gainful employment.

While travel restrictions still apply in the region, the Chapter will continue to meet virtually until restrictions are lifted.

"We face many challenges ahead, however, we are hopeful that we can soon return to safely meeting in person this year

to build momentum for our important work in the region," Monk added. "We

learned so much about the fragility of tourism globally during this pandemic, and we are ready to support the islands in Micronesia to rebuild their tourism offerings and get businesses reopened and people back to work."

Opinion Editorial

The FSM and the United States: Partners in fighting COVID-19

For a year now, our two countries have joined forces in the global effort to fight COVID-19, resulting in significant steps forward for the FSM. Led by senior health officials from both countries, lab testing facilities were expanded, public health professionals learned new testing techniques on several types of equipment, and tests were conducted in all four states as technicians honed their new skills. Recently, when health officials obtained the first positive COVID-19 test from a sailor aboard a ship anchored off shore, all of the correct procedures and protocols were followed, and while the FSM now has one "border case" there has been no transmission of COVID-19. This is a great testimony to the effectiveness of these preparations and to the competence of the FSM's public health professionals. With the United States now sending monthly shipments of the Moderna vaccine to the FSM, all four states have received doses of vaccine and public health officials are vaccinating people to protect them from COVID-19.

I have been moved by the close

collaboration between health officials from our countries. As COVID-19 is a novel or new virus, we all have had to learn together how it spreads from person to person, what harm it does to our bodies, and how we can fight it. When my embassy team and I participate in calls between our top public health officials, we are impressed with the trust between them, trust that has been created by years of working side by side fighting common diseases. In those frank and open discussions, they deal with the challenges of fighting the new virus, share what they are learning, and compare notes. Only by these honest and transparent conversations can we effectively fight this global enemy.

Last week, the day after President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. was inaugurated, he issued the National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness. In his strategy, the President pledged to listen to science; to ensure health decisions are informed by health professionals; and to promote trust, transparency, common purpose, and accountability in our government. H.E. President David



W. Panuelo shares these same values, issuing transparent and informative press releases to Micronesia's public about COVID-19 status, and especially about highlighting the need for vaccinating all those who are eligible. FSM's President and other government officials led by example, being vaccinated in public and sharing their reactions.

Just prior to President Biden's televised announcement, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and I had the opportunity to talk about COVID-19 in Micronesia and some of the concerns that I heard from people living in the FSM. Dr. Fauci was up at 3 AM that day to talk to officials in the World Health Organization, which the United States rejoined under President Biden, and to make an appearance on Good Morning America. Dr. Fauci would later be seen with President Biden for the announcement of the Biden-Harris Plan to beat COVID-19. Despite his busy schedule, he graciously agreed that we needed to meet to respond to the concerns

raised by folks in Micronesia. He assured us that the Moderna vaccine is safe for all ethnic groups and equally effective in fighting COVID-19 as the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, about 94 to 95 percent. He pointed out that the pharmaceutical companies will start testing vaccines for young people to ensure they are safe for children and youth, and hopes those vaccines will be ready in the next few months. He told us that the estimated threshold for herd immunity for COVID-19 is having between 70 and 85 percent of the population vaccinated. Finally, he reminded us that even if we have been vaccinated, we still should quarantine for seven days when entering a country.

The close and abiding partnership between our two countries has been demonstrated in our common fight against COVID-19. The United States has committed more than 100 million dollars in funding to support the FSM to plan, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. In the coming months we will continue to learn together, to share our frustrations and successes, and to overcome challenges. It will take time and great effort, but we shall prevail. We truly are all in this together.

Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor

Opinion Editorial

Australia: tackling climate change at home and abroad

By Joanne Cowley, Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

On Australia Day 2021, Australians have reflected on events of the last year.

2020 was a year that tested the strength of our communities and the resilience of all countries.

It was a year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Australians, 2020 started with the most devastating bushfires in our history. The service and sacrifices of Australians, and the lives lost, will never be forgotten. The generosity of friends around the world, including the Federated States of Micronesia, in our hour of need was humbling.

Climate change is increasing the risk of bushfires.

To help us reduce the risk and impact of bushfires, droughts and other climate-related natural disasters, this year Australia will publish a new National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy.

Australia is the driest inhabited continent in the world, it has the oldest living cultures and some of the richest biodiversity in the world.

We are fortunate to be able to learn from the continuing connection of the First Australians, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, to their country.

For over 65,000 years their traditional knowledge and practices have preserved and protected Australia's natural environment.

The recent bushfires demonstrated the importance of bringing together traditional Indigenous knowledge about the land with modern science.

Indigenous Rangers are on the frontline of this work, preserving and protecting Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

For example, using traditional fire management practices, through cool and controlled burns.

Australia has committed over \$15 billion to make our natural resources, environment and water infrastructure more resilient to drought and climate disasters.

We are spending more than \$2 billion on bushfire recovery efforts, supporting local communities to design their own economic, social and environmental recovery.

This includes the important job of regenerating habitats, helping native animals recover and building knowledge for better land management.

Climate change is also the biggest long-term threat to the health of coral reefs worldwide, including those in FSM and in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, one of our national icons.

Australia has committed \$2.7 billion to the effective management and protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

We have also launched a \$150 million Reef Restoration and Adaptation program that brings together world leading marine science to research strategies that can help reefs recover from bleaching events and to adapt to changing ocean temperatures.

Australia is also committed to supporting neighbouring and global communities to tackle climate change.

Australia has pledged at least \$1.5 billion over the period 2020 to 2025 for global climate finance. \$500 million of this funding will directly help FSM and our other Pacific neighbours deploy renewable energy and improve their climate change and disaster resilience.

We're sharing our climate adaptation expertise, experiences and skills with the world through our development program and the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific.

We are joining the Call for Action on Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience, to encourage greater ambition, finance and coordination to protect against growing climate risks.

And Australia has joined the Coalition for Climate Resilience Investment.

As the world recovers from the economic impact of COVID-19, we need investments that can both accelerate emissions reductions and support jobs and communities. We need to consider those most in need, engage all stakeholders equally and respect indigenous culture and knowledge in taking climate action.

Practical actions that help us adapt to those changes and strengthen the resilience of our local environments are critical.



Great Barrier Reef (Courtesy of © Australian Government, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)



Australian Black Summer bushfire (courtesy of the Australian Government, Australian Department of Defence)

Education Day for all high schools and private schools in Kolonia

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap

January 25, 2021

Pohnpei—On Monday, January 25, 2021, T.H. Reed B. Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, and First Lady Estle G. Oliver attended the opening ceremony for Education Day 2021 at the PIC High School Cafeteria Gym. This is the 8th year that Education Day has been celebrated in Pohnpei. The celebrations will continue throughout the week, on Tuesday in Sekere for all Kolonia and Sokehs Elementary Schools, on Wednesday at Seinwahr elementary school for all Kitti elementary schools, on Thursday at Sapwalap Elementary School for all Madolenihmw Elementary Schools and on Friday at Saladak Elementary School for all Nett, U and outer islands Elementary Schools.

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Franky Edward from the Board of Education and Principal of Pohnpei Adventist High School. He noted the hardships that students have had in the last school year with the COVID-19 pandemic and temporary closures of schools. He encouraged the students, staff, and parents to stand strong noting that trials and tribulations are part of life, and unity ensures victory.

The keynote speaker of the event spoke next. T.H. Sonster Edgar, 10th Pohnpei State Legislature Senator (PSL) from U, Nansahu Ririn U, a former schoolteacher and Principal, also Vice Chairman of the Education Committee. Senator Edgar's remarks started with a verse from the book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, verse 1, counseling us all that there is a time for everything under the sun. He shared the importance of Education, saying that Education makes one more valuable, allows one to grow, and that without education, life can be hard. Senator Edgar also commented and praised the current accreditation system in place that ensures students' achievements and success are continued. He praised the Education staff for coming up with this year's theme, "Unity Strengthens our Unlimited Potentials to Achieve and Succeed - Ehupene Kakehlaka Sapwelimatail Pweidahkan". Senator Edgar said of the theme, that unity equals strength and closed by expressing gratitude for being a part of this rewards and recognition event.

After a song about Unity and Strength by the Nanpei Memorial High School Music Club, T. H. Reed B. Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, delivered his remarks. He thanked the Director of the Department

of Education, Mr. Stanley Etse, and his staff for arranging this event and inviting him and the First Lady. Governor Oliver congratulated and challenged the students who were being recognized for their achievements. "What's next?", Governor Oliver asked. "How will you use your achievements?" He noted the advances in technology today that continue to take us forward making our lives better. He advised the students that even with all the latest technology, all students are encouraged to continue to read books. He inspired the students to also reflect and ask themselves how they can contribute to their family, community, the state and the Nation at school and at their homes. In saying this, he noted Mr. Edward's remarks that when we take care of small things, the bigger ones can be taken care of as well. Governor Oliver shared three virtues that he has shared on many occasions, across Pohnpei, for the students to remember and use as they continue their academic journey and beyond: Respect, Responsibility, and Honesty. He closed by expressing gratitude to the teachers, principals, education staff, and parents of the students, including the Parent-Teacher Associations, once again referencing Education Day's theme of Unity as a way to strengthen, achieve and succeed.

Closing remarks by the Director of the Department of Education, Mr. Stanley Etse, started with thanks to all the staff who sacrificed their weekend to set up the Education Day event. Thanks to the speakers for their words of inspiration, thanks to all the donors including the Diplomatic Corps for their support. He invited everyone for next year's Education Day 2022. He shared a quote by Milton Hershey "Give them quality. That's the best form of advertisement in the world", and closed by saying that providing quality is the best assurance for all stakeholders and education leaders moving forward to achieve and succeed.

Also present at the ceremony was Deacon Patrick Paul who opened the ceremony with a prayer and WP Hamilton Soar gave the benediction. Chairman of the Board of Education, Mr. Grilly Jack, Board member, Phyllis Silbanuz, US Embassy Charge' D'Affaires Sommers, Australian Embassy Charge' D'Affaires, Mr. Takuro Steele, Acting FSM Secretary of Education, Mr. Wayne Mendiola, From 10th PSL: Senator T.H. Mitaro Simina, Senator T.H. Jayson Walter, Senator T.H. Ricky Carl, Nett District Administrator, T.H. Nelsin Iriarte, Kolonia Town Mayor, T.H. Beterigo Jacob, Acting Meninkeder Madolenihmw, Mr. John Rensle.

Education Day in Sekere – January 26, 2021 for elementary schools in Sokehs and Kolonia

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

January 27, 2021

Pohnpei--On Tuesday, January 26, 2021, T.H. Reed B. Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, attended Education Day at the Sekere Multipurpose Gym in Sekere, Sokehs. This is the second day of Education week to commemorate, recognize and celebrate exemplary and outstanding achievements for students, teachers, and staff of the Pohnpei State Department of Education and charter schools for the School Year 2019-2020.

Opening remarks were made by Lepen Sekere, Mr. Rensper Liwy, who gave a very brief but focused speech about honesty. Following Mr. Liwy was the keynote speaker, Speaker of the Sokehs Municipal Council, T.H. Albert Johnny. Mr. Johnny's remarks focused on "ehupene" or Unity as part of the Education week's theme: "Unity Strengthens our Unlimited Potentials to Achieve and Succeed – Ehupene Kakehlaka Sapwelimatail Pweidahkan". He encouraged everyone from parents, family, teachers, community, government, and church to recognize the efforts of the students today, and to continue to come together to realize the good works that have been realized through the student's achievements.

Governor Oliver expressed his gratitude for the invitation to congratulate and recognize student achievement. He spoke of a song sung by the NMHS Music Club the day earlier, United we stand, divided we fall and noted, without teachers, students, and parents united and working together, success would not be achieved. He challenged the students, asking "what next?" He asked them to reflect on how this achievement can benefit their

families, communities, Pohnpei, and the Nation. He shared the three virtues of Respect, Responsibility, and Honesty with the students, adding Unity, as virtues to benefit their academic journey and beyond. Governor Oliver asked the students to work hard towards their goals, whether they want to be a Doctor, Nurse, Policeman, etc, emphasizing the need for Doctors in Pohnpei, today. He thanked the teachers and parents for their important role in the student's success, the Police Officers from Sokehs and Pohnpei State working together. He emphasized that when each one of us is doing our best in our responsibilities, success is achieved.

Mrs. Alice Ehmes, Board of Education member, gave the closing remarks, speaking of the strands of the kepenohk or local broom. Made from single strands of coconut fiber, a single strand is useless, but when bound together, they become a versatile tool that sweeps through the roughest surfaces. She likened this to the cooperation and unity of all to face and overcome challenges. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Ehmes congratulated once again the students, asking for vigilance and unity as we continue to 2021.

Also present at the ceremony were: 10th Pohnpei State Legislature Senators, T.H. Mitaro Simina, T.H. Jayson Walter, T.H. Ricky Carl. Acting FSM Secretary of Education, Director of Pohnpei State Department of Education, Mr. Stanley Etse, Mr. Wayne Mendiola, Board of Education members, Mr. Grilly Jack, Diaz Joseph and Phyllis Silbanuz, Education Division Chiefs, Mr. Sentry Paul, Mr. Jolden Lipai, Mr. Peter Ramirez. Deacon Patrick Paul and WP Hainrick Aisek.



Kitti celebrates Education Day

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap

January 27, 2021

Pohnpei—On Wednesday, January 27, 2021, T.H. Reed B. Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, attended a second Education Day event at Seinwahr Elementary School in Kitti. Deacon William Ioanis opened the ceremony with a prayer before T.H. Antonio Sarapio, Luhk En Moanlap, gave his welcoming remarks.

Luhk En Moanlap welcomed everyone as the Chief Executive of the Municipal Government of Kitti. He shared his almost 30 years as an educator before coming to his present position. In his remarks, he spoke of the similarities between modern science and Pohnpei culture and traditions, especially with raising and preparing children for their futures. He noted the most important interaction for children to prepare them each day begins at home with parents, continuing onto school with teachers.

The keynote speaker for the event was Kitti native and FSM Assistant Secretary of Education, Mr. Quincy Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence acknowledged Education Day's theme of Unity and encouraged overcoming negative influences to unite for success and achievement. He referenced Enginkehlap or Unity as the driving force behind success and achievement, recognizing the achievements of students and teachers. He asked the students if they listen to their parents at home, saying that children of Pohnpei stands out from children across the world because they value obedience, respect, and love, and this starts at home with their parents as part of Pohnpei culture. He closed by thanking the Director of Education and the Department of Education for inviting him to speak at this important event.

Governor Oliver congratulated the students and teachers of Kitti on the eighth Education Day in Pohnpei where

students and teachers are recognized for achievements. He recalled the previous days at PICS High School and Sekere and shared highlights from the keynote speakers that included themes of unity, honesty, and respect. Governor Oliver noted that education is not just conducted at school, but also at homes and in communities. He shared the virtues of respect, honesty and responsibility with the students of Kitti, adding unity as well. He noted that academic achievements have greater value when respect, responsibility, and honesty are also part of their learning. He closed by sharing the story of a young man from Kitti who currently works at the UN in New York, to explain that student abilities are not limited to success and achievement in Pohnpei, the FSM, or the region, but can reach far away, like this young man who represents Pohnpei at the UN in New York. He encouraged the students to keep up the good work and don't give up.

Board of Education Chairman, Mr. Grilly Jack, ended the event with his closing remarks. He shared a quote, "While we are unique individuals with different talents, we are equally important." He referenced Governor Oliver's previous remarks on virtues like honesty and unity that give purpose to our service to the people. On behalf of the Board of Education and Department of Education, Mr. Jack thanked everyone for attending and recognizing the achievements of the students and teachers of Kitti.

Also present were Senators T.H. Herolyn Movick, T.H. Dahker Daniel, T.H. Francisco Ioanis, T.H. Stevenson Joseph, Speaker of Kitti Council, T.H. Jordan Ardos, Acting FSM Secretary of Education, Mr. Wayne Mendiola, Dauk Kitti, Board of Education members Diaz Joseph and Phyllis Silbanuz.

Enginkehlap coverage of the events in Madolenihmw and U did not arrive by press time.



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Healthy Foods Easy Word Search

S U H S Z M E N N J T S S O F
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 P C I W A Z G F J I E T G G E
 Q H I R E N S J R H O X N E M
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BEANS
 CASHEWS
 EGGS
 SPINACH
 TOMATOES

BLUEBERRIES
 CHEESE
 ORANGES
 STRAWBERRIES
 YOGURT



College of Micronesia-FSM

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Chinese Embassy Donates Learning Materials to the College

The Chinese embassy donated books and DVDs to the college's Learning Resources Center (LRC) on January 26, 2021. Interim President Karen Simion and LRC Director Jennifer Helieisar received the learning materials on behalf of the college.



Mrs. Zhao Yinguang, wife of the Chinese Ambassador to the FSM, along with representatives from the embassy visited the college and donated more than two hundred newly published books and DVDs which included titles on Chinese literature, food, arts, and teaching materials such as *The Unseen Peking Opera*, *The Unseen Palace*, *Story of the Giant Panda*, *World Heritage Sites in China*, to name a few.



Top Photo: (from left) LRC Director Jennifer Helieisar, Interim President Karen Simion, and Mrs. Zao Yinguang (Wife of the Chinese Ambassador to the FSM).

Mrs. Zhao remarked on the long standing friendship between the college and China and commended the smooth operations of the Pilot Farm that provides fresh vegetables to the National Campus Dining Hall as well as the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center.

On behalf of the College, Interim President Karen Simion expressed her thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Zhao and the Chinese Embassy for its continuous support for the College.

Aquaculture Training Opportunity

Interested in aquaculture or want to learn more about culturing and farming sea cucumbers? The College of Micronesia Land Grant Office in collaboration with COM-FSM is looking for 10 trainees! Learn the ropes of working with hatchery technicians to culture sea cucumbers and rear them in hatcheries to farming them in the wild. If you love working with your hands and in the ocean environment, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Who? Motivated college students, graduates, and adults with background in marine science or marine biology and/ or interested in aquaculture

What? 1-2 years paid trainee (\$3.50/hr or based on qualification)

When? End of January or early February 2021

Where? Nett Point, Nett, Pohnpei
CTEC Campus, COM-FSM, Kolonia, Pohnpei

How? Hands on activities; lectures, demonstrations, including video & distance learning by guest lecturers as needed and appropriate, trainees will:

- Gain valuable technical skills and knowledge in hatchery techniques and grow-out methods of sea cucumbers
- Receive training in culturing and maintaining algal stocks for feeding sea cucumber juveniles
- Be able to collect data, report about hatchery activities and farms
- Assist in conducting workshops and trainings to community members

For those interested, please contact COM Central Office at 320-2462/2728. Inquiries may be directed to Dr. Manoj R. Nair at the above numbers or by email: manojnair999@yahoo.com

This announcement will remain open until the 10 positions are filled.

<p>National Campus P.O. Box 159 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone: (691)320-2480 Fax: (691)320-2479 E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>Chuuk Campus P.O. Box 879 Chuuk, FM 96942 Phone: (691)330-2689 Fax: (691)330-2740 E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>FSM-FMI P.O. Box 1056 Colonia Yap, FM 96943 Phone: (691)350-5244 Fax: (691)350-5245 E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>Kosrae Campus P.O. Box 37 Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944 Phone: (691)370-3191 Fax: (691)370-3193 E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>Pohnpei Campus P.O. Box 614 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone: (691)320-3795 Fax: (691)320-3799 E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>Yap Campus P.O. Box 286 Colonia Yap, FM 96943 Phone: (691)350-2296/5149 Fax: (691)350-5150 E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm</p>
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