

# FSM President David W. Panuelo thanks U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. for America's ratification of the Kigali Amendment

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On September 21st, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—was received by His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America, at a reception on the margins of the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

During their meeting, President Panuelo congratulated President Biden for the United States' recent ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which is an international agreement to gradually reduce the consumption and production of

hydrofluorocarbons. It is a legally binding agreement designed to create rights and obligations in international law. Citizens may recall that the FSM played an essential role in the creation of the Kigali Amendment.

Additionally, President Panuelo and President Biden briefly spoke about the forthcoming US-Pacific Summit. President Panuelo relayed his appreciation that the U.S. took seriously the call from the 12th Pacific Island Conference of Leaders (PICL) that it is ultimately in both the Pacific's interest, as well as the U.S.' interest, for the U.S. to engage with the whole of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). As a result of the 12th PICL, the U.S. has invited all members of the PIF to attend the US-Pacific Summit.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with President Panuelo and President Biden both giving each other a thumbs up whilst commenting that we are collectively heading towards the right direction in tackling Climate Change.



*H.E. Joseph R. Biden Jr.; H.E. David W. Panuelo; First Lady Patricia E. Edwin; First Lady Dr. Jill Tracy Jacobs Biden*

As of today, Chuuk's borders remain closed.

# COVID-19 begins to spread in Chuuk

*By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press*

*September 27, 2022*

**Weno, Chuuk**—While community transmission of COVID-19 winds down to zero or near zero in Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae, Chuuk community transmission has just begun. On Sunday, September 25, Chuuk Department of Health Services reported 20 positive cases from disparate communities on Weno indicating community spread of the virus. The positive cases were identified on Saturday, September 24.

The Governor suspended schools and the Goodwill Games that had been scheduled pending further notice. He also mandated that outer islands travel should be for emergency purposes only.

Health Services set up a testing center at the hospital and soon established three more within the community. The government urged people who were experiencing symptoms to get tested as soon as possible so that those who need treatment could receive it quickly. So far, the State has announced three

hospitalizations one of whom has already been released from the hospital. As of today, there had not yet been any announced deaths from COVID-19 in the State.

On Saturday, September 25, Chuuk reported an additional 263 cases, and 480 more on the September 26 report.

Governor Alexander Narruhn has requested that the Chuuk Legislative branch lift travel restrictions to the State to allow for medical assistants to travel to the State.

As of today, Chuuk's borders remain closed.

Chuuk's positive cases bring the total number of positive cases identified in the FSM since January 1, 2021 to 10,851. 1113 of those have been in Kosrae. 5817 have been in Pohnpei, and 3058 have been in Yap with three of those cases identified on the September 26 report. COVID-19 has cost the lives of 31 people in the FSM to date.



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# Romanum Branch Chuuk Helping Hands Project - Seminary and Institute Youth clear the way

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Seminary and Institute youth participated in a Helping Hands project on the island of Romanum located in the Chuuk Lagoon, part of the Federated States of Micronesia the 27th of August 2022.

The Romanum Branch meetinghouse, part of the Chuuk Namoneas District of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is settled on a hill, nestled in the tropical foliage of breadfruit, papaya, and coconut trees.

Sunshine and rain encourage overgrowth of the vegetation along the path to the meetinghouse.

and his wife Dorina join in on the fun, supporting the youth's activity, grabbing the overgrowth, and removing it from the path.

Their son, Eugene, leaving for his mission to Utah the end of September, is among the youth participating in this activity.

With bare feet, flip-flops and machete's, the smiling youth in their Helping Hands vests enjoy their service of making life easier for others.

Elder and Sister Green, having made a recent trip to visit the Romanum meetinghouse and future church house site, were able to walk the path, unencumbered. Elder Green comments, "What a great job the youth did in clearing this path. As we walked along the path, we could see how well manicured and groomed it was and it was easy to follow."

What great examples of Christ-like service.

This Helping Hands project accomplished their goal of clearing out the overgrowth from the path leading to their church meetinghouse, making it easier for members to make their way to church service on Sundays.

"I'm so happy for the youth that served to clean the pathway to the chapel. God will bless them." ~ Romanum Branch Pres. Siramino Walter

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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: October 12, 2022**

**Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Monday, October 10, 2022**

# U.S. Coast Guard conducts port visit in FSM

By Chief Warrant Officer Sara Mui  
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia / Sector Guam

September 16, 2022

**Pohnpei--**The Sentinel-class fast response cutter USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) crew conducted a port visit in Kolonia on Sept. 14 - 16, following a patrol across Oceania encompassing the Coral Sea and the exclusive economic zones of Papua New Guinea and Federated States of Micronesia.

This port visit marks the sixth stop while conducting operations in the Indo-Pacific theater, following several stops across Papua New Guinea and one in Australia, part of Operation Blue Pacific.

During their stop in Pohnpei, Oliver Henry's crew hosted Chargé d'Affairs Alissa Bibb and her team and Assistant Director Youky Susaia Jr. of the FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority – Fisheries Compliance Division. They covered patrol highlights and discussed future opportunities. Susaia Jr. is also a 2020 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and a classmate of Oliver Henry's executive officer.

The Oliver Henry commanding officer visited the FSM National Police Maritime Wing headquarters for an office call with Cmdr. Steward Peter to discuss multilateral efforts. Finally, members of the cutter's engineering team conducted

a subject matter expert exchange with the crew of FSS Palikir, the last active Pacific-class patrol boat, on shipboard repairs and preventative maintenance.

"We appreciate the time and support from our Federated States of Micronesia partners and look forward to furthering our shared commitment towards living marine stewardship and maritime security," said Lt. Freddy Hofschneider, Oliver Henry's commanding officer. "As a proud Micronesian, it was an honor and privilege to revisit Pohnpei, especially knowing that the crew truly enjoyed their time around the island to immerse themselves in the deeply rooted culture and experience such a beautiful place."

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains strong partnerships with the maritime forces in the region through extensive training and subject matter expert exchanges. FSM, also known as the Big Ocean State, has one of the world's largest exclusive economic zones, with waters rich in sea life. FSM consists of four states — Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae—each has a mix of unique peoples, languages, and cultures and a total of more than 600 islands. FSM is a signatory to a Compact of Free Association with the United States. They are also a Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Association member and a party to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty.

The U.S. Coast Guard's cutter fleet was last in the FSM in May, when the USCGC

Myrtle Hazard (WPC 1139) made a contactless crew rest and re-fueling stop during their expeditionary patrol across Oceania. In December 2021, USCGC Sequoia (WLB 215), working alongside the Navy's Underwater Construction Team Two (UCT-2), conducted operations to widen the channel at Kapingamarangi Atoll, which narrowed due to marine overgrowth. U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam also provides search and rescue support to FSM.

The U.S. Coast Guard is conducting a routine deployment in Oceania as part of Operation Blue Pacific, working alongside Allies, building maritime domain awareness, and sharing best practices with partner nation navies and

coast guards. Op Blue Pacific seeks to strengthen partnerships and execute a mission to support maritime governance and the rule of law in the region. To this, we must understand, measure, and articulate regional influences and relationships and provide our crews with the best operational assets and support to get the mission done safely and return.

The 154-foot Oliver Henry is the 40th Sentinel-class fast response cutter. The ship was commissioned along with its sister ships, Myrtle Hazard and Frederick Hatch, in Guam in July 2021. In the time since, the crew has participated in several search and rescue cases, completed a counternarcotics patrol off Guam with the Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel Mizuho, and conducted sovereignty and fisheries patrols in the Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam area of responsibility.



# Coast Guard Cutter Oliver Henry concludes historic patrol

Coast Guard News

September 19, 2022

**Santa Rita, Guam--**The Sentinel-class fast response cutter USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) arrived at homeport in Guam, Sept. 19, following a patrol across Oceania.

"The crew of Oliver Henry just completed a 43-day historic patrol across Oceania, where we patrolled and visited ports in the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and Australia. We also patrolled the exclusive economic zones of those countries and Solomon Islands during our time," said Lt. Freddy Hofschneider, commanding officer of Oliver Henry. "Our trip was significant in that we validated the capability of the fast response cutters homeported here in Apra Harbor, Guam, showing

what we can do to promote regional stability in terms of fisheries and continue to build a better relationship with our regional partners.

The crew conducted training, fisheries observations, community and key leader engagements, and a multilateral sail. They covered more than 16,000 nautical miles from Guam to Cairns, Queensland, Australia, and returned with several stops in Papua New Guinea and one in the Federated States of Micronesia.

"The fact that we can take these 154-foot ships with a crew of 25 and a lieutenant commanding officer and push them so far over the horizon, even as far as Australia — which is what Oliver Henry just did — is an incredible capability for the region," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "I'm proud of the work the Oliver Henry did, the resiliency of the crew deployed for 43 days, and they pulled off a variety of firsts —

like first-time port calls in a couple of places like Papua New Guinea and Australia. Even more than that, I am proud of the resilience of the families. Not just the families of Oliver Henry but all the families here to support them and our local community here in Guam."

In Papua New Guinea, the crew spent time on Manus Island and Port Moresby. They visited HMPNGS Tarangau School, spent time in the

*Click here for continuation*



# Chuuk Auditor again finds reimbursement problems on U.S. Federal Grant programs

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

September 27, 2022

**Chuuk**—The Office of the Chuuk State Public Auditor (OCPA) recently released a follow-up audit on the status of accounts receivables for U.S. Federal Grants. The purpose of the audit was to determine whether or not the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has taken corrective action on the previous audit on the matter conducted in 2019. Auditors determined that while the department had taken corrective action on one of the previous audit findings the other had not yet been implemented resulting in \$45,739.29 of receivables which now may be uncollectable.

Accounts receivable from U.S. Federal Grants between fiscal years 2015 and 2021 amounted to over \$2.7 million. The Federal Grants were provided on a reimbursement basis which required Chuuk to first lay out the funds for authorized expenditures and then seek reimbursement. Each of the various programs was designed to break even and result in no drain of financial resources from the government.

Funds advanced by the government but not collected at the end of the fiscal year are recognized in the books

as “Accounts Receivable-Federal Grants”. Each month the DAS Director prepares an expenditure report for the funded programs along with a cover letter in order to draw down the funds allocated to each program based upon the grant awards. In instances where the reimbursement is late (for more than a week), the action taken is to follow up with the Federal Grant Specialist through email.

In 2019, one of the audit findings was that there was no accounts receivable subsidiary ledger. The auditors recommended that the department should maintain its own record of collections to reconcile billed amounts with collections and receivable balances. It appears that the establishment and use of that tool has aided in recent timely collections of reimbursements, though there were still advanced payments of \$19,000 in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 that remained uncollected as of January 27, 2022. According to the monthly billing policy, that amount should have been fully collected.

## ...Oliver Henry

*Continued from page 3*

community, and engaged with Papua New Guinea Defence Force and local officials.

In Cairns, they conducted engagements with Australian Defence and Home Affairs partners, the mayor of Cairns, and Cairns Regional Council representatives. They also took time to engage with the International Marine College. Upon departure, they participated in a multilateral formation sail with crews from Australia and Fiji as the other ships departed for Exercise Kakadu off Darwin.

During their stop in Pohnpei, Oliver Henry’s crew hosted the U.S. Embassy team and an FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority – Fisheries Compliance Division representative to cover patrol highlights

and future opportunities. The Oliver Henry commanding officer visited the FSM National Police Maritime Wing headquarters to discuss multilateral efforts. Finally, members of the cutter’s engineering team conducted a subject matter expert exchange with the crew of FSS Palikir, the last active Pacific-class patrol boat, on shipboard repairs and preventative maintenance.

While not the most extended transit for these cutters, this patrol does emphasize the Service’s capability and willingness to project into the far reaches of Oceania. The U.S. Coast Guard maintains strong partnerships with the maritime forces in the region through extensive training and subject matter expert exchanges. The U.S. Coast Guard conducts routine deployments in Oceania as part of Operation Blue Pacific, working alongside Allies, building maritime domain awareness, and sharing best practices with partner nation navies and coast guards. Op Blue Pacific seeks to strengthen partnerships and execute a

mission to support maritime governance and the rule of law in the region. However, the DAS did not follow through on the previous audit’s second recommendation which was that the Federal Grants Fund Accountant should study the collectability of the accounts receivables and initiate collection if still collectible. The amount of uncollected reimbursements, at \$45,739.29 is small compared to the amount of U.S. Federally

funded project funds collected. “An appropriate and timely implementation of audit recommendations agreed by management is an important part of realizing the full benefit of an audit to the citizens,” the auditors pointed out in their comments. While “Federal Grants...are recorded as short-term assets on the Chuuk State balance sheet, the best practice is to convert it to cash within due date or immediately collect them back because the government is likely struggling to generate enough cash to pay for the needed services and programs the government would like to provide to its citizens.”

Auditors noted that carrying receivables as assets which can never be collected, artificially inflates, even if by a comparatively small amount, the financial position of the government. Auditors again reiterated their recommendation that DAS should conduct a study into the collectability of the accounts receivables and apply for reimbursement for those funds that are still reimbursable if any, and write off those that will never be collectable.



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This patrol was possible thanks to vital shoreside support for logistics and an augmented crew. Guam’s Maintenance Assistance Team/Asset Material Manager leveraged current personnel to fill billet gaps. Working with U.S. Coast Guard Base Honolulu ensured the short notice delivery of \$100,000 in mission-critical parts to the ship while deployed. The Oliver Henry, which has no intrinsic medical personnel, also brought several folks aboard, including a corpsman from the U.S. Navy and a linguist from the U.S. Marine Corps.

“We had HS2 Edge from HSWL Juneau and HM3 Hardnett from Naval Hospital Guam, who provided a higher level of care on board as we transited over 8,000 nautical miles down Australia. We also brought Lance Cpl. Mabrie from Hawaii, our Korean linguist aboard, doing sighting reports inside of other countries’ EEZs and high seas

pockets,” said Lt. j.g. Marissa Marsh, executive officer on Oliver Henry. “We also brought MK2 Blas and YN2 Blas from Guam, who provided extra help for maintenance, photography, and administration while we were underway. It felt like they’d been here since day one, and the crew enjoyed the extra help; they had a good time sailing with us.”

The Oliver Henry is the 40th Sentinel-class fast response cutter. The ship was commissioned along with its sister ships, Myrtle Hazard (WPC 1139) and Frederick Hatch (1143), in Guam in July 2021. These cutters are a vital part of the U.S. Coast Guard’s enduring regional presence serving the people of the Pacific by conducting 10 of the Service’s 11 statutory missions with a focus on search and rescue, defense readiness, living marine resources protection, and ensuring commerce through marine safety and ports, waterways, and coastal security.

## Assistant Secretary Cantor meets with President Surangel Whipps, Jr. in the Republic of Palau

*U.S. Department of the Interior*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor today completed her first official visit to the Republic of Palau where she met with island leaders and emphasized the agency’s commitment to the people of the island nation.

“I am here to emphasize our commitment to the relationship that we share under the Compact of Free Association on behalf of the Department of the Interior,” said Assistant Secretary Cantor. “We remain committed to supporting communities in Palau, as evidenced by the recent inaugural meeting of the Palau Economic Advisory Group.”

Assistant Secretary Cantor met with President Surangel Whipps, Jr., to learn firsthand about the successes as well as the challenges facing the people of Palau. She met with U.S. Embassy officials and visited the Ngardok Nature Reserve to learn more about the special partnership for natural

resource conservation and protection that Palau shares with the National Park Service.

Assistant Secretary Cantor also visited the Palau National Communications Corporation, a recent recipient of Compact funding support for telecommunications infrastructure security and resiliency, and other important organizations such as the Palau Community College to get a sense of long-term economic sustainability and needs for the resilience of Palau. She spoke with officials who recently contributed to the first meetings of the Economic Advisory Group (EAG) launched last month in Palau. Called for under the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review Agreement, the EAG was recently established to advise and provide recommendations on how to contribute to the long-term economic sustainability and resilience of Palau.

More information about the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs can be found at [www.doi.gov/oia](http://www.doi.gov/oia).

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Parcel No. 46-D-01, Kinakapw, Madolenihmw Municipality, 8,167 square meters ±, as shown in Plat Map No. 046-D-00 dated September 6, 1983.

### Chuuk State

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- FSM Development Bank will consider all offers for purchase of the parcels. Offers may be made for one or more of the parcels.
- The deadline for submission of offers will be Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 4pm Pohnpei time. All offers must contain the offer amount for each parcel separately, proposed payment schedule and contact information. Offers may be hand delivered to any FSM Development Bank office or emailed to: [noras@fsmdb.fm](mailto:noras@fsmdb.fm)
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- FSM Development Bank reserves its right to reject any and all offers made for the parcels, for any reason whatsoever.

For more information, please contact: Nora E. Sigrah, General Counsel at email: [noras@fsmdb.fm](mailto:noras@fsmdb.fm)

# “Triple-Dip” La Nina declared

*Pacific Community*

**September 23, 2022**

**Nadi-Fiji**--This centuries first “Triple-Dip” La Niña event has been declared by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

This is the third La Niña event since 2020 with the public advised to continuously monitor messages and warnings from local weather offices as a La Niña event is underway.

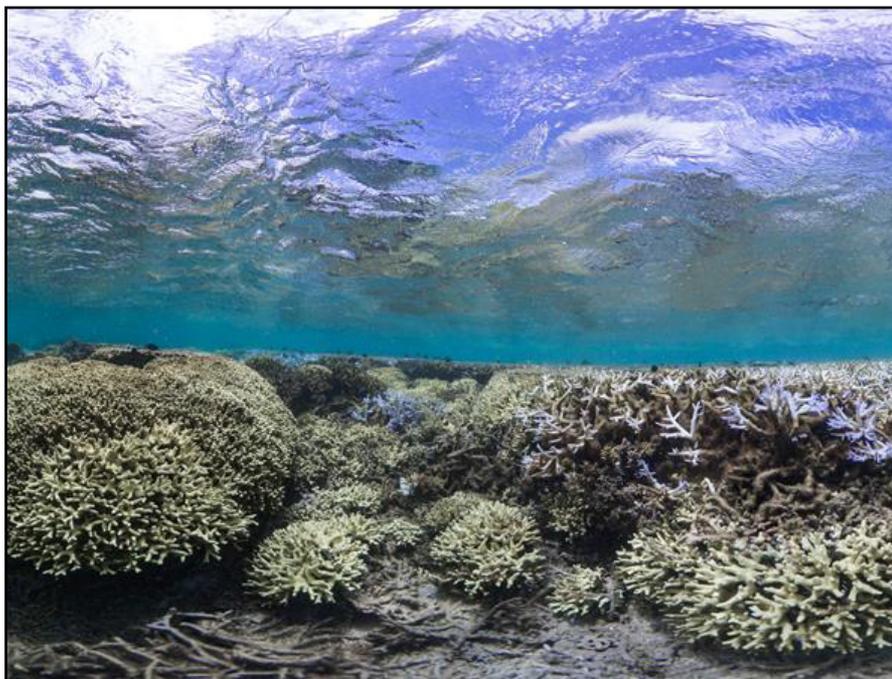
La Niña is one of the phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and refers to the large-scale cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in the central and/or eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, coupled with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, particularly winds, pressure and rainfall.

The WMO’s Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network has advised Pacific countries to prepare for associated impacts resulting from changes to the ocean conditions during this event.

The Pacific Community’s (SPC) Coordinator Applied Ocean Science, Mr Zulfikar Begg explains that during a La Niña event, the easterly trade winds become stronger than average and pushes the warmer surface water further westwards. This allows the deeper cooler water to surface and to extend towards central equatorial Pacific resulting in cooler than normal ocean conditions from central equatorial towards the east. The La Niña phenomenon causes the sea surface temperature to be warmer than average and the sea level to be higher than normal in the western Pacific.

“Changes to ocean conditions due to La Niña impacts marine ecosystems and increases the possibility of coral bleaching in areas experiencing prolonged heat stress. Coral bleaching were experienced in the previous two years at Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and the Coral Triangle. Heat stress could potentially lead to fish kills and impact aquaculture and pearl farming. The movement of Western Pacific Warm Pool also impacts the movement of pelagic fisheries. As was experienced last year, countries in the western Pacific could experience coastal flooding during high tides as the sea level is expected to be higher than normal. Flooding could be exacerbated by a combination of higher-than-normal sea level, storm surges, tides and waves” states Mr Begg.

La Niña was recently declared as being underway by WMO, the Bureau of Meteorology, Australia and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States. The Bureau of Meteorology’s Pacific Climate Science expert, Dr Simon McGree explains that the Bureau uses a rigorous criterion to monitor and declare ENSO events. “For an ENSO event to be declared, it must meet 3 out of 4 criteria based on ocean and atmospheric phenomenon. This allows the Bureau to monitor the evolution of ENSO and provide guidance to the Pacific accordingly. Models indicate that this La Niña event may peak towards the end of 2022 and return to neutral conditions in early 2023”.



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## INVITATION TO BID

September 20, 2022 BID Number  
PBID-01-22

Subject: Invitation To Bid (ITB) on the following to procure a Vehicle and other items for the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA).

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Instructions for the preparation and submission of a bid are contained in the attached, please read them carefully. If you're an interested bidder or a potential bidder, you are required to respond in writing and attach the completed Pricing Sheet Form as provided herein and send to PPA, attn: General Manager, via facsimile at (691) 320-2832 and/or email to [grilly.jack@ppa.fm](mailto:grilly.jack@ppa.fm) or [ronald.reyes@ppa.fm](mailto:ronald.reyes@ppa.fm).

Any changes to the terms, conditions or specifications stated in this Invitation To Bid shall be directed to the General Manager.

A response from your firm to this Invitation to Bid would be appreciated. Questions should be directed to Mr. Grilly Jack, General Manager of PPA at fax number (691) 320-2832 and/or [grilly.jack@ppa.fm](mailto:grilly.jack@ppa.fm).

Sincerely,  
Grilly Jack  
General Manager

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# Pohnpei State Department of Education joins hands with UNICEF, the College of Micronesia, and the Australian Embassy in Micronesia in supporting safe school reopening

*Pohnpei Department of Education*

*September 23, 2022*

**Saladak Elementary School-** In the State of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), school reopening was delayed for a month due to the first COVID-19 community transmission on July 19, 2022. UNICEF, in partnership with the Australian Embassy in Micronesia and the College of Micronesia, supported the Pohnpei State Department of Education in its safe school reopening at Saladak Elementary School.

During the event, Joseph Amor, Principal of Saladak Elementary School, talked about their Standard Operating Procedure for school reopening to ensure that all children are safe from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in school. Afterwards, school children who were part of the music club presented a song on handwashing. Students also demonstrated how to weave locally made baskets at the end of the event.

The Australian Embassy in Micronesia, in partnership with UNICEF, has committed over 400,000 Australian dollars to help schools in the FSM provide a healthy learning environment and adapt good hygiene practices. “With the unforeseen impact of COVID-19 across the globe over the last couple of years, it’s now critical more than ever to address the health-preparedness needs of all sectors of society. We look forward to continuing to work with UNICEF, with State and National Government Departments of Education, and

with all stakeholders to address this critical need for children in FSM in not only getting the quality, basic education that they need and deserve but also learning in a clean and healthy environment,” said Matthew Holloway, Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy in Micronesia.

UNICEF North Pacific Chief Cromwell Bacareza remarked how the WASH in schools (WinS) program developed by the Pohnpei Department of Education, with support from UNICEF, aims to make schools as an entry point for children to adapt good hygiene practices. Peter Ramirez, Chief of Pohnpei Department of Education, Primary Education explained how hygiene is an important practice that must be taught to children for keeping the cleanliness and sanitation in schools. “Even without the COVID-19, we need to practice sanitation and we are most grateful to UNICEF for their



support all throughout the years,” he said.

The Pohnpei State Department of Education thanks UNICEF’s provision of technical assistance and WASH supplies, which will ensure

that children’s learning in a safe and healthy environment will continue and that school children as well as teachers and staff are protected inside school to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.



*Photo Credit: Robin Mae Magangat, WASH Knowledge Management Consultant, UNICEF*





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Class 9: Providing on-line downloadable and electronic downloadable publications, namely, newsletters, brochures, pamphlets, and flyers relating to

health, beauty, skin care, oral health, sun care; computer application software for mobile phones, namely, software to assist in tracking allergy information and controlling allergy symptoms; virtual assistant in the nature of a downloadable mobile chatbot software application for simulating conversations in the field of beauty, beauty products, and beauty product recommendations; downloadable mobile applications that enable users of a cosmetic medical device to receive education and training about use of the device, chatbot software for simulating conversations in the field of beauty, beauty products, and beauty product recommendations; downloadable computer chatbot software for simulating conversations leveraging artificial intelligence in the field of beauty, beauty products, and beauty product recommendations; downloadable mobile application to provide guidance concerning use of an otoscope for performing basic self-diagnostic tests and examination, to transmit the results of such tests and examinations to a healthcare provider, and to allow communication between the user and the healthcare provider; virtual consumer health products; downloadable multimedia files containing artwork, text, audio, and video files and non-fungible tokens featuring consumer health products; downloadable loyalty cards, incentive cards, reward cards that may be redeemed for or used towards the purchase of consumer health products.

Class 10: Medical device and apparatus for the cosmetic and medical treatment of skin conditions; Adhesive compression wrap bandages for medical purposes; Heat or cold releasing packs for therapeutic purposes; Heat releasing wraps for therapeutic purposes; medical apparatus, namely, a smartphone enabled otoscope that allows a patient to perform basic self-diagnostic tests and examinations, and for transmitting the results of such tests and examinations to a healthcare provider and allowing communication between the user and the healthcare provider; phototherapeutic light delivery apparatus for medical purposes.

Class 21: Dental floss, dental flossers, refills for dental flossers; toothbrushes.

Class 35: Providing consumer product information relating to skin and hair care, sun care, wellness, healthcare and healthy living, fitness, nutrition and lifestyle wellness; Online retail store services featuring skin and hair care, sun care, dental, cough, cold, allergy, nutritional products, cosmetics; online retail services featuring virtual consumer health goods and the physical delivery of same.

Class 41: Educational services, namely, conducting on-line programs in the fields of beauty, health care, hair care, pregnancy, baby care, and printable educational materials about skin and health care distributed therewith; Providing non-downloadable educational materials in the nature of articles and brochures in the field of beauty and health care; Providing on-line non-downloadable publications in the nature of articles, newsletters, and blogs relating to beauty and health care; entertainment services, namely, providing online, downloadable, virtual consumer health care products for use in virtual environments for entertainment purposes.

Class 42: Product research and development in the field of beauty, wellness, hair care, allergies, child care, baby care, and health care products.

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## Pacific Disaster Ministers show leadership, goodwill and a future vision to build a safer Pacific for communities

### Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

September 17, 2022

**Nadi, Fiji**--Pacific Disaster Ministers have yesterday committed to the inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Declaration of Commitment to Action towards a safer and more resilient region in the face of disaster risk and climate change.

Ministers have also committed to supporting the strengthening of national and regional capabilities in response to disaster and reaffirmed the commitment to establish a regional and Sub-Regional Humanitarian and Disaster Response mechanism to support trans-boundary response between countries alongside international partners. This mechanism will be co-developed by the end of 2023.

Ministers also sounded the call to international, regional, national partners and donors to support nationally led disaster priorities that drive relevant, timely and sustainable disaster preparedness, response, recovery and including predictable financing.

The 'Nadi Declaration,' was endorsed by

representatives from 17 Pacific Countries and Territories.

Areas of priority discussed throughout the inaugural Disaster Ministerial included the need for early warning systems to reach every community, the need for predictable financing to support and build resilience to the disasters faced by the region and the need for improved data sharing and analysis to better inform decision-makers of the underlying risks and vulnerabilities faced by countries.

Ministers also committed to ensuring inclusive and diverse engagement including youth, women, persons with disability and vulnerable groups to ensure disaster preparedness, response and recovery actions are responsive to the needs of all.

The Declaration also committed to the continuation of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers Meeting.

Chair and Fiji's Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu commended the Pacific Ministers contributions during the course of the two-day Ministerial Meeting, stating that the

Declaration was a statement of "strong commitments to action" by Pacific leaders to raise the bar for resilience building in the Pacific, given the escalating risks facing the region.

"This is a truly historical moment and a life affirming one as well. I address you today to express my delight at the outcomes of this meeting. As Minister responsible for Disasters, I am grateful that we were able to share Pacific regional perspectives to help raise awareness of our Pacific-to-Pacific exchanges in response to disasters and in DRR in the region," Hon. Seruiratu said.

The Pacific Community's (SPC) Director Disaster and Community Resilience Programme Ms. Rhonda Robinson thanked the Fiji Government for their hosting of this meeting and noted the importance of collaborative approaches that will make our communities safer.

"We have just witnessed a paradigm shift in the leadership of Ministers towards the building of a safer and more resilient Pacific region for communities and our peoples. As the lead technical and scientific agency in

disaster risk management and convener of this meeting, the Pacific Community (SPC) commends all Pacific Disaster Ministers on their genuine commitment to action that will help ensure our region is safer and more prepared for the risk we face to disaster and the existential threat caused by climate change," she said.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's Deputy Secretary-General Dr Filimon Manoni said, "These regional and collective discussions on Disaster Risk Reduction have shown the importance of solidarity and adopting a collaborative approach on how we as a Pacific family find solutions to strengthening our resilience from the impacts of disasters. PIFS will continue to support the political dialogue and meaningful collaboration with our partners – to drive actions so our Blue Pacific is better prepared."

The Nadi Declaration will be presented by Pacific DRR Ministers at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that will be held in Brisbane, Australia next week and will guide the actions of the region in disaster resilience in the coming year.

**-Police Blotter-**

This Police Blotter covers August 16, 2022 – September 11, 2022. Though in all cases, arrests were made all those arrested have merely been charged. All are considered to be innocent unless proven to be otherwise in court.

**On August 16, 2022**

- Mavrick Ioanis, 32yrs of age from Pehleing, Kitti arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI)
- Kitson Joseph, 20yrs of age from Salapwuk, Kitti arrested for disorderly conduct.
- Bruce Robert, 58yrs of age arrested for Careless Driving.
- Starcy Harris, 32yrs of age arrested for disorderly conduct and appearance in Public while intoxicated.

**On August 17, 2022**

- DackMccay Daniel, 45yrs of age from Kitti arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI) & Careless Driving.

**On August 18, 2022**

- New Year, 21yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly Conduct & appearance in Public while intoxicated.
- Zion Estakio, 21yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly Conduct & appearance in Public while intoxicated.
- KR Spencer, 21yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly Conduct & appearance in Public while intoxicated.
- Moses Gallen, 62yrs of age from Madolenihmw arrested for Disorderly Conduct & appearance in Public while intoxicated.

**On August 19, 2022**

- Rayven Dolon, 18yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly Conduct & appearance in Public while intoxicated.
- Trangelino Nunnez, 21yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly Conduct & appearance in Public while intoxicated.
- Danny Barnabas, 18yrs of age from Paies Kitti arrested for Disorderly conduct, appearance and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.
- Petsy Norman, 35yrs of age from Kolonia Dipihnsion arrested for Assault & Battary.
- Mark Roby, 23yrs of age from Oumor Sokehs arrested for Disorderly Conduct.
- Esirom Lewi, 33yrs of age from Kolonia arrested for Driving Under the influence of Alcohol & careless driving.

**On August 20, 2022**

- Jace Agrippa, 35yrs of age from Seker, Sokehs arrested for Disorderly Conduct.
- Neal Nelson, 31yrs of age from Kolonia arrested for Driving Under the influence of Alcohol & careless driving.

**On August 21, 2022**

- Kerot Ciemam, 27yrs of age from Sekere, Sokhes arrested for Disorderly Conduct.
- Serino Mwareiwei, 18yrs of age from Kolonia arrested for Disorderly conduct, appearance and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.
- Jack Rodriquez, 46yrs of age from Nett arrested for Disorderly conduct.
- Resa Ioanis, 21yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly conduct, appearance and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.
- Berly Barnabas, 21yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly conduct, appearance and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.

**On August 22, 2022**

- Julios Tullao, 44yrs of age from Daini Kolonia arrested Driving under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI) & Careless Driving.
- Stemsin Patterson, 58yrs of age from Kolonia Pohnrakied arrested for open container and appearance in Public while intoxicated.

**On August 23, 2022**

- Peter Saimon, 23yrs of age from Madolenihmw arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol and careless driving.
- John Paul, 41yrs of age from Nanpohnmal Nett arrested for Disorderly conduct.
- Jerolythis Manuel, 18yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly conduct and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.

**On August 24, 2022**

- Rickson Semes, from Likin Kel Kolonia arrested for Disorderly Conduct.

**On August 25, 2022**

- Alfred Hallens, from Nanwel

Awak U arrested for Disorderly Conduct.

- Tom Manasa, from Madolenihmw arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol and careless driving.

**On August 26, 2022**

- Maynard Hallens, 19yrs of age from Dolonier, Nett arrested for Disorderly conduct and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.
- Dobich Joseph, 67yrs of age from Palikir, Sokehs arrested for careless driving.
- Bruce Enicar, 48yrs of age from Roie Sokesh, arrested for careless driving.
- Jessica Abraham, 18yrs of age from Pehleing, Kitti arrested for Disorderly conduct and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.
- Iosper Sailas, 56yrs of age from Nett, arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol and careless driving.

**On August 27, 2022,**

- Sadness Timothy, 53yrs of age from Nett arrested for Disorderly conduct.
- Detrickson Ioanis, 23yrs of age from Pehleing, Kitti arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol and careless driving.
- Trevon Henry, 20yrs of age from Kolonia, arrested for Careless Driving.

**On August 28, 2022**

- Kesus Serly, 42yrs of age from Nanpil, Nett arrested Driving under the Influence of Alcohol.
- Grace Marrie, 21yrs of age from Sekere, Sokhes arrested for Careless Driving.
- Namerdis Henry, 40yrs of age from Kolonia arrested for Disorderly Conduct.
- Rejoy Robert, 18yrs of age from Kolonia arrested for Disorderly conduct and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.

**On August 29, 2022**

- Jonathan Thomas, 26yrs of age from Wapar, Madolenihmw arrested for Disorderly Conduct.
- Austin Yaideship, 22yrs of age from Nanpohnmal, Sokehs arrested for Driving under the

Influence of Alcohol (DUI) & Careless Driving.

- Mark Hadely, 53yrs of age from Palikir, Sokehs arrested for Disorderly Conduct.

**On August 31, 2022**

- Walter Ekiek, from Sokehs arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI) & Careless Driving.
- Reeze Soram, 28yrs of age from Metipw, Madolenihmw arrested for Disorderly Conduct, Appearance in Public while under the influence of alcohol and open container.
- Hernes Saimon, 44yrs of age from Dolopwail, Madolenihmw arrested for Disorderly Conduct, Appearance in Public while under the influence of alcohol and open container.
- Edwin Sione, 50yrs of age from Sekere, Sokehs arrested for Careless Driving.

**On September 01, 2022**

- Meison Amida, 28yrs of age from Dolonier, Nett arrested for Burglary.

**On September 02, 2022**

- Batikare Kariti, 26yrs of age from Peias, Kitti arrested for Disorderly Conduct.

**On September 03, 2022**

- TJ Shirai, 27yrs of age from The State Chuuk arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol, Resisting Arrest & Eluding of a Police Officer.
- Tony Ardos, 50yrs of age from Meitik, Nett arrested for Assault & Battary with Dangerous Weapon.

**On Sept 04, 2022**

- Cody Endor, 23yrs of age from Ohmine, Kolonia arrested for Disorderly Conduct & Appearance.
- Sean Etscheit, 19yrs of age from Kamar, Nett arrested for Driving under the Influence and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs.
- Hiwitt Moya, 20yrs of age from Nett arrested for Driving under the Influence and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs.
- Reagan Seiola, 39yrs of age from Ohmine, Kolonia arrested for

# Nine individuals from Sekere arrested for August Best Buy burglary

*Pohnpei Department of Public Safety*

*September 22, 2022*

*Pohnpei*—Police Detectives arrested nine individuals from the community of Sekere, Sokehs Municipality including two minors, a 17-year-old, and a 16-year-old. The arrests came

after detectives conducted a criminal investigation on a burglary incident that occurred at the Best Buy store that was reported in August of 2022. All nine individuals were charged with burglary, theft, larceny, criminal conspiracy and criminal solicitation.

On the afternoon of September 22, 2022, the nine suspects appeared in front of the Judge at the Pohnpei State Supreme Court for a bail hearing. All nine were released on a \$400 cash bond pending trial.

# Police arrest man for August burglary of One World Plaza

*Pohnpei Department of Public Safety*

*September 22, 2022*

*Pohnpei*--Police Detectives arrested a 49-year-old male from Eirke, Nett after

conducting a criminal investigation reported on September 3, 2022. The incident occurred at the One World Plaza store on the early morning of August 23, 2022.

The 49-year-old male is charged with burglary, theft and larceny and now awaiting appearance at the Pohnpei Supreme Court.

# “Weed” still illegal in Pohnpei DPS arrests man for allegedly growing over 28 pounds of marijuana

*Pohnpei Department of Public Safety*

*September 21, 2022*

*Pohnpei*--September 21, 2022—The Pohnpei State Detective Office after receiving an anonymous report of marijuana plantation in the community area of Mand, Madolenihmw, initiated a criminal investigation that led to the issuance of the search and seizure warrant (PSW No. 2022-0002) issued by the Pohnpei State Supreme Court.

home in the community of Mand, Madolenihmw.

Under Title 66 Chapter 4 §4-124(4) of the Pohnpei State Code provided that “The possession of two and two-tenths pounds or more of marijuana by any person shall constitute a rebuttable presumption of the crime of trafficking under §4-123”. Marijuana is designated under Schedule I of the Pohnpei Code Title 66 Chapter 4 and is classified as a felony should any person found in possession of more than two and two-tenth pounds of marijuana. Any person found in possession of marijuana with less than two and two-tenth pounds may be arrested for misdemeanor. Penalty for possession and trafficking of marijuana will be fined or imprisoned

or both fined and imprisoned.

The alleged 38 years old male suspect of this incident was arrested and brought in to the Police Station where he was processed, booked and detained awaiting appearance before the Pohnpei State Court.

Pohnpei State Police continues to seek assistance from the general public in reporting suspicion or any information of any person being in possession of marijuana or having any marijuana plantation. The Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety will continue reinforcing services to the communities and ensure that our communities and children are safe.

- Domestic Violence & Assault & Battery with dangerous weapon.
- Paulino Rospel, 62yrs of age from Mapwusi, Kolonia arrested for Domestic Violence & Assault & Battery with dangerous weapon.
- Jonathan Yang, 42yrs of age from Mapwusi, Kolonia arrested for Domestic Violence & Assault & Battery with dangerous weapon.
- Micheal Casceres, 29yrs of age from Sekere, Sokehs arrested for Driving under the Influence of alcohol and careless driving.

### On September 05, 2022

- Moses Hassall, 40yrs of age from Dolonier, Nett arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI).
- Lamor Amor, 32yrs of age from Awak, U arrested for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI).

### On September 06, 2022

- Esau C. Esau, 49yrs of age from Pihis, Madolenihmw arrested for Careless Driving.
- Tarcisio John, 65yrs of age from Nanpohnmal Nett arrested for Driving under the Influence of alcohol and careless driving.
- Jerolythis Manuel, 18yrs of age from Pehleing Kitti arrested for Disorderly conduct and consume liquor under the age of 21yrs of age.

### On September 09, 2022

- Billy Dekid, 31yrs of age from Rohi, U arrested for Careless Driving.
- Tiano Tashibsem, from Indonesia arrested for Careless Driving.

### On September 10, 2022

- Lorenzo Ada, 18yrs of age arrested for Burglary.
- Redson Eliou, 52yrs of age from Wapar, Madolenihmw arrested for Disorderly Conduct.
- Cellino Pillimen, 22yrs of age from Wapar, Madolenihmw arrested for Disorderly Conduct.

### On September 11, 2022

- Belmin Else, 21yrs of age from Sekere, Sokehs arrested for Appearance in Public while under the influence of alcohol.



# Pohnpei Utilities Corporation celebrates completion of iron removal plant

## Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

September 16, 2022

**Pohnpei**—Governor Oliver attended the completion ceremony for Pohnpei Utilities Corporation's (PUC) Iron removal plant in Nett on Friday, September 16, 2022.

Nett District Administrator, Hon. Daniel Edgar delivered the welcoming remarks acknowledging the presence of His Royal Highness, IsoNahnken of Nett, Governor Oliver, Secretary of the FSM Department of Transportation, Hon. Carlson Apis and US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Alissa Bibb. PUC General Manager, Mr Nixon-Anson, provided a summary of the project. He thanked Governor Oliver for his support, the Contractor, Mr David Kalush and his company KEDEM Infrastructure 1991 for

designing a system that is specifically built for Pohnpei water conditions. He called the new Iron Removal Plant, the best in the Pacific providing clean water with increased capacity and output that is cost-effective with easy-to-use control systems. He also thanked and recognized the members of the PUC board of Directors who were present for their involvement with this important project: Mr Erick Paul, Mr Joseph Felix Jr and past members, Dr Josephine Saimon and Mr Antonio John as well as PUC Chief of Planning and Engineering, Mr Alex Nanpei and Mr Leeronson Hairens, Chief of water operations.

Governor Oliver, on behalf of the government and the people of Pohnpei, expressed his gratitude to all who were involved in this important project that will provide

clean water to the people of Pohnpei. He acknowledged the support of the Nett traditional leaders, the National Government - Secretary Apis and the US Government - Charge d'affaires Alissa Bibb and Ms Cheryl Burkindine for their crucial role to bring about the completion of this important project. He expressed a heartfelt "shalom" and thanks to contractor Mr David Kalush and his team of Engineers from Israel and China.

Secretary Carlson Apis on behalf of the FSM National Government and President David W. Panuelo, congratulated Governor Oliver and PUC General Manager Nixon Anson, the PUC Board of Directors and all involved in the project including the generous assistance of the US Government. He noted that the completion of this project is a tribute to the close collaboration and leadership of the traditional, state and

national governments.

His Royal Highness, IsoNahnken of Nett, Salvador Iriarte provided the final remarks, conveying congratulations to all involved, and thanking Governor Oliver for his leadership. Speaking of the importance of water in everyday life of Pohnpei, IsoNahnken of Nett expressed his appreciation for what the General Manager of PUC noted in his remarks, as the best Iron Removal plant in the Pacific.

A ribbon-cutting to officially open the plant was performed by His Royal Highness IsoNahnken of Nett, Governor Oliver, US Charge d'affaires Alissa Bibb and Mr David Kalush, KEDEM Infrastructure (Contractor).

The Iron Removal plant was funded through the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) public infrastructure fund for \$1.8 million.



## BID INVITATION

for  
Repair and Maintenance of Department of Transportation,  
Communications and Infrastructure, National Complex,  
Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

### NOTICE

The Program Management Unit (PMU) of the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I), National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to qualified contractors for the **Repair and Maintenance of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure, National Complex in Palikir, Pohnpei**. The Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visit is scheduled for **Friday October 7th 2022 at 10am** at the PMU Offices in the Kaselehlie Building, Second Floor, Palikir, Pohnpei.

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Shankarah Lessey, Contract Specialist, DTC&I, P.O. Box PS-

2, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941 at email [shankarah.lessey@gmail.com](mailto:shankarah.lessey@gmail.com) with the subject heading:

**" Repair and Maintenance of Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure, National Complex, Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia"**

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work, bills of quantities, technical specifications and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department's website: <https://www.tci.gov.fml> in its PMU section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is **Thursday October 27th 2022 at 4.00pm**.



National Oceanic Resource Management Authority

FSM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

P.O. Box PS122

PALIKIR, POHNPEI, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA 96941

Tel: (691) 320-5181/2700 Fax: (691) 320-2383 Email: mail@norma.fm Website: www.norma.fm



**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Job Opportunity – Projects Administrative Assistant**

Application submissions starting September 15, 2022 until filled

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) seeks well qualified individuals to fill the position of FSM NORMA Projects Administrative Assistant (PAA) in the office of NORMA, FSM National Government, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941.

**The Position:**

Assist Project Coordinators and designated accountants in monitoring accounts of the projects by maintaining records, reconciling and reviewing of reports on funds and financial transactions under the Project; Assist with raising, processing of all payments for NORMA Projects and filing required supporting documents in accordance with FSM Regulations and NORMA SOPs. Assist to monitor Projects designated accounts and ensuring draw-downs, reimbursements, and disbursements are timely and within budget. Assist with monitoring and updating of project budgets to align with financing agreements and project work plans. Stay informed about relevant government regulations including, tax regulations, customs regulations and any related regulations that may apply to projects; Maintain a list of vendors supplying general items for project implementation; Check invoices to ensure correct price, follow through to ensure that materials ordered have been received and comply with specifications, examine the conditions of material received, and approve invoices for payment; Interact with the finance staff and project coordinator to ensure correct and timely payment to contractors and consultants and proper administration of contracts according to contract provisions and procurement regulations. Maintain a list of contracts with monitoring of contract dates and payments; Assist in monitoring and reporting of fund status and procurement implementation status and progress to NORMA and donors as required including preparation of related reports; Assist with the preparation of quarterly financial status reports; Maintaining safe, complete, updated, organized and easily retrievable filing system; Filing of all project related documents; Assist with project reporting requirements; Arrange project related travel; Maintain a calendar of all events, meetings, deadlines and Scheduling meetings/ programs for trainings or missions; Arrange workshops, conferences, meetings and keeping minutes of project committee meetings as needed; perform other related duties as required by the Authority.

**The Incumbent:**

Bachelors Degree from a recognized institution in Accounting, Business Administration or other relevant degree. Associate Degree may be considered with proven extensive experience; Minimum of one (1) year recent relevant experience; Experience with working in a team environment; Fluency in written and spoken English; Competency in the use of computer applications, especially MS Office and Excel; Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and pay attention to detail; Organized and detail-oriented person

**Benefits:**

The Annual Salary is based on market rates but negotiable depending on the qualifications of the applicant and the number of work experience years. This will be a full-time position under contract with FSM NORMA with likelihood of extension based on performance and funding availability.

**To Apply:**

Full Terms of Reference or Job Description can be obtained by contacting NORMA as below. Submit resume by mail or in person, but preferably by email to the following address with subject line “Projects Administrative Assistant”:

NORMA Office  
 Ambros Building, 2nd floor  
 P.O. Box PS-122  
 Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941  
 Phone: (691) 320-2700  
 Email: info@norma.fm  
 Copy to moria.joseph@norma.fm

# Pohnpei “Breaks Ground” on new Emergency Operations Building in Peilapalap

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

*September 15, 2022*

**Pohnpei**—Governor Oliver attended a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, for the Pohnpei State Emergency Operation Center (EOC) that will be located across from the Pohnpei Administrative Building at Peilapalap, Kolonia.

Kevin Petrini, Deputy Resident Representative and Country Manager for the UNDP Pacific Office in the Federated States of Micronesia, in his remarks during the groundbreaking ceremony, expressed his appreciation to the Government of Japan for its generous support and contribution. He also expressed his appreciation to the Governor of Pohnpei State for deciding to cost-share the construction of the EOC, which helped greatly to move this project forward. Mr. Petrini also thanked the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Mr. Patrick Carl, for his leadership to implement this activity from the design phase till now.

His Excellency, Michigami Hisashi, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), gave a brief overview of projects in the FSM that the Government of Japan has funded through the UNDP’s Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in the FSM through improved Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure project, and expressed his hope that construction of the EOC will be smoothly completed to provide a sense of security for Pohnpei.

On behalf of the Governor of Pohnpei State, Director Patrick Carl pointed out that this is the first Emergency Operation Center to be built in Pohnpei. He thanked the Government of Japan for the funding of the EOC and UNDP

for the important coordination to start this activity along with the Pohnpei State Legislature and Office of Insular Affairs for cost-sharing. He also thanked the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM) for helping with Pohnpei’s request for this activity. He concluded by saying that with this building, Pohnpei’s emergency response will be effectively coordinated from one location.

Jaap Van Hierden, UN Resident Coordinator, expressed his pleasure to see the coordination between the various agencies and departments to support this project. Mr. Max R. Iriarte, General Manager for contractor Black Sand Construction Corporation, gave the final remarks and thanked all the organizations and agencies involved for providing jobs for Pohnpei.



## JICA Resident Representative discusses JICA projects in Pohnpei

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

*September 17, 2022*

**Pohnpei**--Governor Oliver welcomed Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Resident Representative, Mr. Keiichi Muraoka, and members of his staff, Toshikazu Nonaka, Project Formulation Adviser, Marie Utsumi, Volunteer Coordinator, and Trish Billen, Program Officer to Peilapalap on Friday, September 17, 2022, for a courtesy visit.

During the visit, Mr. Muraoka provided an overview to Governor Oliver of JICA projects including the Pohnpei Port expansion project and the J-PRISM project for the promotion of regional

initiatives on solid waste management. Mr. Muraoka also shared training opportunities available in areas like medical equipment management and maintenance, education in remote areas, and human resources development for creating tourism destinations among others.

Governor Oliver expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Muraoka and his staff and to the Government of Japan for their ongoing support of Pohnpei's development. Noting that JICA's initiatives were placed on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he was looking to move forward and continue with all the grants, training,



and technical cooperation support from JICA for Pohnpei's development.

Joining Governor Oliver during the courtesy visit was Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Peteriko Hairens.

## New Zealand Second Secretary Matt Broome pays courtesy call on Pohnpei Governor Reed Oliver

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

*September 23, 2022*

**Pohnpei**--Governor Oliver welcomed Mr. Matthew Broome, Second Secretary, New Zealand Consulate General, Honolulu, HI to Peilapalap on Friday, September 23, 2022.

During the introductory visit, Governor Oliver and Mr. Broome discussed various subjects of mutual interest and concern including Pohnpei's political, social, and economic development

and education. Governor Oliver thanked Mr. Broome for his visit and looked forward to continued cooperation with New Zealand through the FSM National Government.

Governor Oliver was joined by Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Peteriko Hairens, and newly hired Protocol Officer, Mr. Emerson Eperiam. Mr. Broome was accompanied by Deputy Assistant Secretary Kenmore Salvador, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs.

The New Zealand Consulate General Office in Honolulu, HI is accredited to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and Republic of the Marshall Islands.



## Interior's Office of Insular Affairs applauds 33rd APIPA Conference for strengthening public accountability in island areas

*U.S. Department of the Interior*

*September 23, 2022*

**Washington D.C.**-- WASHINGTON--The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs applauds the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors (APIPA) on completing its 33rd annual conference, held virtually from August 29 to September 2, 2022. More than 500 government financial accountability officials attended from all the Insular Areas and beyond.

Assistant Secretary Cantor shared welcome remarks by video encouraging the continued strengthening of accountability in the islands despite the challenges of distance and the recent pandemic. She also assured the participants of continued support of the Biden-Harris administration to address climate change, which

continues to impact all of us at alarming rates, especially in the Insular Areas.

The APIPA 2022 conference provided training for auditing and financial accountability officials with participants having the opportunity to receive up to 20 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) credits, required by government auditing standards for auditors to maintain their professional competency. Thirteen (13) two-hour and four-hour courses were delivered during the conference in Plenary, Audit, and Finance tracks. The 2022 APIPA Conference, like prior years, showed excellent attendance. More than 507 participants joined the conference, expanding their skills in government auditing and financial standards, audit report writing, grants management, leadership, risk, and internal controls. In

total, over 2,785 course certificates were awarded for 7,028 credit hours.

The APIPA virtual conference, was hosted this year by the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Office of the National Public Auditor and opened with remarks from FSM President David Panuelo encouraging participants to enhance accountability in their respective jurisdictions. APIPA Chair FSM National Public Auditor Haser Hainrick welcomed the attendees emphasizing the importance of maintaining core competencies in accountability to better serve the government and the public. Also participating in the meeting was the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Mark Lee Greenblatt; Special Agent Karden Kelly of the Office of Inspector General; and the Hawaii State

Auditor, Les Kondo.

The Insular Area government officials participating in this year's virtual conference came from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau; and were joined by government officials from Hawai'i, Fiji, and the Independent State of Samoa. Further, Representatives from the FSM came from the national government and each of its four states -- Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap.

Conference training was funded through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and delivered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific and Virgin Islands Training Initiatives.

## -Opinion Editorial-

# New Development in China, New Opportunities for the World

In a few days, on October 1st, the People's Republic of China will celebrate its 73rd anniversary. Over the past 73 years, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China has undergone an earth-shaking change, ushering in an era for the Chinese people to stand up and become richer and stronger. China has realized the First Centenary Goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. This means that it has put an end to absolute poverty, and is now marching in confident strides towards the Second Centenary Goal of building a modern socialist country in all respects.

Over more than 5,000 years of history, the great and ancient Chinese nation made indelible contributions to the progress of human civilization. But after the Opium War of 1840, Western powers came to act with impunity on Chinese lands, and feudal rulers were rendered weak and ineffectual. China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society. With our country humiliated, our people subjected to great pain, and our civilization plunged into darkness, the Chinese people and nation suffered greater ravages than ever before. Since that time, countless noble-minded patriots who kept fighting and exploring new ways to save the nation, have been through all kinds of trials and tribulations but remains indomitable. It was not until the CPC came into being that it changed the direction of the development of the Chinese nation. The CPC united and led the Chinese people in fighting bloody battles with unyielding determination to secure our nation's independence and liberate our people, opening a new page in history for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, especially over the past four decades of reform and opening up, China has made a historic transformation from a highly centralized planned economy to a socialist market economy brimming with vitality, from a country that was largely isolated to one that is open to the outside world across the board, and from a country with relatively backward productive forces to the world's second largest economy, largest manufacturer and biggest trader of goods. It took a few decades for China to complete the industrialization process that took Western developed countries hundreds of years, and China created the "two miracles" rarely seen

elsewhere in the world, namely rapid economic development and long-term social stability.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, in the face of a complex and challenging development environment both at home and abroad, and under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, China has effectively coordinated the Covid-19 response with economic and social development. Thus, to the greatest extent possible, we have both safeguarded the life and health of the people and ensured overall economic and social development.

In 2021, China's economic growth rate ranked among the top in major economies worldwide, with the GDP growing by 8.1% year-on-year. Its GDP reached US\$17.7 trillion, ranked second globally and was estimated to account for more than 18% of the global economy. The per capita GDP was US\$12,551. At the end of 2021, China's foreign exchange reserves stood at more than US\$3.2 trillion, the largest in the world. Total goods imports and exports exceeded US\$6 trillion for the first time. China has now become the largest trading partner of more than 120 countries.

China's development achievements do not fall into our lap automatically. Rather, it is derived from the great practice of the People's Republic of China since its founding 73 years ago, and it is the great achievement of the CPC and the Chinese people made through countless hardships.

China's development and rejuvenation is underpinned by clear historical logic and strong internal driving force. The modernization drive of more than 1.4 billion people is tremendous progress of the humanity, not a threat or challenge to the world. What we rely on is the strong leadership of the CPC, the unity, hard work and perseverance of the Chinese people, and the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Our goal is open and above board: to deliver a better life for the people and make greater contributions to the world, not to replace or challenge anyone else. We are now advancing reform and opening-up and pursuing win-win cooperation at a higher level. Such efforts will lead to a better tomorrow for China, and make the world a better place.

On October 16th, the CPC will convene its 20th National Congress. It will be an important meeting to be held at a crucial moment as China embarks on a new journey toward its Second Centenary Goal of building a modern socialist country in all respects. At this national congress, the CPC will formulate action plans and major policies to develop the cause of the CPC and the country in the next five years and beyond. This will not only be of great significance to the development of the CPC and China, but also have a profound impact on the world. It will also bring new opportunities and inject new impetus into the growth of China-FSM relations.

33 years ago, the leaders of the FSM who conformed to the trend of the times and firmly abode by the one-China principle, made the correct decision to establish diplomatic ties with China, opening a new chapter for China-FSM relations. Over the past 33 years, the FSM has firmly adhered to the one-China principle and continuously strengthened the political foundation of China-FSM relations. The political mutual trust between China and the FSM has been deepened, and practical cooperation across the board has yielded fruitful results, bringing tangible benefits to the two countries and two peoples.

China and the FSM have been standing in solidarity, offering mutual assistance and working together to fend off the virus since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bilateral trade volume between China and the FSM increased by more than 30 percent last year, fully demonstrating the potential for cooperation. China and the FSM have also maintained close cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, enriching our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Our world today is undergoing accelerating changes unseen in a century, which has posed more challenges to China, the FSM and other developing countries. In this context, we need to foster a sense of community of shared future, live up to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and abide by basic norms governing international relations such as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs. The Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative proposed by Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping have contributed China's wisdom to the efforts of mankind in tackling peace and development deficit and achieving common security and prosperity, which have all been widely welcomed and

supported across the international community.

When developing friendly relations with Pacific Island Countries including the FSM, China stays committed to equality of all countries regardless of size, uphold justice while pursuing shared interests, and follows the principle of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith. The facts over nearly half a century have proved that the exchanges between China and Pacific Island Countries did not and will not affect regional security and stability. What we focus on is economic development, and what we care about is improving people's well-being. What we are doing in Pacific Island Countries is building roads and bridges rather than increasing military presence.

China and the FSM, both developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, are good friends and good partners of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and common development. Moving forward, we believe that the FSM will firmly abide by the one-China principle. China will continue to pursue "four-pronged adherence" to develop relations with the FSM, namely adhere to treating each other as equals, adhere to mutual respect, adhere to win-win cooperation and adhere to openness and inclusiveness. China stands ready to continue working with the FSM to deepen friendship and mutual trust, expand practical cooperation in various fields and promote greater development of China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

China will continue to follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy in particular, actively participate in international affairs, act with a sense of responsibilities as a major country, advance the building of a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation, and work tirelessly for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

"By setting sail together, we could ride the wind, break the waves, and brave the journey of ten thousand miles." Let us keep the steering wheel steady and paddle in the right direction so that the ship of the "Great Friendship" between China and the FSM will ride wind, break waves and sail to a brighter future.

**Huang Zheng**  
*Ambassador of the People's Republic of China*

# Jeem S. Lippwe officially sworn-in to serve as Permanent Representative of the FSM's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York

## FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On September 23rd, 2022, on the margins of the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), conducted the oath of office ceremony to formally swear-in His Excellency Jeem S. Lippwe to serve as the Permanent Representative of the FSM's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

"Do you, Jeem S. Lippwe, solemnly swear that you will faithfully execute the duties and responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed, and will, to the best of your ability, uphold, promote, and support the laws and Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, so help you God?" said President Panuelo.

"I do," said Ambassador Lippwe.

"I am truly honored to be given this big challenge," Ambassador Lippwe said. "But with your support we can do our best for our country, for the administration, and for our People. I am truly blessed that I've been given this awesome task to represent our Government here at the United Nations. It's a very big responsibility and I owe a lot to the members of the Mission for their support. Without them, I wouldn't be able to carry on this duty. And with the support of the President, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and every part of the Government, we can do more than we are capable of alone. Without each other, we cannot do the work; so, I ask for cooperation of everyone here and back home, so we can do our very best to represent our country."

"Ambassador," President Panuelo said, "I have confidence in you. This is part of our Nation-building process and it's been a long-time coming. I wish you the best in this new chapter of your career in foreign service as our new Permanent Representative to the United Nations, so I wish you the best when you meet the Secretary-General to convey your credentials that you are our country's representative. This is a big deal in our Nation-building process. I

thank Congress and Speaker Simina for breaking the record of confirming your nomination one day after I submitted it. I thank you and Madam Ambassador for your support to our country."



# President Panuelo solicits U.S. Peace Corps to return to the FSM

## FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On September 25th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—sent a letter to Carol Spahn, Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Peace Corps, wherein he formally expressed the Nation's interest for the return of Peace Corps Volunteers.

"In so many ways, the Peace Corps' contributions were the greatest testaments to the good and enduring partnership between our two countries. From assisting in the procurement of grants ranging from funding Upward Bound programs to water catchment tanks in remote islands, and from developing health curricula to building sustainable school gardens, and from teaching English and Science in our classrooms while building capacity with local counterparts to partnering with principals on how to improve our school accreditation processes, Peace Corps Volunteers—who learn our languages

and cultures, who live amongst us and with us as family—remain, by an order of magnitude, the best bridge at uniting peoples and promoting peace," President Panuelo wrote in his letter.

"It is not enough, in my view," the President continued, "for the FSM-US Enduring Partnership to be strictly viewed under the lens of our Compact of Free Association and regional peace and security; while the Compact is important, and regional security is important, what is ultimately just as important—and risks being forgotten—is the everyday well-being of our citizens. With the reinstatement of the Peace Corps in the FSM, our two governments and peoples can work closely together to strengthen our FSM-US Enduring Partnership to newer and greater heights."

One of the intended discussions at the forthcoming U.S.-Pacific Summit is on People-Centered Development. It is the hope and intention of the FSM Government to ensure that the U.S. Peace Corps hears loudly and clearly that the return of their program to the FSM, and to many other Pacific countries, is essential towards strengthening U.S.-Pacific relations.

# Governor Oliver expresses support for October 1 Senior Citizens Day

## Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

September 21, 2022

**Pohnpei**—On Wednesday, September 21, 2022, Governor Oliver met with the Chief of Pohnpei State Social Services, Noriekka Lekka, Senior Citizens Coordinator Santos Abraham, and FSM Assistant Secretary of Social Affairs, Mr. Stuard Penias. The meeting was to inform Governor Oliver of the upcoming International Senior Citizens Day, October 1, 2022, and proposed activities for the event. Governor Oliver conveyed his support for this important event, and thanked Chief Lekka, Asst. Secretary Penias and Mr. Abraham for their visit and their collaboration with Pohnpei's Senior citizens.



# UNICEF held its Multi-Country Program Document (MCPD) 2023-2027 Consultation Meeting together with partners from the National Government and NGOs

UNICEF

**Kolonia, Pohnpei** – On September 9, 2022, at Fusion Restaurant Conference Room, the UNICEF North Pacific Office based in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) held a consultation meeting for its Multi-Country Program Document (MCPD) 2023-2027. The goal of the consultation meeting is to familiarize the government and development partners with the overall vision and strategic direction of the UNICEF MCPD 2023-2027 in terms of key priorities and proposed outcome and outputs. Partners from the National Government, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and children from Pohnpei Catholic School participated in the consultation meeting to ensure that the MCPD is inclusive and participatory.

Participants from the Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA), National Department of Education (NDOE), Department of Resource and Development (R&D), Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), UNICEF, Micronesia Productions, Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS), College of Micronesia (COM), and Pohnpei Women Council (PWC) attended the MCPD consultation meeting.

In his special remarks, Acting Secretary Arthur Albert from the FSM National Department of Education noted, “I have to admit that standing up here and thinking about the opening remarks from the UNICEF Chief of Office, reminding us about the work that has been done and is going on and will continue to the future, truly brings hope that we are doing a lot of what some, if not most of our leaders have been talking about our values and assets—our children. This is what UNICEF has been doing through the support of all other important partners and agencies. I truly appreciate that all other departments are coming together at this opportunity to continue to work on social welfare on any other important issues that we may need to improve for the future of our nation because our children drive that future.”

“Development work is more about partnership and collaboration. It’s not about the work of one person. Oftentimes, the solution comes from partnership, not from one organization. As what Acting Secretary Arthur Albert said, ‘Do whatever you can with whatever resources, God-given skills and talents you have. Just help.’ This somewhat resonates with UNICEF’s Multi-Country Program Document because there are challenges we are facing, but we can only overcome that if we work together,” remarked UNICEF North Pacific Chief of Office Cromwell Bacareza.

Pius Attandoh, UNICEF Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) Specialist, presented the cross-sectoral approach of SBC and Early Childhood Development (ECD) while the other specialists (Immunization Specialist Zahra Seid; Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Specialist Jeffrey Ing; Education Specialist Dechen Zam; and Child Protection Technical Specialist Jessica Garlock) talked about the following programme outcomes: Health and Nutrition, WASH, Education, Child Protection, and Social Policy, respectively. Afterwards, SBC Officer Marson Rosario gave a summary of UNICEF’s response to COVID-19 in the FSM

At the end of the MCPD consultation meeting, school children from Pohnpei Catholic School presented a song and shared their hopes and dreams for the future, “We are young. We have dreams, and we have hopes. To achieve these, we need quality education. We need clean and safe water. We need a healthy environment.” Kaponi Sigrah, a 13-year-old eight-grade-student from PCS mentioned, “I would like to be an environmental scientist and the reason lies here in the island itself—pollution. Pollution is a huge problem in the FSM, so I want to use my knowledge of natural science to prevent, control, and fix environmental problems such as land or water pollution. Living in a safe or unstable environment, could affect the health and well-being of the children in our island. Additionally, Gloria Danis, a 10-year-old fifth grade student shared, “When I grow up, I also want to work at UNICEF so that I can help children.” Pohnpei Women Council President



Emeliana J. Musrasrik-Carl addressed the students and commented on their presentation, “Your voices are heard. We hear you and I know you represent the many children. We are merely guardians. We are only here to try to save the planet for you for your future so that you can reach the dreams that you have. I can proudly speak on behalf of all the parents that we continue to pledge that we will do whatever we can, to the best of our knowledge, to the best of our abilities, to continue to bring up programs and support all of this to make this a better place for you for your future and to meet the dream.”

“We are the stewards of these resources to ensure that we build a better environment for our children, and it is now that we need to be implementing all these good plans. We need to work together and translate all these good plans into actions so that our communities can benefit, especially the children,” stated X-ner Luther, Chief

of the Non-communicable Disease Program, Department of Health and Social Affairs.

For the closing remarks, Dionis Saimon, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Division of Health at the Department of Health and Social Affairs thanked UNICEF for its timely contributions in all programme areas such as health and education. He looks forward to continuing to work together while embarking on a stronger partnership with UNICEF and supporting its plans for the next five years.

In line with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027 (UNSDCF), UNICEF will continue in the next five years to ensure that no child is left behind and that every child in the Pacific survives, thrives, learns, is protected, and develops to her or his full potential, free from poverty in a safe environment and sustainable climate.

## Pacific leaders address key regional issues at the 12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders



*Sept. 16, 2022*

**HONOLULU** – The 12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL), titled Pu‘uhonua: The Pacific Way Forward, featured a robust three-day schedule of dialogues, plenary sessions, meetings, and side events. View photos from the Sept. 12-14 summit on Flickr.

Convened by the PICL’s Secretariat, the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) at the East-West Center, the conference program reflected the key regional priorities identified by Pacific leaders at their last summit, which was held virtually last year.

Heads of government and ministers representing 16 Pacific countries and territories engaged in a series of closed meetings to deliberate on a range of issues including ongoing nuclear legacies, Japan’s current plans to dispose of nuclear-contaminated Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water into the Pacific Ocean, increased commitments to advancing the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and an endorsement for PIDP to assume leadership responsibilities for the Pacific Women Leaders Coalition.

David W. Panuelo, Chair of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders and President of the Federated States of Micronesia, with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman at the 12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders

A series of sessions over the course of the conference created space for Pacific leaders to dialogue with non-PICL member countries including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Non-member countries were given the opportunity to comment on the current state of their respective country’s engagements in the region, followed by frank and open questions and comments from island leaders. PICL leaders focused on the need for international partners to demonstrate greater commitments and action in their engagement with Pacific Islands nations and territories while respecting “the Pacific way.” In addition to closed dialogue sessions with international partners, Pacific

leaders also dialogued with leading experts in sessions focused on industry diversification and contemporary geopolitics in the context of China in the Pacific.

With an emphasis on climate change, industry diversification, and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery, the conference welcomed several side events offered by public sector, non-profit, academic, and other professional organizations featuring the latest innovations, research, and work to advance regional priorities. As a member of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP), PIDP convened the CROP Women of the Wave Network as part of the PICL activities. The network brings together women working across the nine CROP agencies to share perspectives and strategize pathways toward empowering women and girls to assume leadership roles within CROP and other professional spaces.

In addition, two public plenaries drew both live local audiences as well as virtual participation from audiences in the Pacific region, the US, and elsewhere. Plenary sessions included “Scaling Up Climate Finance for the Blue Pacific Continent” and “Pacific Diasporas.” Together, the panels addressed the most pressing concerns collectively held across the Pacific Islands, as well as insights related to the growing Pacific Islander communities making homes away from their islands in the US, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries.

The PICL program was designed with an energized commitment to Pacific regionalism that has begun more prominently echoing throughout regional organizations. Speaking to the importance of Pacific leaders coming together through the PICL, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia and PICL Chair, noted, “Yes, we have our own national interests, and possibly differing views and perspectives on important issues, but we have mutually agreed regional interests, and Pacific Regionalism can only happen in a safe space for us to dialogue.”

## Joint Region Marianas Commander Reaffirms Guam’s vital role in the defense of the Indo-Pacific Region

**COMMANDER, JOINT REGION MARIANAS**

*Sept. 21, 2022*

**TUMON, Guam** – Commander Joint Region Marianas Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson addressed the Joint Annual District Court of Guam and Biennial Pacific Judicial Council Conference, Sept. 20, and reaffirmed Guam’s vital role in regional defense and stability. “As the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command senior military official for this region, I am tasked with ensuring the defense of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau,” said Nicholson during his remarks. “This part of my job can get a little complicated because we are not just looking at protecting Americans, or even just our country. Rather, we work hand in hand with our partners and allies for the defense of the entire region,” he said. During his remarks, Nicholson said, “the Department of Defense (DoD) has identified the People’s Republic of China (PRC) as the most consequential strategic competitor to the United States and our allies and partners throughout the world.”

He said the growing threat of the PRC to regional and global stability is seen in many forms not just through military capabilities, which are quickly expanding, but through political and economic influence. After citing a few examples, Nicholson emphasized that America’s interests in the region are for peace and stability, and this works best when allies work together toward

mutual goals and objectives.

“As a military force, we are charged to defend against those who would threaten that stability,” said Nicholson. “We also regularly partner with multiple countries in the Pacific, not only sharing our skills and capabilities, but building those relationships so we can work together to effectively protect our mutual interests,” he said. “Our presence here, and the relationships we are actively building upon is the key to the stability of the entire Indo-Pacific.” The military presence on Guam has grown from the post-Cold War drawdown low-point in the early 2000s. However, the current increase in military members on the island is projected to be only a fraction of the number of service members here during the height of the Cold War.

“But it’s not all about Guam. We are also taking steps to shore up existing infrastructure in other islands; investing in places, rather than building up more bases. This allows agility and the ability to move forces when and where they are needed,” said Nicholson. “Many of the steps we’ve taken to get to this point would not have been possible without the assistance of our legal and judicial professionals, such as you.” Admiral Nicholson extended his appreciation to the legal community for their steadfast commitment to the rule of law, and he appealed to the group to remain extra vigilant in ensuring national and international norms and laws are followed in the defense of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

# President Panuelo's remarks at the 77th United Nations General Assembly

## FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On September 22nd, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—provided the Nation's remarks at the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

The President's remarks may be seen below.

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Warmest Greetings from the Paradise in Our Backyards, the Federated States of Micronesia!

It is my honor to address the UN General Assembly, and in doing so, I bring a warm Kaselehlie on behalf of my delegation, the leadership, and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia, to all of you in attendance today at this 77th Session of the UN General Assembly, and those tuning in virtually from across the globe.

I express my country's gratitude as we join other Members of this august body in extending our heartiest congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your election to the Presidency of the 77th General Assembly. We wish also to thank your distinguished predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, for his excellent leadership during the 76th UNGA. I would also like to pay our respects to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who continues to demonstrate dedication and integrity in his role for our United Nations.

Mr. President,

I will begin by reiterating that the Federated States of Micronesia's foreign policy is to be a friend to all and an enemy to none; that we extend to all peoples and nations that which we seek: peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity.

As leaders of the world, it is our duty and obligation to take bold decisions

that serve our citizens and reflect our values. Every person in this room and beyond is impacted, in one form or another, by the brutal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine. The unprovoked attack against the People of Ukraine by another member of the United Nations is illegal, blatantly disregards international laws and norms, and undermines the UN Charter whose purposes and principles are to maintain international peace and security.

I join Secretary Blinken and the United States and members of the UN Security Council in imploring Russia to stop the threat of nuclear war. To the People and Government of Ukraine: the People and Government of Micronesia support you in your quest to defend your families and your homes. Micronesia strongly encourages all other Peoples and Governments, most particularly those with greater influence and means, to firmly stand with the People and Government of Ukraine, and show that the People of the 21st Century cannot, and will not, tolerate aggressive and violent behavior. An infringement on the rights of one is an infringement on the rights of us all, and we do well to stand with our neighbors lest we one day find ourselves standing alone.

Mr. President,

While traditional security concerns have taken much of our World's attention in recent memory, for Micronesia, as a Pacific Island Country, it must continue to be emphasized that the most enduring security threat to the Pacific, and to the World, is in the form of anthropogenic Climate Change.

The Federated States of Micronesia presents its most urgent appeal to the global community, especially the developed countries, to commit to the intent of the Paris Agreement by providing adequate, accessible, and concessional finance for climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as for loss and damage. On loss and damage specifically, Micronesia calls for the adoption of an agenda item for COP 27 on a Loss and Damage Response Fund,



President Panuelo delivers his remarks at the 77th UNGA

the establishment of that Fund in COP 27, and the full operationalization of the Fund to be completed in COP 28. The Federated States of Micronesia cannot overemphasize the extreme urgency of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees through rapid, deep, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. However, to the extent that mitigation, as well as adaptation, are not sufficient to avert or minimize loss and damage, finance must be provided with all due haste to help vulnerable communities, like those of my country, to recover from Climate Change and related loss and damage.

Current efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions remain wholly inadequate. The world is moving past 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming in our wake and rapidly speeding towards – and soon to pass –

1.5 degrees. Despite warnings of dangerous feedbacks and tipping points, many actors still continue to engage in the worst emitting activities. They ignore the solutions that could address climate while supporting development goals in favor of business-as-usual. Fortunately, the tide is changing on CO2 emissions, but still too slowly. Moreover, research shows that efforts to reduce CO2 alone will not cool the planet in the near-term. Only mitigation of methane – which is a super pollutant, and the

second most potent greenhouse gas – and the other short-lived climate pollutants, can prevent the world from exceeding the 2-degree upper limit over the next two decades. We need a new, robust methane agreement currently not addressed sufficiently in the present legal framework. Doing so

is key to ensuring countries can put their adaptation plans in place while additional CO2 mitigation gets underway. Micronesia urges all countries to commit to the Kigali Amendment and the Global Methane Pledge to see a 30% reduction of methane emissions from 2020 levels by 2030. In this connection, I congratulate the United States for the ratification of the Kigali Amendment by the US Senate yesterday. This is indeed a monumental

step towards curbing climate super-pollutants and I urge other countries to take this step forward to collectively secure a livable planet for all of us, and for future generations. I look forward to working closely with the United States and others in fully implementing the Kigali Amendment.

Mr. President,

This is my fourth address at this august body, and in my previous three addresses I have urged the United States of America and the People's Republic of China to consider Climate Change a non-political and non-competitive issue for cooperation, as solving the Climate Change crisis ultimately requires both of these superpowers to work together.

For the briefest period of time, it seemed as if the Americans, with whom Micronesia shares an Enduring Partnership, and the Chinese, with whom Micronesia shares a Great Friendship, were starting to work together on this issue, despite increases in tension in other areas. Now, they are no longer speaking to each other on this important issue.

Micronesia cannot understand why our partners and friends cannot get along on this issue of total international importance, but one way to get attention and action is to explicitly call out your closest friends and allies by name instead of talking around the substance.

So, President Xi and President Biden—both of you are friends of

[Click here for continuation](#)

## ...Panuelo's Remarks

*Continued from page 21*

Micronesia. I respect both of you and your peoples and your countries. As the two superpowers in this world, you both set the tone and cadence for global conversations. It is my wish that you can respect each other so that you can see with your eyes wide open that it is Micronesia's strongest desire, and the desire of the rest of the Pacific Island Countries, that you resume cooperation on tackling Climate Change. Micronesia says this to each of you bilaterally and here multilaterally, in the quietest conversations in the Presidents' Office and in the loudest conversations streamed across the World, because it is our most important issue. Your capacity to cooperate on Climate Change is necessary towards ensuring our World is habitable for future generations, and does not suffer from civilizational collapse.

Mr. President,

Ours is undoubtedly an inter-dependent world where we share common goals for sustainability; I am of the view that, through cooperation, we have a better chance of building healthy societies that we can proudly pass on to our children, and a World that values the rights of every individual and every society.

Mr. President,

I want to personally thank the leadership of this organization and its Members for the support extended to my country in establishing the Multi-Country Office (MCO) for the North Pacific. I am proud to announce that the establishment of the MCO has added value to our response to COVID- 19, and accessing available funding sources and technical support through the United Nations System. Small Island Developing States such as Micronesia are in dire need of support from our partners to support our country-driven development strategy.

Distance continues to be a challenge in providing service delivery and, with the efforts provided by the UN MCO, I wish to acknowledge and commend the UN Agencies for their diligent work in making sure that they reach every island in my country and in the Micronesian sub-region, including the vulnerable outlying islands.

Mr. President,

While acknowledging our interest in strengthening our tourism sector and developing value-added agricultural products, investment in the Blue Economy is our main aim, whereby our government works closely with the private sector for the benefit of all. Sustainable fisheries management and protection of the environment are therefore essential in our endeavor to sustain marine life for our future generations.

In 2022, we have focused a substantial amount of work on the Ocean, with mixed results. While the outcome of the Our Ocean Conference in Palau and the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon both concluded successfully, critical works remain to be accomplished when it comes to fully protecting the Ocean resources considered as common heritage of mankind.

In March of this year, we, as an international community, were unable to finalize an internationally legally binding instrument to conserve and sustainably use marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (or BBNJ); and, just last month, we had to pause the 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Conference because we ran out of our allotted time. It is imperative that we finalize this work as soon as possible, so that we can protect Ocean resources effectively. Micronesia looks forward to the resumption, and conclusion, of the BBNJ negotiations very soon.

This past summer, Micronesia announced that we were joining the Alliance of Countries for a Deep-Sea Mining Moratorium, alongside a number of fellow Pacific SIDS. It is the view of Micronesia that

deep seabed mining in the international seabed Area should not occur until the Precautionary Principle, Ecosystem Approach, and the Polluter Pays Principle have been implemented. In the international seabed Area, no such implementation can take place in the absence of the finalization of a robust, responsible, and comprehensive set of exploitation regulations by the International Seabed Authority. To do otherwise will be a dereliction of our duty to protect and preserve the marine environment and respect the common heritage of mankind.

Turning to maritime areas within our national jurisdiction, the vast

expanse of Micronesia's maritime zones represents both an opportunity and, at the same time, an enormous challenge. We have some of the largest fishing grounds in the Pacific, covering an area of 1.1 million square miles, and one of the most productive tuna fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific.

Our maritime zones are exposed to the threats of transnational crimes and illegal activities, such as IUU fishing. We need our partners to support us in capacity-building efforts towards law enforcement in the areas of maritime surveillance, money laundering and terrorist financing, drug trafficking, and other transnational crimes.

We are thankful to Australia for donating two Guardian-Class patrol boats, and are also grateful to Japan for complementing these assets with four smaller patrol boats for nearby coastal waters. We recognize the U.S. Coast Guard as an enduring partner in protecting our expansive ocean territory.

But, given our vast EEZ and extended continental shelves reaching beyond 200 nautical miles, we invite additional countries to assist us in acquiring more assets with much more advanced maritime surveillance capabilities such as drones and submersibles. Our law enforcement, border management, and maritime surveillance teams would benefit from more partnership in capacity-building and support to continually enhance their law enforcement skills.

Mr. President,

Speaking further about the common heritage of mankind, today Micronesia wishes to express our gravest concern about Japan's decision to discharge, starting next year, nuclear-contaminated water, otherwise known as Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) water into the Pacific ocean. We cannot close our eyes to the unimaginable threats of nuclear contamination, marine pollution, and eventual destruction of the Blue Pacific Continent. The impacts of this decision are both transboundary and intergenerational in nature. As Micronesia's Head of State, I cannot allow for the destruction of our Ocean resources that support the livelihood of our people.

Mr. President,

The Leaders of the Pacific Islands

Forum face the future with a lot of optimism. As Leaders, we adopted key structural reforms for the Forum that strengthen our Region through the Suva Agreement. The reforms include selection and sub-regional rotation of the Secretary General position,

hosting of a sub-regional office of the Forum in Micronesia, hosting of the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner in Micronesia, and the filling of the head of this office in Micronesia. We are implementing these reforms in good faith to strengthen unity among the Pacific nations as one family.

We also adopted the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which we have just launched this afternoon here in New York. This Strategy represents an important bridge into the future—a unique opportunity for our region to develop long-term approaches to address our common challenges. The solidarity of our region will strengthen our collective sense of Pacific regionalism and security of the Blue Pacific Continent; and, on this premise, we ask our partners to assist us—not divide us in any way.

The key message, Mr. President, for the United Nations as an organization, and all countries in the world that engage with the Pacific, is that Micronesia and the rest of the Pacific Islands Forum solicit all countries who engage with the Pacific to support and respect the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. This strategy is our Pacific Region's roadmap for sustainable development and growth for future generations, and we can only succeed if we work together with the support of our international partners.

Mr. President,

I wish to conclude by explicitly calling on all Peoples and Nations who hear me today to know that the People and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia extend to you peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity. We need you, all of you, to stand with us, as nations united—my fellow world leaders, we must take action and make bold decisions today. Our actions today is our global prosperity tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. President, and God Bless our United Nations.

## Underutilized superfoods in Pohnpei

By Konrad Englberger

There are superfoods specifically Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*) and Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) growing in abundance in Pohnpei. Not many people in FSM make use of these superfood plants which have great health benefits. Both of these plants have great nutritional values, have powerful anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. They may improve heart health and prevent diseases like Alzheimer, cancer and many others.

Moringa also known as Drumstick tree, is native in India and is widespread in Pohnpei. It is a fast growing tree. Most of the people from the Filipino community and other Asian countries include them in their diet. The most common way to use Moringa is the use of the young leaves to be eaten in a soup. There are many other ways to consume Moringa, the fresh green leaves can be mixed into smoothies or eaten fresh in a slate. Moringa leaves can also be dried and made into powder. I use one teaspoon of Moringa powder with my oatmeal for my breakfast.

As already mentioned, Moringa has many health benefits and some latest research suggested Moringa may help



Turmeric also by known as curcumin is the



fight diabetes by balancing blood sugar. Other health benefits include prevention and treatment of cancer, improve heart health, lower blood pressure, and lower cholesterol, prevent liver disease, and help control Asthma and many others. It may also be used to increase milk production in lactating mothers.

Moringa has more Vitamin C than 4 oranges; it contains about two times more Iron than spinach and has 3 times more potassium than banana.

People in FSM should make use of this medicinal plant which can be grown in front of your doorsteps. You only need to plant a tree brunch or cutting and after only 4 to 6 months you can start to harvest the leaves.

Moringa can also be purchased over the internet and it is available as pills or powder. It is quite expensive as one pound costs about \$ 25 or \$ 53 for one kg. This could be a potential export product for FSM.

active ingredient in this spice. Turmeric is a natural herb that is commonly used as a spice in food. The plant belongs to the ginger family (*Zingiberaceae*) and originates from India.

Scientists believe that chronic low-level inflammation can play a role in some health conditions and diseases. These include: heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer disease and may elevate blood cholesterol and blood pressure in humans. Many high-quality studies showed that Turmeric has major benefits for your body and brain. Many of these benefits come from its main active ingredient curcumin. It has a powerful anti-inflammatory effect and is a very strong antioxidant.

In FSM, this plant is also underutilized as not many people make use of this plant. It is can be grown from plantlets or tubers and it takes about 4 to 6 months to harvest. It likes wet soil and shade. In Pohnpei, Turmeric is often seen growing as a weed. Turmeric can also



be purchased over the internet and it is available as pills or powder. One pound costs about \$ 15 or \$ 35 for per kg. In Fiji, wild Turmeric is a major export with a value of over 5 million Fiji Dollar per year.

Avocado is another super food because it contains a lot of nutrients and antioxidants, such as folic acid, Omega 3, magnesium, Potassium, lutein and fiber. Avocado is rich in A,B,C,D,E,K vitamins. Avocado grows well under the wet tropical condition we have in Micronesia. Avocados are native to the western Hemisphere from Mexico south to the Andean regions.

Avocado may aid in digestion, decrease the risk of depression, and protect against cancer. Avocado may also reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

Avocados are easy to grow, they can be grown by seed or by air layer. After 2 to 3 years, the first harvest can be expected. The price for avocados at the local market is \$ 2.50 per pound.



## Relations between the FSM & the Republic of Cuba strengthened & renewed; Secretary Elieisar & Foreign Minister Parilla agree to enhance FSM-Cuba bilateral relations

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On September 22nd, 2022, the Honorable Kandhi A. Elieisar—Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—was received by the Honorable Bruno Eduardo Rodriguez Parilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, in a reception between Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and Cuba.

During their meeting, Secretary Elieisar emphasized the FSM's desire to strengthen and renew its relations with the People and Government of Cuba, as formal interactions between the FSM and Cuba declined during the COVID-19 Pandemic and its associated lockdowns. In this regard, Secretary Elieisar emphasized the FSM's

interest in increasing the number of students attending Cuban educational institutions; the FSM's interest in partnering with Cuba in tackling plastics pollution and other common environmental goals; the FSM's interest in strengthening partnership with Cuba specifically, and other Caribbean islands more generally, in advancing the narrative for larger countries to cooperate on tackling Climate Change; and the FSM's agreement that the U.S. Embargo on Cuba ought to be eased for the benefit of the People of Cuba. With regard to the latter, the Secretary also described the FSM's perspective that it would ultimately serve the collective interest of humanity for the U.S. and Cuba to enjoy partnership and friendship, such as the partnership and friendship the FSM enjoys with the U.S. and its People.

"The FSM has a significant need for more medical doctors, and for current medical professionals to receive more training," His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, said in a statement following the meeting. "We look forward to strengthening our partnership with Cuba on a variety of bilateral and multilateral affairs, including medical training opportunities for our citizens. Meanwhile, I will encourage the United States of America to consider lifting the Embargo it has on Cuba, as lifting this Embargo will benefit the People of Cuba presently undergoing financial hardship, and ultimately result in stronger relations between our closest ally and our Cuban friends."

The FSM and Cuba established diplomatic relations on September 9th, 2015. The FSM extends to the

People and Government of Cuba peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity.



*T.H. Bruno Eduardo Rodriguez Parilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba; T.H. Kandhi A. Elieisar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the FSM*

## President Panuelo chairs 12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—From September 12th to 14th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—served as Chair of the 12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL). Hosted by the U.S. State of Hawaii, delegations representing American Samoa, Cook Islands, the FSM, the Republic of Fiji, French Polynesia, the U.S. Territory of Guam, the U.S. State of Hawaii, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, Niue, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, and the Republic of Tuvalu were in attendance, with Heads of Delegation typically represented at either the Head of Government-level or at the Secretary/Minister of Foreign Affairs-level.

Operating on the theme “Pu’uhonua: The Pacific Way Forward”, the PICL is a safe space for active engagement and dialogue between Pacific Islands regardless of their political status. Attending delegations to the 12th PICL discussed issues such as the Pacific’s nuclear legacy, in the context of the Runit Dome, and ALPS-treated water, in the context of Japan’s plan to discharge such water from Fukushima; the increased engagement with the Pacific on behalf of larger powers such as the United States of America and the People’s Republic of China, including the sharing of views on how to manage relationships with these countries; the importance of women and gender equity and empowerment in strengthening Pacific Regionalism; how to diversify industry, such as novel ways to benefit from resources such as breadfruit; and the socialization of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent with America Samoa, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the State of Hawaii—who are members of the PICL but not the Pacific Islands Forum, and have since described their in-principle agreement with the strategy that the Pacific Islands Forum and

its membership have thrust their full support behind.

“We have discussed many issues of regional import,” President Panuelo said in his closing remarks at the Conference. “Nuclear legacy and ALPS treated water; the increased engagement with the United States and China in our region; the need for all partners, including the United States and China, to interact with the Pacific on our level, and with recognition to what is important to us, such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; how to diversify our industries, including how to utilize our native crops such as breadfruit in making value-added products; and the endorsement of the Pacific Women Leaders’ Coalition, which aligns with both regional and global goals.”

While there was a broad consensus across attending delegations that the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent can and should be the top priority moving forward as a Pacific Region (as the Strategy covers Climate Change, regional peace and security, economic growth and development, healthcare and education sector development, etc.), with respect to the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP—which is the Secretariat of the PICL), attending delegations agreed that PIDP is uniquely capable at handling and supporting islands in bridging the gap between the North and South Pacific. “Supporting PIDP in bridging this gap is something I am proud to do as Chair of the PICL,” President Panuelo said.

The PICL was founded in 1980 by the late Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, and George Ariyoshi, former Governor of the State of Hawaii, to serve as a forum for Pacific leaders to address shared issues, learn from each other’s experiences, and develop common approaches to policy. The summit also provides enhanced opportunities for leaders to dialogue with US-based officials and experts, including Government officials and academics.



*A Hawaiian man passes a kava shell to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nauru*



*H.E. David W. Panuelo poses with Wendy Sherman, Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of State*

The FSM Government extends its appreciation to the State of Hawaii, PIDP, and the East-West Center for their combined support and efforts in making the 12th PICL a success.

## The FSM establishes diplomatic relations with the Republic of Panama & the Kingdom of Bahrain

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—In the spirit of multilateralism during the week of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City, on September 20th, 2022, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) established formal diplomatic relations with the Republic of Panama. On September 21st, 2022, the FSM established formal diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Honorable Kandhi A. Elieisar, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, represented the FSM in signing a Joint Communique formalizing diplomatic relations. The Republic of Panama was represented by its Foreign Minister, H.E. Erika Mouynes. The Kingdom of Bahrain was represented by its Foreign Minister, H.E. Abdullatif bin Rashid AlZayani, and its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, H.E. Jamal Fares Alrowaie.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the FSM and Panama, and between the FSM and Bahrain, reaffirmed the principles and purposes



of the Charter of the United Nations, and was done in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18th, 1961.

The foreign policy of the FSM is to be a friend to all and an enemy to none, and to extend to all nations and peoples that which it seeks: peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity.

Panama and Bahrain are the 94th and 95th countries with which the FSM has established diplomatic relations.

## President Panuelo joins Pacific Island Forum Leaders in meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—Immediately prior to departing from the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—joined the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in a special meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, to discuss issues of import to the Pacific. Representing the Micronesian sub-region, President Panuelo spoke on issues relating to Pacific regionalism and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

In his remarks, President Panuelo called for the resumption, and conclusion, of the negotiations on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (i.e. the BBNJ negotiations). “Last month,” the President said, “our negotiators traveled afar from the Pacific to attend what we expected to be the concluding session of negotiations to adopt a BBNJ instrument here at the United Nations. We must not make it a habit to postpone tough decisions. The global community must resume, and conclude, the BBNJ negotiations in 2023.”

President Panuelo also spoke about the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and how Climate Change is the most existential security threat to the Pacific. “We are stewards of the ocean, inherited from our ancestors, and which we share with future generations. For this reason, the ocean is placed at the heart and center of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent that Forum

Leaders adopted this past July. The Strategy is our North Star in our long-term vision, as a region, for securing the Blue Pacific Continent.... Climate Change is the threat to the full realization of the Blue Pacific Continent.”

The President emphasized the importance of the 2021 Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-related Sea-Level Rise, which is the Pacific’s response to achieve legal stability, security, certainty, and predictability of maritime zones in light of the threat of Climate Change. In layman’s terms, the main idea behind the Declaration is that Pacific countries wish for all other countries to recognize and preserve current international borders so that, even as islands disappear, countries do not see their borders shrink.

The President reaffirmed the Pacific’s determination for a region free of environmental pollution by radioactive wastes and other radioactive matter, explicitly citing Japan’s intention to discharge Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water into the Pacific as a concern. “We call on Japan to continue to adhere to the principle of transparency in sharing any scientific findings, environmental impact assessments, and data analysis gathered by scientists and experts, including the participation of an Independent Expert Group from our Pacific region.”

President Panuelo concluded his remarks by soliciting the United Nations to support the mobilization and capacity of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On September 18th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—was received by the Secretary-General of the United

Nations, the Honorable Antonio Guterres, for a courtesy call.

Over the course of the meeting, the Secretary-General commended President Panuelo and the FSM for its leadership, and the leadership of other Small Island Developing

## FSM Anti-Human Trafficking participates in HT Training of Trainers seminar

*FSM Anti-Human Trafficking Division*

*September 23, 2022*

**PALIKIR**—The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Anti-Human Trafficking Service Division hosted a three day virtual Human Trafficking Training of Trainers (TOT) through the United States Government National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center’s (NHTTTAC) flag ship Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) Training of Trainers (TOT) series from September 20 – 22, 2022.

The SOAR TOT covered three core areas including (1) Training Development and Delivery, to strengthen participants’ training and facilitation skills; (2) SOAR to Health and Wellness, where participants further enhanced their human trafficking knowledge and expertise in potential risk factors for human trafficking and the utilization of a public health trauma-informed multidisciplinary and person-centered approach; and (3) SOAR for Indigenous Communities, which included the integration of culturally and linguistically appropriate services such as certified interpreters and local healers and elders when caring for victims of Human Trafficking.

Mrs. Kaleilani Grant who is a Native Hawaiian facilitated the training. Mrs. Grant is the assistant coordinator for the Department of the Attorney General Missing Child Center in Hawai’i. Mrs. Grant is also a liaison to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and serves as a training associate for the National Criminal Justice Training Center’s AMBER Alert training and technical assistance efforts related to missing, abducted,

and exploited children. As a survivor of sex trafficking, her perspective and first-hand knowledge provide a unique insight into the topics covered in the TOT. Mrs. Grant is recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice Programs and Delinquency Prevention, with special recognition for her leadership in anti-trafficking efforts and contributions to resource development for frontline responders.

Participants to the SOAR TOT included Mr. Lino Amor, Assistant Secretary of the Anti-Human Trafficking Services Division (AHTSD); Mrs. Stephanie Willis-Ritland, Assistant Attorney General; Mr. Alik A. Talley- Assistant Coordinator, Pohnpei State; Miss Linda Teteth- Assistant Coordinator, Yap State; Miss Achipen Martinez- Assistant Coordinator, Chuuk State; Miss Kenye C. Phillip- Assistant Coordinator, Kosrae State; Jason Joseph- AHTSD; Lenson Taulung Jr.- AHTSD Investigator; Evengeleen Romer- AHTSD Investigator; Mr. Johnny Hadley, FSM National Child Protection Coordinator, Department of Health and Social Affairs. Mrs. Serpina James, Pohnpei State Acting Gender Focal Point, Mr. Christopherson Fredrick, Child Protection Officer, Miss Jessica Garlock, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) International Child Protection Consultant; Miss Genevieve Gruss, Program Manager and Mr. Warren Ching, Program Assistant from the International Organization for Migration. There were participants from the Government and Non-Government Organizations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Participants to the SOAR TOT will be receiving a certificate of TOT completion, and will carry out further trainings across the FSM.

## President Panuelo discusses climate change, COVID-19 relief, and the Pacific Islands Forum with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On September 18th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—was received by the Secretary-General of the United

Nations, the Honorable Antonio Guterres, for a courtesy call.

Over the course of the meeting, the Secretary-General commended President Panuelo and the FSM for its leadership, and the leadership of other Small Island Developing

States (SIDS), in tackling Climate Change. President Panuelo and the Secretary-General discussed continued support from the United Nations into the FSM and the North Pacific via the Multi-Country Office hosted in Pohnpei. The President and the Secretary-General

exchanged views on COVID-19-related economic recovery, and on cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum. President Panuelo described the mechanics of the Suva Agreement and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.