

# Students from Pohnpei make a splash at International robotics competition

*Habele Outer Island Education Fund*

October 19, 2022

**Pohnpei**—The robotics team from Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS) returned from the FIRST Global International Robotics Challenge in Switzerland with the title of “First among small countries,” and a story to encourage their peers across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The FIRST Global Challenge is an international high school robotics competition, in which small teams representing over 180 countries compete Olympics-style for the championship. This year’s competition was held in Geneva, Switzerland, with a challenge built around collaboratively using robotics to address climate change issues. After being accepted to represent the FSM in Switzerland, the team of five students spent the weeks before the



competition building and training for the specific tasks in the challenges. This meant ensuring that their competition robot was perfectly equipped to carry out particular

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# ADF contributes maritime surveillance in the FSM

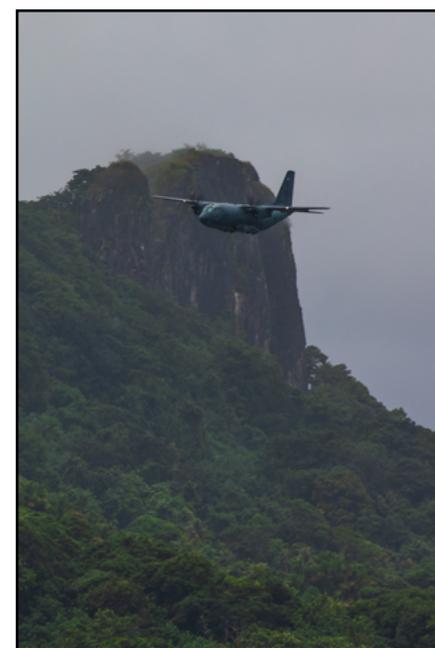
*By Flight Lieutenant Dee Irwin*

October 25, 2022

**Pohnpei**—The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continues to contribute to regional security and partnerships with the Pacific Island countries by providing maritime surveillance support within the region.

Australia and the Federated States of Micronesia have a longstanding partnership in maritime security which dates back to 1990. Earlier this year the partnership reached an exciting milestone when under the Pacific Maritime Security Program, the handover of the first

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# The FSM signs expanded Shiprider Agreement with the United States; FSM enables U.S. to act on nation's behalf to combat illicit maritime activity, strengthen international security operations

## FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—During the week of October 10th to 14th, 2022, the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), lead the FSM delegation for a Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) with representatives of the Government of the United States of America. Held in the Island of Guam, the JCM provided an opportunity for the Vice President and his delegation—inclusive of elected officials and senior-level public servants across the FSM—to engage in detailed briefings and dialectic on issues relating to the FSM's defense and security from conventional and non-conventional threats.

While Climate Change has historically and contemporaneously been described by the FSM Government as the Nation's number-one existential security threat—and this remains true as of the date of this release—a significantly disproportionate amount of the briefings, discussions, and problem-solving focused on the enduring challenge of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

One of the primary outcomes of the JCM is a first-of-its-kind expanded shiprider agreement between the FSM and the United States, which is intended to further operationalize, strengthen, and modernize the existing shiprider agreement between the two countries. The expanded shiprider



*T.H. Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the FSM, poses with attending members of the JCM whilst onboard the US Coast Guard Cutter Myrtle Hazard; this photo has been shamelessly stolen from the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service and is credited to Chief Warrant Officer Sara Muir*

agreement signed by the respective law enforcement authorities allows for remote coordination of authorities, and so results in enabling the United States to act on behalf of the FSM in combatting illicit maritime activity and to strengthen international security operations. Signing on behalf of the FSM was the Honorable Joses R. Gallen, Secretary of the Department of Justice, and signing on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard was Captain Nicholas R.

Simmons, Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam.

Traditionally, the shiprider agreement between the FSM and the United States resulted in actual FSM law enforcement officers literally riding on a U.S. Coast Guard vessel for a period of time, so that in the event the U.S. Coast Guard vessel—whilst in the FSM's waters—detected activity that is contrary to FSM law, the FSM law enforcement officer onboard would have the capacity to suspend the potential criminal activity and apprehend any potential suspects. This form of shiprider agreement has been, and continues to be, essential towards securing the FSM's borders and maintaining security across the Nation's vast ocean territory. The FSM Government envisions that the expanded agreement, which allows for remote coordination of authorities, will dramatically reduce IUU and other activity that threatens the FSM's security and stability.

"The [FSM] is dedicated to extending to all peoples and nations that which we seek: peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity," Vice President Palik said in a statement following the signing ceremony. "Kind words, kind actions, and kind intentions are good enough for the great majority of us, who abide

by the rule of law and see the value to our society and our planet in working together in harmony. For those who don't abide by the rule of law, however, and threaten our economic and food security by illegally fishing in our waters, this expanded shiprider agreement will help to ensure the FSM's security, and continues to contribute to our vision of a Free & Open Indo-Pacific and peaceful Blue Pacific Continent."



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Bill Jaynes  
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## THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

**WILL BE RELEASED ON:**

**November 09, 2022**

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

**Monday, November 07, 2022**

# Pohnpei Governor Oliver attends turnover ceremony for 16 new hospital rooms

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

**October 14, 2022**

**Pohnpei--**On Friday, October 14, 2022, Governor Oliver joined H.E. David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM); T.H. Esmond Moses, Vice Speaker of the 22nd FSM Congress; T.H. Marvin T. Yamaguchi, Speaker of the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature; and his Royal Highness, Iso Nahnken of Nett Salvador Iriarte to open

the new medical wing of the Pohnpei State Hospital.

Funded by the FSM National Government and the Asian Development Bank, the new medical wing, increases the 91-bed capacity of the Pohnpei State Hospital with an additional 16 beds. The new private rooms are air-conditioned, comfortable, and spacious, with their own bathrooms, and furnished with couches, mini refrigerators, and flat-screen televisions. Each room is also

connected to the Hospital's electronic medical records system, there is a Nurse's station, and the medical wing has its own backup generator.

In his welcoming remarks on behalf of the people and government of Pohnpei, Governor Oliver conveyed his gratitude to the traditional leadership of Nett for the use of the land, he thanked President Panuelo and the FSM Congress for their support to fund this project, which also came from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Governor Oliver thanked the Speaker and members of the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature for their support, also to Director Wincener David and the staff of the Pohnpei State Hospital. He also expressed gratitude to the contractor, Black Sand

Construction, for constructing such a beautiful structure. Governor Oliver concluded his remarks by explaining that while these are private rooms, they are not for one group of people over another. They are not just for Pohnpei or FSM residents, but for everyone who requires medical treatment and hospitalization at Pohnpei State Hospital.

The "key" to the new hospital wing, was turned over to Governor Oliver by President Panuelo. Governor Oliver turned over the key to the Director of Health Services, Wincener David.

Both H.E. David W. Panuelo and His Royal Highness, Iso Nahnken of Nett delivered remarks and the First Lady of FSM and Pohnpei cut the ribbon to officially open the new hospital wing



## President Panuelo provides remarks at ribbon-cutting ceremony

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On October 14th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Medical Wing at the Pohnpei State Hospital. Joining President Panuelo included His Royal Highness, Iso Nahnken of Nett, the Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker of the 22nd FSM Congress, and the Honorable Reed B. Oliver, Governor of the FSM State of Pohnpei.

The new Medical Wing includes sixteen rooms dedicated for medical patients and their respective treatment; each room includes modern tools, conveniences, and amenities, such as a computer connected to Pohnpei State Hospital's internal systems, a television, a mini refrigerator, and a

*Click here for continuation*

# Governor Oliver receives Pacific Island Development Bank President/CEO

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

**October 13, 2022**

**Pohnpei--**Governor Oliver and Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration, Ms. Christina Elnei, welcomed Pacific Island Development Bank (PIDB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and President Lindsay Timarong and Manager of Administration Rosa D.L.S. Weilbacher to the Governor's Office.

During their brief visit, President Timarong presented Governor Oliver with a report on PIDB's history and operations. They also briefly discussed administrative issues relating to the PIDB Board of Governors. Governor Oliver, Director Elnei, and Mr. Carlos Villazon from the Pohnpei Legislature Budget Office are currently members of the Board of Governors, representing Pohnpei.

Joining Governor Oliver during the meeting were Public Affairs Officer Peteriko Hairens and Protocol Officer Emerson Eperiam.

"The mission and purpose of the Pacific Island Development Bank are

to contribute to the acceleration of the process of economic and social development of the Member States and nations, individually and collectively, and to promote economic cooperation among them. Members are shareholders and consist of the governments of the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the four state governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, namely Chuuk State, Kosrae State, Pohnpei State, and Yap State, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority as an associate member. The bank has been and continues to be a

catalyst for various credit needs and community programs that fit the diverse demands of our peoples."

For more information on the PIDB, please visit their website at: <https://pacificidb.com/>



Both President Timarong and Mrs. Weilbacher are in Pohnpei to attend the 39th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), October 11 – 15, 2022.

## Barrigada Guam LDS church members donate clothing to Chuuk members

Relief Society sisters in the Barrigada Guam Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints organized a clothing donation for the members in the islands in Chuuk. Members throughout the Barrigada Guam Stake participated in donating clothes to help these members. The accumulated clothing, filling eleven boxes, were shipped from the Church's Guam Service Center to the Church's Chuuk Namoneas District.

There are ten branches in this Chuuk district. Once the clothing arrived, the District President, Rodolfo Gacayan, had the clothes sorted and distributed between ten boxes, one for each branch. A district leaders meeting was held at the Mwan branch meetinghouse in Weno, Chuuk on October 8th. Branch presidents came from the different branches, some making a 40-minute boat ride, to attend the meeting. As they departed, each took their box with them to distribute among their branch members.

From the Island of Tonowas, Branch President HS Nakka expressed his gratitude for the box of donated clothing for his branch. Others wanted to tell of their appreciation as well.

Sapuk Branch President Smart Katta on the island of Weno expressed his thanks saying, "Kinisou chapur ren ei anini ikanai ren ekei pisek sia fokun kinisou ren tong mi pwa non ekeii aninis."

The island of Romanum's Branch President, Siramino Walter, expressed his gratitude of the donation saying, "Romanum branch, especially the families, are very happy and appreciative of the support and love that was given to us, the members here in the Chuuk District. Thank you so much and God bless you all."

From the island of Uman, Branch President Jackson Apichiniko said, "Kuum Uman Branch epwe apasa an anisikemi meinisin ren amia nisi Uman branch fokun kinisou. Kinisou chapur kot epwe nonom remi meinisin."

Mwan Branch President Tarsi Wainis on the island of Weno shared his thanks saying, "We're very grateful and appreciative for all that the Guam members donated. We are thankful for the great love and desire of the Barrigada Guam members to help our

members here in Chuuk. We send love from the Mwan branch members."

From the island of Udot, Branch President Hudson Charles shared, "An Udot branch kinisou ngeni Guam Mission, ren watten an aninis ngeni kewe members, non Udot branch. Ika kinisou mei wor napan apan iwe sipwe tungeni kuna sipwe chok epinukunuk pun acit kut epwe pusin niwini ngeni Guam niwini anisi members seni Udot Branch, kinisou kinisou kinisou fokun kinisou."

The Barrigada Guam Stake members are an example of taking to heart the second great commandment of loving their neighbors as themselves, anonymously sharing of their excess.

Through thoughtful members reaching throughout the world are blessed. out to provide donations, many members



## APIL gathered in Kolonia, Pohnpei -FSM to discuss issues on: "Health is Wealth: Social and Economic Well-Being of our APIL Pacific Community."

### Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

Members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) met in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, October 12-14, for its 39th General Assembly, to discuss issues on the theme: "Health is Wealth: Economic Well-Being of our APIL Pacific Community." The opening of the Conference took place on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Pohnpei States Legislature in Kolonia. The APIL member host, Honorable Speaker Marvin Yamaguchi, welcomed the delegates to the Pohnpei State Legislature and to Pohnpei General Assembly. Pohnpei State Governor, Hon. Reed Oliver welcomed the APIL delegates and expressed his support of the work of APIL throughout the Micronesia region. The Key Note was delivered by His Excellency, David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia. His Excellency Panuelo welcomed the members of APIL and expressed his appreciation

for the work the APIL is doing on important regional issues, requiring regional cooperation and regional solutions.

In his keynote message, he spoke, in detail on the important and substantive work that President's Office is doing on behalf of the Nation. His Excellency Panuelo, in his welcome message, stated: "Whether it's Climate Change, threats to regional stability and security, access to clean and affordable energy, a need to strengthen educational and health programming, and sustainable transportation, we are stronger together in tackling these challenges when we do so together. Those in Executive Branch roles seek the leadership of those in Legislative Branch roles to

[Click here for continuation](#)



**Top: L-R: Senator Kalani Kaneko (APIL Board-RMI), Representative Andrew May (APIL Board-Chuuk), Walden KC. Weilbacher (APIL Central Secretariat), Senator Shelten G. Neth (Outgoing APIL President-Pohnpei), Senator Nelson Stephen (Incoming APIL President-Chuuk), Delegate Warren S. Umetaro (Palau), and Airata Temeta (Kiribati)**

**Bottom: L-R: Senator Mitaro Simina (APIL Board-Pohnpei), Chirag M. Bhojwani (Guam), Vice Speaker McGarry Miguel (APIL Board-Pohnpei), Charlie Hermosa (Guam), Speaker Vincent Figir (Yap), MP Taoba Kaiea (APIL Board-Kiribati), Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes (APIL Board-Guam), Speaker Kenneth Kedi (APIL Board-RMI), MP England Iuta (APIL Board-Kiribati), MP Tessie Lambourne (APIL Secretary-Kiribati), Delegate Sebastian Marino (APIL Board-Palau), Senator Vinnie V.F. Sablan (APIL V-President- CNMI), Congresswoman Dentita Yangetmai (APIL Board-CNMI), Congressman Angel Demapan (CNMI), Speaker Marvin Yamaguchi (Pohnpei), Representative Jessy P. William (Chuuk), Senator Mary C. Torres (APIL Board-Guam), Senator Ricky Carl (Pohnpei) and Hon. Justice Robert Torres (Guam)**

## ...APIL

*continued from front page*

provide the laws and frameworks for us to successfully execute the plans to achieve our best solutions, and that's why I so sincerely appreciate your dedication to this duty at the Association of Pacific Island Legislators."

The APIL adopted a few resolutions supporting climate change and ocean conservation measures that will help with the work the FSM government has been doing on these very important issues for their Nation.

There were presentations on the agenda during the mid-afternoon and morning on the 1st and 2nd days. The following were the presenters:

1. U.S. State Senator, Hon. Ed Case presented via zoom on the importance for the APIL Legislative bodies to create a Pacific Ocean Conservation Caucus. The ocean Conservation Caucus will serve as a forum to support Pacific legislators in their conservation efforts. A related topic of presentation was given by James Ward, Asia Director, ICCF. He presented on the work of the International Conservation Caucus (ICCF) and how the organization can assist APIL with the needed expertise to help develop the Pacific Ocean Conservation Caucus envisioned by the APIL.

2. Hon. Justice Robert Torres and Guam Senator, Hon. Mary Camacho Torres presented on: "Wellfullness and Mindfullness of Legislators". The presentation was a great exercise, and an interactive one for Legislators to manage work related stress and other issues that come with their responsibilities as policy makers as well as well as representatives in their constituencies.

3. The third presentation was on "Regional Transshipment". The presenters were Guam Legislature Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes, Mr. Charlie Harmosa, General Manager for American President Lines and Mr. Shirag Bhojwani, Director of Policy and Communications for the Guam Legislature. They presented on their work to commission a feasibility study to develop the most secure, reliable and cost-effective way to bring into Guam, from international ports and to disseminate and transship goods to and from Micronesia, having Guam as its transshipment hub. Their strategy is to

effectively push economic growth and sustainability for the Micronesian Island Nations and entities...The Micronesia region, as defined by APIL as the Blue Continent – located between two of the world's biggest economies, Asia and the United States, have the potential to benefit from these anticipated increased maritime activity. The important areas needed are to diversify our economies, and to ensure food security and essential commodity are met. They touched on topics such as: Centralized Supply-Chain; Diverse Economic Development; Light Manufacturing/Assembly; Regional Sustainment and Workforce Development/Education.

At the 39th General Assembly, under its business session, the members of APIL unanimously elected the following to serve as Officers for its 2022-2023 Term:

President: Hon. Senator Nelson Stephen from the FSM State of Chuuk. Vice President: Hon. Senator Vinnie V.F. Sablan from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; Hon. Tessei Lambourne, as Secretary, from the Republic of Kiribati, and the State of Yap will submit the name of its member to serve as APIL Treasurer.

The APIL outgoing President, Hon. Shelten G. Neth expressed APIL's appreciation to all presenters who presented at the Conference, some who travelled far to attend the meetings and wished everyone a safe day-trip to Ahnt island and to all the participating members safe travels back to their home islands. He wished everyone the blessings of thankfulness and hope for those who attended the Conference bring back with them, to their home islands, wonderful memories of Pohnpei-FSM!

On Saturday, October 15th, the members and participating delegates were given the amazing experience and wonderful opportunity, on boat rides, across the eight-miles stretch, open ocean voyage to visit beautiful and pristine Ahnt Island. Our wonderful host, Rohsa and Rohspein provided an amazing and wonderful lunch for their day visitors. Rohsa spoke on the work his family has been doing for the past several years to preserve and conserve the marine life and the biodiversity that exists in the lagoon and around the islands. Representatives from Blue Prosperity Micronesia, at the same event, spoke on their initiatives as well and how they see the work at Ahnt Island leaving a legacy for generations to come. They continue to network and encourage the APIL members to create

environmental policies with the ultimate goal to conserve the natural biodiversity of our ecosystems, such as what we all experienced at Ahnt island."

The members at 39th General Assembly adopted twenty-four resolutions during the Conference. A few of the substantive resolutions are listed with titles:

1. APIL Resolution No. 39-GA-07

"Commending the Biden Harris Administration for the Pacific Islands Strategy and urging the United States to further its efforts in maintaining a free and safe Indo Pacific."

2. APIL Resolution No. 39-GA-13

"Expressing support for the FSM's Blue Prosperity Micronesia initiative and encouraging all APIL entities to conserve our environment and its natural resources, especially the natural biodiversity of our ecosystems."

3. APIL Resolution No. 39-GA-16

"Expressing appreciation that each and every one of the APIL member countries have become signatories to the Paris Agreement of 2015 and challenging our island governments to be ever vigilant, not only in meeting the climate goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement, but to arduously campaign for stronger commitment among the global community to fight global warming."

4. APIL Resolution No. 39-GA-18, CD1

"Relative to urging China and the United States to resume meaningful cooperation and resume the climate change dialogue to curb the detrimental

impacts of climate change on small island nations."

5. APIL Resolution No. 39-GA-19

"Calling for the creation of an APIL Standing Committee on Conservation and Climate Change to engage in regional and international cooperation to address needed conservation and climate change policy on adaptation, mitigation, climate finance and for all other climate change purposes."

6. APIL Resolution No. 39-GA-22, CD1

"Strongly supporting the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in its efforts to ensure that any extension of its Compact of Free Association with the United States of America will finally resolve the unsettled issues stemming from U.S. nuclear bomb tests and waste disposal."

7. APIL Resolution No. 39-GA-25

"Respectfully requesting the APIL member governments to establish the Pacific Ocean Conservation Caucus (POCC) to support efforts to protect and restore the ocean across the Pacific."

Members that were present at the APIL 39th GA Pohnpei Conference: Legislative assemblies of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, FSM State of Chuuk, FSM State of Pohnpei, FSM State of Yap, Island of Guam, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. For more information, please log onto: [www.apilpacific.com](http://www.apilpacific.com)



# 39th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) opens in Pohnpei

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

October 17, 2022

**Pohnpei**--On October 12, 2022, Governor Reed B. Oliver attended the

opening ceremony for the 39th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) at the Pohnpei State Legislature chamber.



On behalf of the people and government of Pohnpei, Governor Oliver welcomed the APIL delegation to Pohnpei. He highlighted the importance of leaders gathering from every level of society to advocate continuously on behalf of their people, “to promote and progress the health of our people.”

Governor Oliver noted the theme for this year’s General Assembly, “Health is wealth, social and economic well-being of our APIL Pacific community” is a fitting reminder of the reality of our times, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic, challenging us to prioritize what matters most and reminding us that our most important resource is our people. He noted that a wise man once said that the first wealth is health and in today’s world, health is not always the priority but hoped that the APIL’s well-thought-out theme will be a guide to productive engagement

and a successful general assembly.

Also in attendance, delivering remarks were the Honorable Marvin T. Yamaguchi, Speaker of the 10th Pohnpei Legislature, and H.E. David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia. The 39th General Assembly was held from October 12 – October 14, 2022, and included delegations from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the State of Chuuk, the State of Yap, the State of Pohnpei, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Territory of Guam as well as the Pacific Island Development Bank (PIDB).

After the opening ceremony, Governor Oliver joined PIDB CEO/President Lindsay Timarong and APIL delegates for a luncheon at Mangrove Bay, hosted by PIDB.

## 39th General Assembly of the APIL express support for Blue Prosperity Micronesia; President Panuelo advocates the importance of marine spatial planning for economic growth & development, conservation & protection efforts

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—From October 10th to 14th, 2022, the 39th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) met in the State of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, provided keynote remarks at the opening ceremony for the 39th APIL General Assembly wherein he advocated for the importance of reliable and quality science and information for decision-making.

“Good information and good science result in informed decision-making,” President Panuelo said in his remarks. “In the context of our marine environments, we acknowledge that our ocean resources are crucial to maintaining and supporting the livelihood of communities and peoples in the Pacific; we recognize the competing demands and uses of marine resources require thorough and thoughtful planning to ensure that marine resources are properly conserved, yes, but also utilized, and exploited, for our economic development and benefit. Key to marine resource management is marine spatial planning, which is

purpose-agnostic—it’s just good science and good information for informed decision-making.”

Following the President’s remarks, the attending members of the APIL engaged in several days of discussions, deliberations, and presentations, ranging from discussion on the U.S. Congress’ Pacific Ocean Conservation Caucus to a briefing on Guam’s Transshipment Task Force/Subcommittee on Federal & Foreign Relations. Arguably of the most interest to the FSM National Government—which is not a member of the APIL—was the luncheon hosted by Micronesia Conservation Trust with Blue Prosperity Micronesia, wherein Yolanda Joab-Mori and Dr. Nicole Yamase, Program Coordinator and Science Advisor respectively for Blue Prosperity Micronesia, described the categorical value of marine spatial planning for the maximization of revenue-generating activities as juxtaposed to the maximization of effective conservation and protection for sustainable use and environmental security.

Following the presentation, the 39th General Assembly of the APIL endorsed a resolution wherein the organization commended the FSM for the Blue Prosperity Micronesia initiative. “Be it resolved by the [APIL], 39th General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, October 12-14, 2022, that this Assembly hereby declares that it is in support and congratulates the Government of the [FSM] for the Blue Prosperity Micronesia initiative and for the congressional endorsement of the companion marine spatial plan,” the resolution, introduced by the Honorable Andrew May from Chuuk State,

the Honorable Mitaro Simina from Pohnpei State, and the Honorable Vincent Figir from Yap State, said.



The APIL General Assembly concluded with a courtesy call between President Panuelo and attending APIL members. During the meeting, President Panuelo described his appreciation for APIL’s support for the resolution showing support for Blue Prosperity Micronesia, and noted that he looks forward to more collaboration and partnership between the FSM Government and APIL.

The members of the APIL are American Samoa; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the FSM State of Chuuk; the FSM State of Pohnpei; the FSM State of Kosrae; the FSM State of Yap; the Island of Guam; the Republic of Kiribati; the Republic of the Marshall Islands; the Republic of Nauru; the Republic of Palau; and the U.S. State of Hawaii. The FSM Government extends its gratitude to the APIL for its resolution of support for Blue Prosperity Micronesia.



# Three Finalists Named for COM-FSM's 2022 Presidential Search



After a six-month rigorous process, the Board of Regents is pleased to announce the three finalists in COM-FSM's Presidential Search. The Board is meeting with the finalists online this week to get to know each of them and to further assess their suitability before making a final selection. The three finalists are:

### Dr. Sheldon Nord

With a PhD in Higher Education from Indiana University, Dr. Nord has over 40 years of experience in higher education administration, including serving as President of Corban University from 2012-2022, a private Christian college in Oregon, and President of Universitas Pelita Harapan, Indonesia between 2007

and 2010. He has over nine years of experience in Vice President roles at various US higher education institutions as well as other administrative roles and teaching experience.

### Dr. Richard Andrew Kerr

Dr. Kerr, a leadership and education professional is currently facilitating courses for eCornell Executive Leadership Program, serving as faculty for the Center for Creative Leadership and working as an international education consultant. He has a Doctor of Education from Creighton University. Since 2007, his consultancy work has spanned FSM, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Philippines, Australia, China and

USA. He served as Associate Vice President for Workforce Development at Illinois Central College between 2018-2019 and has over ten years of experience as Director in various roles including at the University of Guam and McREL International, with a strong focus on intercultural communication and instructional technology.

### Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono

Currently working as an education consultant across education institutions in the Pacific, Dr. Koroivulaono was President of the College of the Marshall Islands between 2015-2020. She has extensive experience in online learning through her six years' service - including four

years as Director - at the Centre for Flexible Learning at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji, where she also worked as an instructional designer. Dr. Koroivulaono completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Auckland, New Zealand where she gained a PhD in English.

Currently, former FSM President Emanuel (Manny) Mori is serving as Interim President until the permanent position is filled.

The Board of Regents would like to offer sincere thanks to all members of the Presidential Search Committee who worked diligently since the vacancy was announced in April.

## Spring 2023 Registration

**Early Registration      October 31 – November 4, 2022**

**Regular Registration      January 4-6, 2023**

To register online, click on the link below for the steps.

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|---|--|--|--|---|---|

## ...Robotics

*Continued from front page*

movements and actions, while fitting into the guidelines required by FIRST Global.

Getting the team and equipment across the world to Switzerland provided a series of obstacles the robotics club could not train for. As the plane prepared to take off from Pohnpei, one of the trainers was unable to board, due to a paperwork mixup on the visa application. Thanks to the quick support from the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia, the corrected forms were fast tracked, enabling the students' team leader to catch a later flight, and arrive in Geneva in time for the competition. Another key member of Team FSM was not so lucky. The carefully crafted robot, built and customized by the PICS team, was lost in the connecting flights from Pohnpei to Switzerland. Disaster was averted by the determination of the FSM team, who were able to acquire a new robot, and build it up to the approved competition standards the very same day.

Throughout the three-day competition, Team FSM battled it out with teams from 180 countries in a high energy arena, complete with live-streamed commentary. As the competition came to a close, Team FSM stood with two wins, one loss, and no ties.

Returning to Pohnpei with the title of "First among small countries," the PICS Team was greeted by water cannons saluting their plane as it landed, and a cheering group of dignitaries and students waiting for them off the runway. Honorable Governor Reed Oliver welcomed the team back with encouragement and praise. "You represented not only FSM but Pohnpei, specifically. We thank you for representing us and representing us very well. We are very, very proud of you."

Fresh back from representing Pohnpei and the FSM on the international stage, the students from PICS will bring fresh encouragement and enthusiasm to their peers in the Pohnpei Robo League. This league is part of the larger Habelo Robo League, which equips and supports robotics clubs at high schools across the FSM. Beginning in 2012 at a single



school on Yap, the Habelo Robo League began as an opportunity for students to participate in hands-on STEM learning, using equipment donated by private partners in the US. Beginning in 2018, a partnership between Habelo and the Office of Insular Affairs expanded the Habelo Robotics League across the FSM, allowing schools in all four states the opportunity to participate in the only regional STEM program of its kind.

"The Robo League encourages students to become problem solvers who can think on their feet," said Matt Coleman, Habelo's Director of Operations. "The team from Pohnpei confronted and overcame challenges before they ever got to the competition floor. In my mind they won before it started."

Established by Peace Corps Volunteers, Habelo is a 501(3) nonprofit supporting Micronesian students.

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# OGX

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Class 30: Freightings; Coffee-based beverages; Tea-based beverages; Candy; Honey; Biscuits; Pastries; freeze-dried dishes with the main ingredient being rice; Jiaozi; Wheat flour; Rice; Noodles; Noodle-based prepared meals; Instant noodles; Starch for food; Dried noodles; instant rice; Cereal-based snack food; Ice cream; Condiments; Baozi.

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# Governor Oliver congratulates new Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) General Manager

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

**October 13, 2022**

**Pohnpei**--Governor Oliver recently attended a welcome ceremony for the new General Manager of the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) at the PPA building in Dekehtik.

Chairwoman of the PPA Board of Directors, Mrs. Limanman Helgenberger delivered remarks to welcome Governor Oliver and congratulate the new General Manager of the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) Mr. Grilly Jack. She highlighted Mr. Jack's essential responsibilities as General Manager, which includes overseeing almost all the access points to Pohnpei State, and on behalf of the board pledged to continue to work with the Governor and PPA staff to support the new General Manager.

In his remarks, Governor Oliver congratulated Mr. Grilly Jack on his position as the new General Manager of PPA. He noted the important role that PPA, including the board of directors, has played at the airport and seaport, with transportation and especially during the last two years, in keeping the COVID-19 virus out of Pohnpei. He expressed gratitude for the important work that PPA has done and encouraged them to continue to move forward under the new leadership of General Manager Grilly Jack.

General Manager Grilly Jack delivered remarks thanking Governor Oliver, the PPA Board of Directors, and staff for their support. He asked for the board and employees to work together to support the ongoing important work of the Pohnpei Port Authority.

PPA is mandated by Pohnpei State Law to be responsible for the development, management, operation, and maintenance of Pohnpei ports and facilities. Furthermore, the law provides that "because of the distance between the islands of this State and their remoteness from large commercial centers of the world, transportation constitutes a vital link in the State's efforts toward social development and economic



self-sufficiency".

Master of Ceremonies during the event was Mr. Joab Paul, Chief of Airport Police.

More information on PPA can be found on their website: <http://ppa.fm/>



**THE PACIFIC'S BIGGEST  
MUSIC COMPETITION**

**ABC Radio  
AUSTRALIA**

Looking for all aspiring musicians in the FSM! If you are someone who loves to make music, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

ABC Radio Australia is proud to announce that Pacific Break is back and bigger than ever. Pacific Break unearths the best original and unsigned talent from across the Pacific, showcasing

them on ABC Radio Australia and at Australia's most prominent international music festival, WOMADelaide. Enter and win a chance to perform at Australia's #1 World Music Festival. Get the opportunity to be this year's winner and go on an all-expenses-paid trip to perform at the WOMADelaide Festival.

You can find out more about Pacific

Break by visiting [www.abc.net.au/pacificbreak](http://www.abc.net.au/pacificbreak). To enter, contestants can submit their original track via the following ways, (1) visit ABC Pacific's Facebook page and join the Pacific Break 2022 Entrants Group to upload your song, (2) send a message on Whatsapp at +61 447 310 986 or (3) send via email to [pacificbreak@abc.net.au](mailto:pacificbreak@abc.net.au).

Entries are open until midnight on 27 November. The winner will be announced on ABC Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program on Thursday, 8 December; the winning group or individual will be flown to Australia to perform at the WOMADelaide festival in Adelaide between 10 and 13 March.



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC AUDITOR  
Request for Proposal

**Qualified Auditors to Perform Annual Single Audits of the Federated States of Micronesia  
Fiscal Years Ending September 30, 2022 & 2023**

The Office of the National Public Auditor for the Federated States of Micronesia invites interested professional accounting firms to submit written proposals to conduct the annual audits of the National and four State Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia for fiscal years ending September 30, 2022 and 2023.

The single audits will include financial and compliance audits of the Federated States of Micronesia pursuant to the Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended, OMB Circular A-133, OMB Super Circular, and the Amended Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

The audits will cover each reporting entity of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia as defined by the amended U.S. Public Law 108-188 TITLE FOUR, Article VI, Section 461(g). The audits will be performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, provisions of the Amended Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America and its related agreement for Implementation of Economic Assistance Programs and Services, and Federal auditing standards in the United States; including the Government Auditing Standards, issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO); the Single Audit Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-502), as amended; Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations; and Super Circular, OMB Uniform Guidance: Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

for Federal Awards, issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

In addition, the auditor will be expected to follow the recommendations of the AICPA State and Local Government Committee as set forth in the accounting guide, Audits of State and Local Governmental Units, Revised Edition.

Proposals must be post-marked or hand-delivered to the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor and received no later than November 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Proposals received after November 25, 2022 will not be considered even if post-marked by November 25, 2022. Postal delivery/mail must be received by the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor at the address below.

A full version of the RFP document can be accessed at [www.fsmopa.fm](http://www.fsmopa.fm) , or by contacting:

Mr. Haser Hainrick, Public Auditor  
Office of the National Public Auditor  
Federated States of Micronesia  
P.O. Box PS-05  
Palikir, Pohnpei 96941  
Phone: (691) 320-2862/2863  
Fax: (691) 320-5482  
E-mail: [info@fsmopa.fm](mailto:info@fsmopa.fm)

## ...ADF

Continued from front page

of two Guardian-class Patrol Boats, FSS Tosiwo Nakayama was made.

Named after Micronesia's first President, FSS Tosiwo Nakayama was deployed for the first time during and its crew worked collaboratively with the C-27J Spartan in border security and protecting FSMs EEZ.

The Commanding Officer of the Patrol Boat, Lieutenant Commander Paulino Yangitesmal said that he was grateful for the support provided to his country by the Australian Government and for the opportunity to work alongside the Australian Defence Force. "The surveillance information that the C-27J Spartan provides us is critical in ensuring we are able to respond in a timely manner."

"It goes a long way to assist in detecting and deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activity in our region." Lieutenant Commander

Yangitesmal said.

"In addition to the gifting of the Patrol Boat, the Australian Government has provided fuel and food for FSS Tosiwo Nakayama. "For that we thank the Australian Government, particularly the Australian Defence Force for their support and we look forward to strengthening our partnership in years to come."

Detachment Commander for No. 35 Squadron aircraft contingent, Flight Lieutenant Peter Wuttke said that the deployment to Micronesia demonstrated Australia's ongoing commitment to maintaining regional security alongside its Pacific partners. "The aerial surveillance that we conduct on each sortie alongside local authorities supports FSM in its coordinated fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance operations," Flight Lieutenant Wuttke said. "Any vessels that are identified, the information is passed on to local authorities enabling them to act to ensure those vessels are compliant."

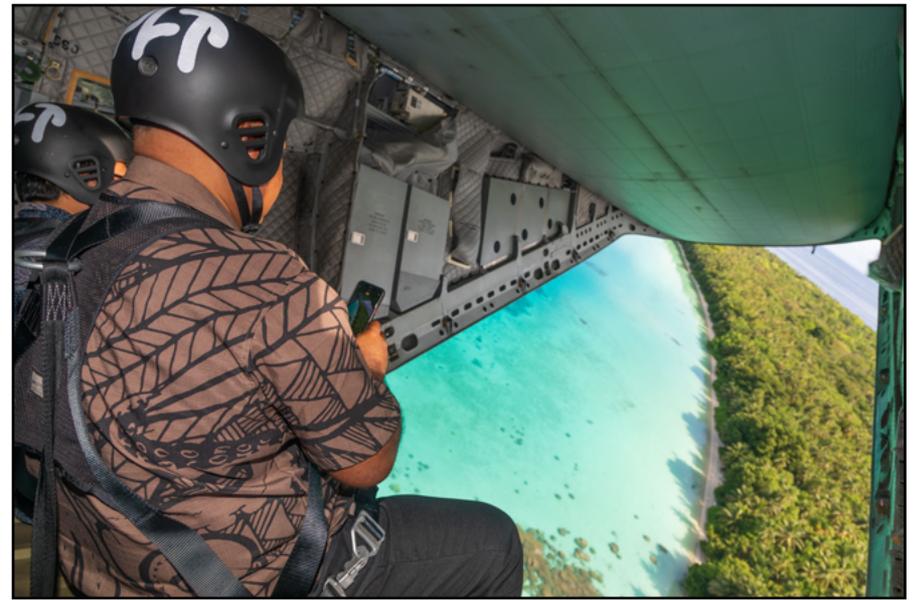
Whilst the isolation of operating out of Pohnpei presented some unique challenges for equipment and support

services, Flight Lieutenant Wuttke said he and his entire detachment have felt warmly welcomed by locals from the moment they touched down.

"From the moment we landed and everyday throughout our deployment, the friendliness and hospitality shown towards us from the community has been nothing short of amazing."

*(Editor's note: More intensive coverage of the currently*

*ongoing aerial mission in Pohnpei will be in the November 9, 2022 issue.)*



### GRANT WRITING AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP FOR NGOS

Four grant awards: each up to \$12,500

November 14 – 18

Do you have an NGO that works on climate change adaptation? Are you looking to build your capacity to write grants and implement projects?

IOM is hosting a workshop from November 14 – 18, 2022. The workshop will include trainings on climate change adaptation, grant writing, budget and financing, project reporting and gender mainstreaming. Additional information on creating an NGO will be available.

The workshop is open to NGOs and individuals interested in creating NGOs. Organizations must be in FSM.

REGISTER NOW as there is a limit of 25 persons for the in-person workshop in Pohnpei. NGOs in other states may also follow virtually (links will be shared upon registration).

Four grants of \$12,500 each will be available for NGOs to apply for after the workshop. Grants will be awarded based on a competitive process for NGOs that successfully complete the workshop.

To RSVP, agenda and questions, please contact IOM by Nov 7, 2022:

Email: Kevin Ihara ([kihara@iom.int](mailto:kihara@iom.int)) / call 320-8735 / register <https://forms.office.com/r/qrkQKXTbXQ>

## U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Representatives wrap up Annual Joint Committee Meeting with the FSM

Commander, Joint Region Marianas

Oct. 25, 2022

ASAN, Guam – Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Senior Military Official for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), along with a U.S. staff delegation and senior leaders from FSM met on Guam, Oct. 11-14, for the annual FSM Joint Committee Meeting (JCM).

The JCM is normally held twice annually in accordance with the Title III of Compact of Free Association (COFA), and facilitates productive dialogue surrounding mutual security and defense responsibilities relevant to sustaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

This FSM JCM is the first held in two years due to the global pandemic.

"Today we begin to regain some momentum on past efforts and look forward to new defense initiatives. We have serious regional defense challenges,

but they remain within our collective ability to overcome," said Nicholson during opening remarks. "The JCMs are an important avenue for us to have open and honest dialogue on topics of mutual interest to the FSM and Department of Defense (DoD); to demonstrate our close relationship, and continue to build upon it into the future."

"Much has happened in the last three years and since our last Joint Committee Meeting in 2019 prior to the COVID-19 outbreak," said Vice President Palik in his opening remarks. "JCM provides the opportunity for the U.S. and FSM governments to discuss, plan and operationalize some of our key programs and initiatives, as provided under Title III of the Amended Compact, to strengthening our strategic partnership and defense cooperation."

This year's discussion was guided by four lines of effort including defense responsibilities; law enforcement capacity building with a range of capable partners;

Continued on next page

## ...PACOM

Continued from previous page

securing the Blue Continent's maritime resources and sovereign borders; and preparing to respond to hazards unique to Pacific Island communities.

"We kicked off the week with clear objectives: to chart the course of our partnership over the next few years, and determine how our armed forces can better serve our Pacific island communities. We've talked at length about construction projects to improve civil and military infrastructure for the Federated States of Micronesia. From elementary schools to port and harbor repairs, we are invested in building your communities and securing the defense of the FSM and protecting her people," Nicholson said.

The three-day conference culminated in a historic signing of an expanded ship-rider agreement between U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam (USCGFMSG) and the FSM Government allowing remote coordination of authorities. The agreement will enable the U.S. to act on behalf of the FSM to combat illicit maritime activity and to strengthen international security operations.

"This capability is a true and symbolic realization of the integration of our homelands as one, as established by the Compact of Free Association, and will strengthen not only the maritime security of both our nations, but the bonds of partnership we share," Nicholson said.

Additionally, the team took action on creating a Defense Sites Working Group which will report to the larger JCM committee membership, and whose purpose will be to identify the appropriate processes for establishing defense sites in the FSM for increased defense of rules based international maritime law in the region.

In his closing remarks, Senator Robson Romolow, Chairman, Judiciary and Governmental Operations of the 22nd FSM Congress, conveyed his appreciation to Nicholson and the U.S. delegation for the invitation extended to the FSM Congress to participate in the Mid-Year JCM 2022, which further enhances the special ties between the FSM and United States.

Rear Adm. Nicholson reiterated his appreciation for the FSM delegation, the robust dialogue, and the broad technical expertise and leadership experience that was brought to the table.



## National Oceanic Resource Management Authority

FSM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

P.O. Box PS122

PALIKIR, POHNPEI, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA 96941

Tel: [\(691\) 320-5181/2700](tel:(691)320-5181/2700) Fax: [\(691\) 320-2383](tel:(691)320-2383) Email: [mail@norma.fm](mailto:mail@norma.fm) Website: [www.norma.fm](http://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 in 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":

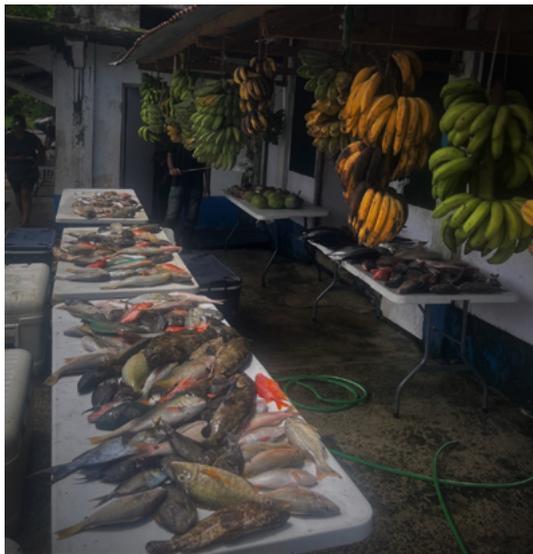
NORMA Office  
Ambros Building, 2nd floor  
P.O. Box PS-122  
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Phone: (691) 320-2700  
Email: [info@norma.fm](mailto:info@norma.fm)  
Copy to [moria.joseph@norma.fm](mailto:moria.joseph@norma.fm)

## Opinion Editorial

# High Food prices

By Konrad Englberger

In the last few years, food prices for local food have significantly increased. Most food items have doubled or tripled in price. What are the reasons for these high prices? These can be a combination of reasons like short supply and high demand, increasing costs of agricultural inputs like fertilizer, compost, seeds; increase of fuel prices; climate change; high inflation and lack of commitment to spend more time for farming.



Coconuts for drinking have tripled in price, from \$ 0.50 to \$ 1.50, Bananas both fresh and for cooking have doubled in price from \$ 0.30 to \$ 0.60 per pound, Soft Taro also tripled in price from \$ 0.50 to \$1.75 per pound and cucumbers had a price increase of 166 %

Fish, both reef fish and Tuna, have significant price increase from \$ 1.75 to \$ 3.00 per pound, one reason for this increase is the high fuel prices.

Not only have the food prizes for local food drastically increased but also the imported food ones, for example one dozen of eggs used to be \$ 3.00, now was \$ 5.00 which is a 166% increase, recently the prices have increased to \$ 7.00 for 12 eggs ( 233% increase).

Also price for imported animal feed has increased significantly which resulted in the increase of local pig meat.

| Food                   | Market prize per pound in 2019 | Market prize per pound in 2022 | % increase |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Tuna                   | 1.75                           | 3.00 and more                  | 171 %      |
| Reef Fish              | 1.75                           | 2.00 to 3.00                   | 114– 171%  |
| Cucumber               | 1.50                           | 2.50                           | 166 %      |
| Coconut drinking/piece | 0.50                           | 1.50 and more                  | 300 %      |
| Breadfruit             | 0.30                           | 0.65                           | 216 %      |
| Banana Manila          | 0.35                           | 0.60                           | 170 %      |
| Cooking Banana         | 0.25                           | 0.50                           | 200 %      |
| Taro soft              | 0.50                           | 1.50                           | 350 %      |
| Avocado                | 2.00                           | 2.50                           | 125 %      |

What can be done?

Most people in FSM have access to land and they can grow local foods which can replace or substitute some of the imported foods. Coconuts are in short supply, this is the reason why the cost of drinking nut has increased from \$ 0.50 to \$ 1.50. Every household should have abundance of coconuts which can be used for drinking, cooking, as animal feed and other uses. Coconut is an excellent animal feed for pigs and chickens, one coconut can feed 2 to 3 chickens per day and they will produce nice fresh eggs every day. People need to plant more coconuts. Besides coconut, people can and should plant and eat vegetables like Chinese cabbage, cucumber, eggplants, pumpkin and others to improve their nutritional food requirements. Other local crops which will contribute to Food Security are Taro, Banana and Breadfruit which are all easy to grow. Subsistence farming can provide good and healthy local food without spending much money for imported food.

It is likely that there will be problems with global food shortages and supply chain which will result in food shortage of imported food for FSM. FSM is food-insecure and has a very high demand for food imports, it will be very difficult to feed the population with local food products. In the old days people had taro patches and this was the Food Security. Swamp taro can be kept in the ground for many years as food reserve. Many of the swamp taro patches are not maintained any longer and swamp taro has been replaced by rice to great extent.

# The UN in FSM milestones and the way forward

United Nations Mironesia

A year ago, on 1st October 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres appointed the first Resident Coordinator Micronesia, Mr. Jaap van Hierden, to head the UN's newest Multi-Country Resident Coordinator's Office. Based in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the UN Multi-Country Resident Coordinator's Office Micronesia (UNMCO Micronesia) covers the five Micronesian countries including Palau, the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru and Kiribati.

Since it became a member state of the United Nations in 1991, FSM has been active on matters such as climate change as well as joining the other Micronesian countries to lobby for the appointment of a dedicated Resident Coordinator for Micronesia for over a decade.

Although the UN system has been active in FSM for many years, the establishment of the new UNMCO provides FSM an entry point to the full resources of the UN system. Since the opening of the new UNMCO, the UN presence in FSM has been scaled-up, including the establishment of the full United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) North Pacific Offices, the promotion of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to a country office, as well as the deployment of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) staff and the increase in capacity of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) offices. Additional UN agencies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNWomen have been planning the deployment of personnel to FSM. Other UN agencies continue to provide remote support.

Most importantly, over the past year, the UN system in Micronesia has been working with the Government to address some of the major socio-economic challenges including climate security, food security, health and education and economic recovery.

As with all small island states spread across the vast expanse of the Pacific, the climate crisis has now become an existential threat to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia. Addressing climate security and disaster risk reduction has never been more important.

IOM has been working with government partners to build capacity in disaster response to prevent forced migration or displacement. Just last month IOM conducted the "Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance" training in Pohnpei bringing together the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management and Department of Public Safety to discuss crucial aspects of disaster response such as evacuation centre management, principles of humanitarian assistance as well as gender and security. Access to safe and clean water is a basic human right. UNICEF and UNDP have been supporting several community initiatives to improve water and sanitation, including the rehabilitation of a water treatment plant and 14 wells which benefitted close to 4,000 Micronesians of which 49 per cent of the beneficiaries are women. With support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, UNDP has been collaborating with Government on gender mainstreaming. Through this partnership, the FSM Government has initiated the setup of a national gender commission with focal points in the three states.

The UNMCO Micronesia was established at a time when the world was grappling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was further exacerbated by the ongoing hyperinflation and fuel price rises.

FSM experienced its first case of community transmission more than two years after the virus started. However, national preparedness and planning continued to be supported by WHO, UNICEF and the

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The UN worked closely with the government and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to plan for and control the spread of the pandemic.

WHO supported state and national government pandemic preparedness, while UNICEF rolled out the National COVID-19 Response Plan which included Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), safe school protocols, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). IOM has supported the delivery of water and sanitation materials dignity kits to state hospitals and community health clinics.

UNOPS joined the COVID-19 response

*Continued on next page*

## UN Resident Coordinator for Micronesia presents speech for UN Day 2022 Monday 24 October 2022

Alii, Kaselehlie, Iokwe, Kamawir Omo, Mauri

It is my pleasure to celebrate UN Day with you today. A day that reminds us that the UN was born with the ambition to stop all wars, to stop all forms of exploitation, to leave no one behind.

A day that reminds us that after 77 years, our job is not done.

A day during which we reflect on the diversity of the UN and its many organisations covering all areas within our society. A UN family that includes ESCAP, FAO, IFAD, IOM, ILO, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UNWOMEN, WHO and so many more UN organisations.

A day when we celebrate the membership

to the UN of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Kiribati. A strong and appreciated presence in the General Assembly with five votes to help build a better future for all.

A day when I am not able to speak to you from Pohnpei, which is the new seat of the UN in the Micronesian region.

A day when together with the people and leadership of the Micronesian countries, we will continue to work towards a better future for all Micronesians. A future that defeats climate change, enables healthy communities and ensures that Micronesian children are well educated with well-paying jobs available locally. And so much more.

A day when I recognise our shared fight against climate change and against non-communicable diseases.

A fight in support of quality education, fair jobs and sustainable business. A fight in support of human rights and free speech. A fight that preserves our nature and precious biodiversity. A fight that realises our shared ambition to bring quality education to the farthest children in the most remote island without them having to leave the safety of their homes.

A day when we refuse to accept that migration is the only option for vulnerable islanders overwhelmed by the sea.

A day when we recognise that big brains, imagination and drive are needed to build a better future for our children and grandchildren.

A day when I am encouraged by Palau's



commitment to go 100% green within the next ten years.

I wish you a very nice day.

## ...UN in FSM

*Continued from front page*

in FSM by procuring personal protective equipment, medical equipment, critical medicines and supplies worth US\$2.5 million, in support of health workers, people affected by COVID-19 and at-risk populations, including the elderly and people with diabetes.

Furthermore, UNOPS has committed to strengthening its partnership with the Government over the next year, to support the Ministry of Health to assess its long-term healthcare needs. UNOPS is procuring additional resources such as medicines, medical equipment, and sea and land ambulances with the goal of allowing more equitable access to healthcare for all.

ummit in September last year could not come at a more opportune moment, with the global crises of rising inflation, fuel price rises, and COVID-19 place additional strain on the food supply. To carry forward FSM's preparations for the Food Systems Summit, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) launched various initiatives this year to help address the food crisis. Most recently, they initiated the "Development Emergency Modality - Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance" project in collaboration

with the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF. This project aims to improve the understanding of the impact of the global food, energy and finance crisis on the national food system and what approaches could be adopted to address this.

Furthermore, the UNMCO Micronesia wishes to extend its gratitude and congratulations to the Government of FSM for submitting their commitment to our Transforming Education Summit (TES) that was held in September.

Education was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with children being forced out of their routine there was a dire need for global intervention. Through the TES, governments registered their commitment to improving access to education, thus acknowledging the need for high-quality, relevant programs at all levels of education, quality of teachers and teaching, consistent performance monitoring and data-based decision-making systems, the participation of communities in the management of schools and ensuring that education is relevant to the life and aspirations of the people of FSM.

Gender-based violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, and the immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls can be devastating, including death. To address this, UNFPA is currently supporting the Department of Health to work on ways to counter gender-

based violence against women and girls.

While UN agencies in Micronesia may have already made significant strides in addressing some of the fundamental development challenges in FSM, but the UN Resident Coordinator appreciates that

the journey is far from over. Over the next few years, FSM will see a significantly increased UN presence as new agencies additional UN agencies, funds and programmes expand their presence in FSM and support to the Micronesian leaders.

## ...Hospital

*Continued from page 3*

couch. Other component units of the new Medical Wing include a nursing station, an Information Technology/Security room, and a janitorial closet, among others.

Constructed by Black Sand Construction, the new Medical Wing was funded by both the Congress of the FSM and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). "I thank Congress for their effort and leadership for supporting this essential project," President Panuelo said in his remarks. "In that same vein, I also want to thank ADB for their grants given to us to support our COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Healthcare Strengthening. Healthcare improvement, not just public health, is part of that vision, and it cannot be emphasized enough how profoundly helpful ADB has been to our Nation, both historically, and during the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic. From our Social Protection Programming to this new Medical Wing, we are grateful for

ADB's friendship and support."

"With this new Medical Wing, we can explore opportunities to elevate and improve the level of healthcare service deliver in Pohnpei State, for the benefit of the residents of Pohnpei and the whole of the FSM."



## -Police Blotter-

This Police Blotter covers September 26 - October 9, 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.

### Sept 26, 2022

- Merlihse Lepen - 69yrs - Ipat, Nett - Careless Driving
- Mackilino Ardos - 38yrs - Nansokasok, Nett - Disorderly Conduct
- Hiroshi Torres - 46yrs - Nankengkeng, U - Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault
- Iginacio Rodriquez - 60yrs - Dolokei, Nett - Appearance & Theft

Kolonia - Assault w/Dangerous weapon

- KR Sailas - 31yrs - Yakupa, Kolonia - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol
- Masanory Lopez - 33yrs - Awak Pah, U - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol & Careless Driving
- Johnny Pillimen - 36yrs - Wapar, Madolenhimw - Appearance in Public under the Influence of Alcohol

### Oct 07, 2022

- Karihno Kihleng - 47yrs - Saladak, U - Assault & Battery w/ Dangerous weapon
- Kohper Kihleng - 50yrs - Saladak, U - Assault & Battery w/ Dangerous weapon
- Drake Lawrence - 38yrs - Ninsei, Kolonia - Careless Driving
- Lincoln Dadius - 42yrs - Dolonier, Nett - Disorderly Conduct
- John Paul - 42yrs - Nanpohnmal, Sokehs - Disorderly Conduct

Komwonlaid, Kolonia - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol

- Wayne Weital - 30yrs - U - Disorderly Conduct
- Jayson Peren - 24yrs - Nahnpohnmal, Nett - Disorderly Conduct

### Sept 29, 2022

- Kennedy Saido - 22yrs - Nanmal, Palikir - Disorderly Conduct

### Oct 02, 2022

- Rejoy Robert - 18yrs - Mapwusi, Kolonia - Disorderly Conduct & Consume
- Rayson Miguel - 33yrs - Paies, Kitti - Open container & Appearance in Public under the Influence of Alcohol
- Sirel James - 57yrs - Sapwalap, Madolenihmw - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol & Careless Driving
- Albert Rodriquez - 54yrs - Pohnmangahng, Nett - Open container & Appearance in Public Under the Influence of Alcohol

### Oct 08, 2022

- Joseph Rayes - 64yrs - Mapwusi, Kolonia - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol & Careless Driving
- Danny Mihkel - 27yrs - Paies, Kitti - Disorderly Conduct
- Wensne Mihkel - 43yrs - Paies, Kitti - Disorderly Conduct
- Reagan Saimon - 35yrs - Palikir, Sokehs - Disorderly Conduct
- Jovany Edward - 20yrs - Palikir, Sokehs - Appearance in Public under the Influence of Alcohol & Consume
- Patrick Solomon - 45yrs -

### Oct 09, 2022

- Selimo Elimo - 38yrs - Nanparangon, Nett - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol
- Jackson Ponttan - 18yrs - Dolonier, Nett - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol & Careless Driving & Consume
- Kennedy Saido - 22yrs - Disorderly Conduct - Palikir, Sokehs
- Zelnick Moses - 28yrs - Saladak, U - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol with no consent to operate a vehicle.
- Shamblu Moses - 31yrs - Kalapwuk, Kolonia - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol with No consent to operate a vehicle.
- Olter Alex - 59yrs - Pohnpwet, U - Domestic Violence

### Sept 30, 2022

- Justin Selinas - 18yrs - Daini, Kolonia - Disorderly Conduct & Consume
- Jefcen Siliwer - 18yrs - Meitik, Nett - Disorderly Conduct & Consume
- Marcus Sohl - 37yrs - Sapwohn, Sokehs - Driving under the Influence of Alcohol

### Oct 01, 2022

- Gus Jacky - 41yrs - Yakupa,

## Nauru Airlines resumes biweekly flights to the FSM

### FSM Information Services

#### PALIKIR, Pohnpei—

In part as a result of the advocacy efforts on behalf of His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the other members of the Micronesian Presidents Summit (MPS), the Government of Australia is subsidizing biweekly flights on Nauru Airlines so as to help connect the North and South Pacific.

The inaugural Australia-North Pacific Connector landed in Pohnpei on Sunday, October 16th, 2022, at 11:45pm, and departed on October 17th at 11:50am. The biweekly flight originates in Brisbane, Australia, and travels to the Republic of Nauru; Tarawa, in the Republic of Kiribati; Majuro, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and



Pohnpei, in the FSM. Persons wishing to travel to the Republic of Fiji, or other South Pacific islands via Fiji, can depart from Nauru to Fiji on a separate flight. Passengers on the inaugural flight included T.H. Asterio Appi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nauru; T.H. Reagan Aliklik, Deputy Minister for Information & Communication of Nauru; Mr. Geoff Bowmaker, Vice Chair of Nauru Airlines; and Mr. Robert Eoe, Chief Executive Officer of Nauru



Airlines.

Prior to the Nauru delegation's departure, Secretary Elieisar and Acting Secretary Thomas Kostka of the Department of Transportation, Communication, &

Infrastructure met with Deputy Minister Appi to discuss various bilateral issues between the FSM and Nauru, and to acknowledge the significance of the return of Nauru Airlines to the FSM.

# FSM receives \$35,700,000 in corporate tax payments; \$17.8 Million enters FSM Trust Fund, \$17.8 Million enters general fund

## FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has recently received two corporate tax payments through MRA Advisors Inc. The result of the payments is that the FSM will be receiving \$35,700,000 of which half will automatically be transferred into the FSM Trust Fund per Public Law 20-130. The other half will be deposited into the General Fund of the FSM.

The FSM prides itself on being flexible and responsive to evolving global conditions, and is a well-known

location for establishing offshore corporations in accordance with OECD Global Forum standards. MRA Advisors Inc., specializes in assisting foreign corporations or individuals, and captive insurance companies, establish subsidiaries in the FSM. Ever since the FSM began its partnership with MRA Advisors Inc., more than 170 Japanese-owned major corporations have been registered in the FSM.

The practical effect for FSM citizens is that the partnership between the FSM and MRA Advisors Inc., results in substantial revenue that directly impacts public projects, such as the construction

and maintenance of infrastructure to education and youth-based programming, as well as substantial increases to the FSM Trust Fund (which exists to ensure the continuity of essential services regardless of external environmental and geopolitical factors). On September 13th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo received a report on the FSM Trust Fund as of July 31st, 2022. In that report, the Secretary of Finance & Administration advised President Panuelo that the FSM Trust Fund is presently approximately \$357,375,960. Presuming no other changes or amendments, the infusion of \$17,850,000 from corporate tax

payments will increase the FSM Trust Fund to approximately 375 million dollars. Citizens may appreciate recalling that the FSM Trust Fund is distinct from the Compact Trust Fund, the latter of which has a present value of approximately one billion dollars.

The President's letter to the Speaker of the FSM Congress on the infusion of corporate tax payments to the FSM Trust Fund and the General Fund may be found here: [https://gov.fm/files/Announcements/October\\_10\\_2022\\_-\\_Letter\\_to\\_Speaker\\_Simina\\_re\\_-\\_MRA\\_deposits.pdf](https://gov.fm/files/Announcements/October_10_2022_-_Letter_to_Speaker_Simina_re_-_MRA_deposits.pdf)

# Chuuk Lagoon's 'Eat Healthy & Be Active program'

## The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Chuuk Lagoon's Namoneas District received the 'Eat Healthy & Be Active program. The island of Romanum Branch's self-reliance specialist, Tarsisio Walter, held their first class Saturday, October 22nd in their meetinghouse. After a short training on the testing equipment, Lawrence Joseph, a nurse on Romanum, assisted as the participants took turns at being weighed and tested for blood pressure and glucose. Their data was then logged into their manuals as a starting point to compare with their final twelfth-week tests.

The 'Eat Healthy & Be Active' program was adopted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Welfare Department to help with the islands high number of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's). This course is prepared for the Pacific islands as a Diabetes prevention education program to teach correct principles to improve health and the quality of life not only for members but also for their community. This twelve-week course gives participants a chance to gather with others, learning a healthier lifestyle and how to

prevent Diabetes.

Throughout the twelve weeks, participants follow the principles outlined in the manual, meeting each week, learning line upon line and precept upon precept.

Supporting each other in and out of class gives confidence, reassurance, and improves self-esteem resulting in greater success in achieving commitments and goals.

Inside the manual cover, the Asia North Area Presidency explains that God has commanded us to "seek...out of the best books words of wisdom" (Doctrine & Covenants 88:118) and has provided to us a "word of wisdom" where He counselled us in the care and nourishment of our bodies (Doctrine & Covenants 89).

God has also given a promise, saying,



"And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones; And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; And shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint." (Doctrine & Covenants 89:18-20)



## Pacifical: the first “GDST-Capable” seafood company

### Pacifical

Pacifical has become the first seafood company to pass the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST's) Capability Test, demonstrating its ability to capture all data required by the GDST Standard, receiving and transmitting data in the correct formats, and using a standardized communications protocol. Pacifical's online platform is called “SmarTuna”, an IT system that facilitates optimal visibility, verification, traceability, and certification in sustainable Pacific tuna value chains for all involved stakeholders.

“As promoters of fully traceable

sustainably caught tuna from the Pacific Island nations, we see this as a revolutionary development and are enormously proud to be the first organization in the global seafood industry to be recognized as GDST capable,” said Cynthia Asaf, COO at Pacifical. “We want to provide all retailers and tuna supply chain actors, supporting the GDST initiative, the future ability to be able to receive all relevant traceability data from our fully verified sustainable Pacific tuna, now in the GDST format. We encourage them to join us in our effort in making large scale interoperable traceability a reality.”

“Availability of the first software solutions to earn the ‘GDST-Capable’ logo represents a major advancement for digital seafood traceability,” said Greg Brown, Executive Director of the GDST. “We now have a realistic way for industry to know if software is capable of fully implementing the GDST Standard.” In order for seafood supply chain actors to be able to prove they can reliably receive GDST-compatible data, they will also first need to pass the GDST Capability Test.

Pacifical started this joint partnership with the GDST in 2021 by engaging in a beta pilot for their first-ever testing tool. This was designed to enable automatic

computer-to-computer sharing of GDST-compatible data. Without dispute, the beta process was vital to demonstrate the verified capability of the SmarTuna platform to share data according to the GDST framework.

Transparency is key step in preventing illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing practices. Pacifical invites retailers, brands and tuna processors to implement GDST capable traceability in their tuna supply chain to show evidence that each individual end product has been caught and produced sustainably and in a socially-responsible way.

## The FSM & the Republic of Bulgaria establish Diplomatic Relations

### FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On October 20th, 2022, the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of Bulgaria established diplomatic relations at a ceremony held in New York. H.E. Jeem Lippwe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the FSM

to the United Nations, and H.E. Lachezara Stoeva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations, signed a Joint Communiqué formalizing diplomatic relations.

During the meeting, the Ambassadors briefly discussed the importance of multilateralism to both countries. They agreed on the importance to combat

Climate Change, which the FSM views to be the Nation's enduring and most existential security threat. Ambassador Lippwe reiterated the call from H.E. David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, for the European Union to establish a permanent presence in the FSM.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the FSM and Bulgaria 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 18 of April 1961. The establishment of diplomatic relations was attended by members of the two respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. Bulgaria

## Pacific-led board to drive strategic direction of Pacific Women Lead

### Pacific Community

14 October 2022

**Suva, Fiji** – A newly-established Pacific Women Lead (PWL) Governance Board is set to drive the strategy and high-level decision making for the Pacific regional gender equality portfolio, championing the advancement of women across the region.

The board comprises a majority of Pacific women leaders including representatives from the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and 10 independent members.

Pacific Women Lead is Australia's flagship regional investment in advancing gender equality in the Pacific (\$170 million over five years, 2021–2026). This funding commitment is in addition to Australia's existing bilateral gender equality partnerships.

“This is a milestone in the history of gender equity in this region and I thank everyone for their participation in this inaugural Pacific Women

Lead Governance Board meeting. In particular, to my fellow members of the board, I thank them for their commitment, leadership and willingness to serve on this board – as we guide Pacific Women Lead as it addresses issues and challenges faced by women and girls in the Pacific,” said Governance Board Chair, Dr Audrey Aumua.

The 13-member board will oversee the roll-out of gender equality initiatives led by PWL's key implementing partner, SPC, in addition to providing strategic advice to guide both the regional implementation and bilateral partnerships.

“It is vital to the success of Pacific Women Lead to embody a Pacific-led approach – not just in terms of programming but also in its decision-making systems and partnerships. We look forward to supporting the members of this Governance Board in supporting the programme to improve the lives of women and girls in the region,” said Miles Young, Director of SPC's Human Rights and Social Development Division – within which the PWL at SPC and the Governance Board Secretariat is



embedded.

Women).

The initial roster of board members has been directly appointed by Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs. Each board member is nominated for a two-year period, with the potential of future members nominated via direct appointment and wide-reaching expressions of interest processes. Two members were selected to the Pacific Women Lead Governance Board as part of the intentional transition of knowledge and relationships from the predecessor programme, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific

The full membership includes: Dr Audrey Aumua (transitioning member and Chair), Rev James Bhagwan (Deputy Chair), Alexander Su'a, 'Ana Malia Falemaka, Ethel Sigimanu (transitioning member), Hon Nadine Jalabert, Rhema Misa, Susil Nelson-Kongoi, Tahina Booth, Teretia Tokam, Mereseini Rakuita (ex-officio member, SPC), Paki Ormsby (ex-officio member, PIFS) and Julianne Cowley (ex-officio member, DFAT).

# Big prizes award for the Pohnpei LP Gas-Seven Stars businesses tournament

By Pohnpei Fishing Club

October 22, 2022

**Pohnpei**—Calm weather generally doesn't bode particularly well for catching fish but Saturday's fishing seemed to be an exception with some big fish landed for the Pohnpei LP Gas, Seven Stars Store, Hot Plate, Seven Stars Inn, and Pohnpei Metal Works tournament. As some have said, the prizes for the tournament were "worth getting out of bed for".

29 boats registered for the tournament which, after morning safety check-in seemed to spread out all over Pohnpei's waters. To be sure, some anglers went fishless for the day but those who did land fish, landed significantly bigger fish with greater variety than in the most recent tournament.

Detrickson Anson aboard "Pwok" won the prize for the biggest fish, a yellow fin for a prize of \$1000. Ryan Hawley, aboard "Bailey Rose" landed another impressive yellow fin at 69.8 for the \$600 second-place

prize. The third and fourth place winners landed two qualifying sailfish for the third and fourth prizes of \$400 and \$250 respectively. Isaiah Hawley's sailfish was 61.8 pounds. Damian Semes' fish was 53.2, just above the 50-pound qualifying sailfish weight.

For the biggest fish by species, first and second place winners were awarded \$150 and \$100 respectively. Thomas Inatio caught an 18-pound yellow fin for first place. His fish was the only exception to the prize money amount. Organizers wanted the top yellow fin angler to receive \$200. Second place Yellow fin angler was again, the amazing young fisherman Dave Spence with a 12.8-pound example of the species. Klaper Pelep's cow of a skipjack at 20.4 scored first place, again followed by Dave Spencer's second place fish at 17.8 pounds. It was nice to see at least one mahi mahi landed for this tournament. Selestine Isaac landed a 24.4-pound mahi for the only prize awarded for that species. Keanu Musrasrik's 14.6-pound wahoo won the top prize for that species followed by Thomas Inatio's 10.2-pound fish.

Delihna Ferdinand was the top lady angler earning her a prize of \$250 for her 16-pound skipjack. The mighty Dave Spencer was the top junior angler for a skipjack that won him \$25.

The sponsoring business awarded special gift certificates by raffle to eight boat owners:

- |                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Splash 2.0                     | Dr. Hedson |
| Captain Johnson Edward         |            |
| Sapwu Kevin Sepihn             |            |
| Niquisa Trumaine Penias        |            |
| Salt Life Phillip Doses        |            |
| Miss Jolihna Delihna Ferdinand |            |
| Dear Diane Buzz Muffet         |            |
| Dolphin Marvey Spencer         |            |

The United States Embassy again donated an EPIRB to a small boat owner. Andrew Posner of the Embassy presented the prize to

Johnson Edward on the boat "Captain".

All told it was a good day out on the water. The weigh in was a lot of fun and we had a good crowd. Please come on down even if you are not fishing.

We want to thank the people who helped out, Virginia, Destiny, Cel, the boom truck and guys on the dock. We can't do it without our supporters.

Again, thanks to Pohnpei LP Gas, 7 Stars Store, Hot Plate and 7 Stars Inn for sponsoring this tournament.

Our next tournament is the Annual Budweiser toumey set for November 12.



## Secretary Elieisar presents Rhea Moss-Christian an Exequatur from President Panuelo confirming her as Honorary Consul of the RMI to the FSM

Press Release

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On October 21st, 2022, the Honorable Kandhi A. Elieisar, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian in a ceremony wherein the Secretary presented an exequatur from H.E. David W. Panuelo confirming Ms. Moss-Christian as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to the FSM.

In his remarks, Secretary Elieisar congratulated Ms. Moss-Christian on her appointment by the RMI Government, and exequatur from President Panuelo confirming the FSM's concurrence, to



serve as the Honorary Consul of the RMI in the FSM. It is the view of the FSM Government that Honorary Consul Moss-Christian is very qualified to fill this position.

In her remarks, Honorary Consul Moss-Christian described the honor and privilege she felt to serve the RMI as a diplomatic representative.

## FSM auditors say that improvements need to be made on enforcement of Styrofoam and plastic ban law

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

October 25, 2022

**FSM**—The FSM Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) says that more needs to be done to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the importation ban on single use Styrofoam and plastic items.

FSM President David Panuelo signed the bill into law on February 7, 2020. "In order for the (FSM's) Climate Change pleas to be taken seriously by the global community," he said at the time. "We must demonstrate courage and conviction in our actions and compassion and care towards our environment and our citizens. We must lead by example. This new ban

on disposable plastic, which allows the importation of reusable and recycled plastic, shows that is possible to be environmentally conscious while still retaining sensitivity to the conveniences appreciated by citizens and the business community."

The recently released inspection report by ONPA was to determine whether or not the law is being implemented in a sustainable way. The first finding of the report was that the public law and regulations were created without including penalties for violation and without consultation with the implementing agencies.

Auditors reported that interviews

*Click here for continuation*

# UOG Marine Lab's quest to restore reefs discussed at international conference

## University of Guam Marine Lab

A team from the University of Guam Marine Laboratory gave presentations at an international conference about its efforts to help revive the island's reefs through ocean nursery culturing and planting corals.

The UOG Marine Lab has been planting cultured corals onto reef flats in Piti and the Cocos Island lagoon while developing coral restoration practices.

The Marine Lab's efforts through the years have been crucial in working to better understand the resilience of Guam's reefs and to restore species impacted by bleaching. During bleaching, higher water temperatures, combined with sunlight, created heat stress on corals and can cause them to die.

Laurie Raymundo, director of the Marine Lab and professor of marine biology at UOG, was one of the presenters at the Reef Futures 2022 Conference in Key Largo, Florida from Sept. 26 to 30.

Raymundo said the corals that are being propagated in nurseries in the lagoon near Malesso and Piti Bomb Holes are doing well.

The Marine Lab made international headlines when previous research led by Raymundo found that more than one-third of all coral reefs in Guam were killed from 2013 to 2017 over the course of multiple



bleaching events.

According to Raymundo, the next bleaching event will be a matter of when not if.

"The five-year event was unique. But fortunately, we have not bleached badly since then. But we feel it's only a matter of time," Raymundo said.

Some of the other members of the UOG Marine Lab team who presented at the Reef Futures conference include:

Ashley Castro, restoration technician, who presented her work on the growth rates of corals in the nursery. Castro noted there were clear differences between closely related species and between the corals growing in the Piti nursery compared with those in the Cocos Lagoon nursery.

"These results will be helpful in

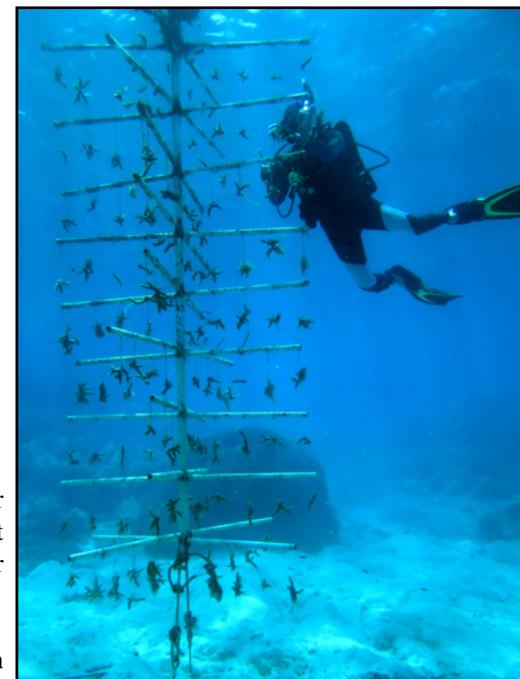
identifying ways to improve our culture approaches and species that are responding differently in our two nurseries," Raymundo said.

Maria Andersen, also a restoration technician at the Marine Lab, gave a talk about how these species have fared after pruning and planting – how they are surviving and what is causing some mortality.

Marine Lab team members Renee Crisostomo and Carlos Tramonte also presented posters on their thesis projects.

The health of Guam's reefs also has an impact on one of Guam's main economic lifelines and job creators – tourism.

"We know from (Guam Visitors Bureau) reports that most visitors come because of our beautiful beaches and marine life. If we do not maintain them, we will



probably lose our tourists."

The good news is that the Marine Lab's efforts overall – to give the Guam reefs a shot at survival – are gaining strides.

Overall, the cultured and transplanted corals are all doing well, so far, Raymundo said.

The UOG Marine Laboratory was established as a research unit of UOG in 1970 and plays an important role in both national and regional marine research.

To learn more about the UOG Marine Lab, go to <https://www.uog.edu/ml/>

## ...Plastics Audit

*Continued from page 19*

of "relevant officials" revealed that the Division of Immigration as an implementing agency specifically mentioned in the law and relevant permanent regulations, was not aware of the law at all and so has played no role in the implementation of it. Auditors noted that there was no secure storage location or plan in place to safely destroy confiscated prohibited items in an environmentally safe manner. "Without effective controls such as penalties, the confiscated prohibited items may end up circulated, the ultimately polluting the environment."

The second finding was that key

agencies were not equipped with the skills and tools to implement the law. The law allows for certain thicknesses of plastics measured in microns that enforcement entities do not have the capacity to measure. According to the response from DECEM (Department of Environment, Climate, and Emergency Management) and from the Division of Customs and Tax Authority that problem is being remedied.

The third finding was that current locations for storing confiscated items are not secure. ONPA auditors inspected three sites and found that though the rooms were locked, they could be easily accessed by any staff members. The also found that the current locations were beginning to get full and have begun to cause inconveniences to

employees due to limited office space. Auditors also learned that one box that had been confiscated was missing from the DECEM storage room.

The fourth finding of the inspection was that plans to safely destroy the confiscated items were not established as per regulatory requirements.

The law requires seized items to be stored for a period of 30 days. If an importer files an appeal, that period could be extended up to one year. It requires the Secretary of DECEM to make plans for the eventual destruction of the confiscated goods in an environmentally friendly manner.

Auditors found that confiscated Styrofoam and plastic items have been

stored at the three locations inspected have been stored for over 30 days and in some cases for over one year.

Auditors also pointed out that there is an absence of policies and standard operating procedures for the effective implementation of the law.

ONPA reported that it could not carry out some inspection procedures at businesses due to "no confirmation from business owners to inspect prohibited plastic and Styrofoam items at their businesses." They also could not perform a stock reconciliation due to absence of proper inventory listings at the storage sites where confiscated items are currently stored. It seems that the agencies only have a vague idea of what exactly is stored there.