

Pohnpei spends five days commemorating International Women's Day

By **Bill Jaynes**

The Kaselehlie Press

March 8, 2022

Pohnpei—Though today is official International Women's Day and it was marked with a marathon celebrated with aplomb and deserved enthusiasm at the Kolonia Town Gymnasium with what has become a tradition of speeches and performances by women's groups, Pohnpei's women have been holding events for five days. The dual themes of this year's events were "Break the Bias" and "Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world."



All photos by Micronesian Productions from video content



The events of the commemoration began with an all-day conference in the Governor's conference room. With Emeliana Musrasrik-Carl, President of the Pohnpei Women's Council (PWC) serving as Mistress of Ceremonies, it began

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Pohnpei's Governor Reed Oliver presents the State of the State Address

By **Andrew Falcam**

The Kaselehlie Press

March 10, 2022

Pohnpei—On the morning of March 10, 2022 at approximately 10am, the Honorable Reed B. Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, delivered his State of the State message to the citizens of Pohnpei which was held in the chambers of Pohnpei State Legislature. In attendance was the President of the FSM, H.E. David W. Panuelo, some of his cabinet members, Governor from Kosrae, traditional paramount leaders, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives

from the Pohnpei Legislature, Pohnpei Chief Justice, representatives from all Municipal Governments, and many others.

Governor Oliver first spoke on the progress of the Department of Health and Social Services (DoHSS) where he discussed the 5 divisions that fall under the DoHSS. He also mentioned the number of assets/equipment that are available at our state hospital and the need for more in terms of services in the event that we might encounter a state of emergency. The Governor also mentioned some of the kinds of

procedures that the hospital is equipped to assist with for patients and laid out which illnesses are most likely to lead to needing such procedures. Governor Oliver then shared the progress of COVID-19 Vaccinations, and from his statement, the progress is positive but with room for improvement.

Governor Oliver also spoke on the progress of the Department of Education (DOE) sharing information on the numbers of staff in total that work under DOE with breakdowns within the divisions. He also shared, in general, the breakdown within ECE centers,



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Pohnpei auditor shines light on hiring process inconsistencies at Pohnpei State

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

March 12, 2022

Pohnpei—After an audit of Pohnpei State's recruitment processes for government positions for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) concluded that the processes were "not always in line with the rules and procedures in the Pohnpei Services System Regulations (PSSR)."

"The situation could result to questions and issues regarding the Division's (Division of Personnel, Labor, and Manpower Development - DPLM) transparency and hiring/selection processes," the management letter accompanying the audit and dated February 16 said.

In matters outside the scope of the audit that came up during the process, the auditors commended the Chief of DPLM for reinstating the employees' periodic performance evaluation system within that Division. The commendation came because "Staff will have a chance to get recognized and appreciated for their hard work and effort...it will also help in determining the type of training and capacity building initiatives needed to enhance skills and work productivity of the employees...We believe the reinstatement...should be applied to all agencies, departments and offices of the Pohnpei State Government."

As an additional side matter, auditors pointed out that while employees' remuneration was not part of the review, they noticed that the level of salaries has not changed much for many employees, especially for classroom teachers. "We saw that a salary had not changed for one

teacher for the past 35 years since 1986." They expressed their opinion that the lack of proper remuneration may be one of the contributing factors for the nearly constant high numbers of vacancies for classroom teachers.

Auditors reviewed a total of 245 recruitments completed by DPLM during fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Of those, 112 of them were for the Department of Education.

The auditors listed four categories of findings covering a number of examples of non-compliance with the PSSR in its recruitment processes. The first finding was "non-compliance with the PSSR specific to employee recruitment procedures." The second finding was "lack of written policies and procedures." Finding three was "lack of proper oversight to ensure completeness of recruitment documents." The final finding category was a "lack of performance measurements".

Of the recruitments it reviewed there were:

- 46 instances with no required Personnel Actions to authorize the beginning of a recruitment process, all of them within the Department of Education "mostly for classroom teachers";
- 48 instances where job announcements did not indicate minimum qualifications for candidates;
- Four instances when applications for a hired individual came in after the announced closing date for applications;
- Four instances when job applications were submitted before jobs were

publicly announce and for the exact position title that eventually was publicly announced as required under the PSSR;

- Two instances where the job application for people hired were received after the certification list of qualified employees was prepared;
- Two instances when the certification list was prepared before the evaluation and review of job applications.
- Three instances when certification was made before the evaluation of job applications
- 11 instances when recruited personnel started work before signing their contracts, three of which were before the Director of Treasury and Administration had given proper approval.
- 19 instances when employees started working before submitting physical medical examination results which are required.

Auditors also pointed out that the list of eligible employees who have applied and passed examinations was not maintained and only created from a pool of applicants competing for a new vacant post. "Also, the Division does not maintain listings of candidates eligible for promotions and/or re-employment, thus individuals certified eligible for a post are all from open competitive list only," the audit said. Under such a scenario, a long-term qualified employee of the State could be completely ignored for promotion and end up reporting to a newly hired employee.

Under finding two, the auditors found a lack of written policies and procedures. Under that finding auditors pointed out practices not covered in the PSSR. It

said that when rating an applicant's work experience, the Division counted the number of years an applicant had been employed, whether or not their work experience applied to the position being advertised.

Other practices auditors found included:

- One case in which DPLM accepted an affidavit of lost degree but did not verify with the school that the employee had earned the claimed degree;
- 86 instances where results of evaluation and selection from the recruiting office were not filed with DPLM;
- Six instances where period of advertisement for a position was more than 15 days;
- Three instances when transcripts were not submitted for classroom teacher positions;
- One instance when the job announcement was posted before the Director of DOPA approved the Personnel Action for Recruitment.

Auditors found that many required documents supporting personnel actions were not on file, leading them to their third finding—"Lack of Proper Oversight to Ensure Completeness of Recruitment Documents".

Auditors also found a lack of performance measures for existing employees.

Christina Elnei, Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration agreed with all of the POPA's findings and set a date of September 30, 2022 for the State's New Chief of Personnel to have completed corrective actions on all of the findings.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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WILL BE RELEASED ON:
March 30, 2022**

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

Monday, March 28, 2022

Australian Ambassador Jo Cowley's first visit to Yap State

Her Excellency, Jo Cowley, the Australian Ambassador to the FSM, made her first state visit to Yap from February 24 to March 3, 2022. Her visit coincided with President Panuelo's tour of Yap which allowed her to experience Yap Day, with visits to several villages including Gagil, Ruul and Weloy. She was also given the honor to plant two coconut and one breadfruit tree as a symbol of the long friendship between Yap and Australia. Ambassador Cowley greatly appreciated the hospitality and the warm welcome from the people of Yap and enjoyed all the cultural performances and exquisite local cuisine. She stated, "I didn't know you there were so many ways of preparing taro and tapioca!", while highlighting the richness of the culture and the authenticity of the Yapese traditions and customs being something that the people of the FSM should be proud of and celebrate.



She also made several courtesy calls to the leadership in Yap, starting with the Councils of Pilung and Tamol, The Honorable Jesse Salalu, Yap State Governor, Speaker Vincent Figir and members of the 10th Yap State Legislature and the lastly with the Honorable Cyprian Manmaw, Chief Justice of the Yap State, where she expressed Australia's interests in strengthening relations with Yap and the FSM. She also provided information on the different types of assistance that the Australian government currently offer, such as the provisions of two new guardian-class patrol boats, plans to fund a new dock in Yap to accommodate the new patrol boats, the Direct Aid Program (DAP), Australia Volunteer Program and the Australia Award Scholarship (AAS/AAPS) program. She also inquired about Yap's priorities and concerns from the leadership's perspective on current issues such as the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the people of Yap. They collectively expressed their concern for the effect Covid-19 has on people's lives, particularly in regard to businesses, jobs, out-migration, and tourism.

Ambassador Cowley also visited the Yap State hospital and met with Acting Director Dominic Taruwemai and his staff where she discussed Covid-19 preparedness, the Yap state action plan, vaccination rate and some of the improvements to the hospital such as procurement of a new oxygen plant. The acting director and his staff emphasized the importance of vaccinations in helping

to minimize the effects of Covid-19, using Palau as a perfect example with the recent surge in the country.

Ambassador Cowley also visited several sites that received DAP funding including Yap Eco-Leaf, Yap Catholic High School (YCHS) and Yap Sports Grounds. She was given the opportunity to make several Eco-plates & bowls, serenaded by the YCHS students, who were also gifted a volleyball net and volleyballs. Sporting facilities were also visited, including the beach volleyball court funded by the Australian Government in 2018 for the last Micro Games.

Relating to Australia's priorities in gender equality, Ambassador Cowley met with the staff from the Yap Gender office and Yap Women's Association to discuss and share opportunities that were available through Australia's Pacific Women Lead program. She reiterated Australia's approach, which was to encourage locally driven projects to ensure that support is given to efforts led by the community.

Ambassador Cowley's Yap State trip was positive and productive. The Yap State Leadership showed great interest in strengthening ties with Australia. The Ambassador encouraged them to take advantage of the assistance Australia provided, particularly with the DAP and the AAPS/AAS for the youth. The trip provided the Ambassador with a better understanding of the challenges that Yap faces due to Covid-19 pandemic, which will in-turn better shape the assistance provided by Australia.



...State of the State

Continued from front page

elementary schools, high schools, special education, buses available, and school lunches. The breakdowns included the ratios from students to teachers in all levels of education in public and private schools specifically mentioning that there are not enough teachers. He spoke on the lack of money the State has available to provide school lunches, and the number of school busses and bus drivers available to services all levels of education from ECE to high school saying that more busses and drivers are needed. There were three special activities held during the past year which were Education Week, Student Takeover Day and Nia Tero. He expects those activities to continue during the next school year.

As for the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA), Governor Oliver said that the 2020 audited income was \$44,966,676, the expenditures were \$43,160,196 and the amount remaining was \$1,806,489. He said that in 2021 the total income was \$46,366,189, expenditures were \$41,872,631, and the amount remaining (\$4,493,558) for 2021. Those figures have not yet been audited. The Governor also said that Pohnpei that the \$5 million gained from its shares from CFC has been deposited into its account in the BOFSM. Further gains from shares included shares from PUC ADB. Lastly, he shared the amount that was equally distributed from the total of \$4,344,576 to the state local municipal governments and further stated that the remaining balances from 2018 budget will be released this fiscal year (2022).

The Governor said that the Department of Resource and Development (R&D), has completed 5-year plans for the areas of land, sea, tourism, energy, and the private sectors. For the land sector, the food security policy from Resolution LR No. 32-20 was submitted on Sept. 2021 which is to support the improvement and planting of local produce. The sea sector has successfully installed signs in designated areas prohibiting activities such as fishing/harvesting and dredging. Forestry sector has measures in place to protect our watershed but has only been able to measure six percent of the areas and is attempting to measure the rest of the areas for completion. For the private sector, foreign investment is crucial for development but there are still not

enough employees in the workforce and even less employment opportunities. The Economic Planning Commission and Price Control Board has been re-established to help support the public and keep store item prices reasonable/affordable. Lastly, Tourism sector has one major center (Nan Madol) which is receiving support from Japan and the general public in order to maintain the historical site.

As for the Department of Land (DoL), the Governor said that there are three divisions (Public Land, Survey & Mapping, and Historic Preservation). He mentioned that they will need to review existing laws and regulations for activities such as quit claim deeds, rent/lease, use of land, and dredging. In his message, he also listed the three standing boards which are Public Land Trust, Historic Preservation, and Land Surveyors. He also recommended that two other boards should be added which are Water Conservation and Planning and Zoning. Lastly, he mentioned that an Operational Manual would benefit the department and building repairs/renovations as well.

Governor Oliver then moved on to discuss the Department of Public Safety (DPS) saying that the department has been undergoing a series of capacity building training events in recent years through the police academy training and the field training course. Also, some Firefighter and Fish and Wildlife officers have completed the PADI Recue Diving Course. He also added that the need to improve DPS facilities and municipal substations is a must to help improve services for the general public. There is also a need for additional vehicles such as firetrucks and ambulances.

Next, the Governor spoke on PUC saying that they have a new power plant worth \$11.8 million which was supported by World Bank to help serve the state of Pohnpei with electricity. Another machine that provides electricity but does not depend on diesel fuel to operate was produced with support from USDA Rural Utility Services. In Pohnlangas, Madolenihmw, PUC purchased a solar plant from City Pro for an IPP to help provide electricity for the next 20 years and this project will help in reducing CO2 emissions, renewable energy and utility prices. This project is ready and awaiting consultants to get underway. As for water treatment, the plant in Kahmar, Nett has been the main source of clean and usable water for four of the six municipalities in Pohnpei.

Following the message on PUC, the Governor spoke on the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) and its project under IMF which is currently handling 14 projects totaling \$634,279.67. These projects range from building renovations for schools to government buildings. The Project Management Office has a total of \$121 million in compact project funds. \$6.3 million of that is for ongoing projects. \$17.1 million is for projects currently under bidding, \$37 million for projects ready for bidding and \$60.4 million for projects in the process of design.

Governor Oliver then moved on to discuss on the Office of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). ODA was established in Sept. 2021 and is meant to bridge the gap between the National Government and Pohnpei State. Funding for projects in the state of Pohnpei first pass through this office. The ODA is also the Secretariat for the Pohnpei Economic Planning Commission.

Following his message on ODA, the Governor furthered his message from the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA). The Governor said that the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture has 11 sites on the outer and inner reefs throughout Pohnpei for fish aggregation. The sites are placed in order to improve sea life for both fish and the citizens. The monitoring for these areas is ongoing. Furthermore, the office has been farming and raising seaweed and giant clams for sustainability and economic progress for several years.

The Office of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has five divisions: Pollution Control; Water Laboratory; Food Security; Environmental Risk; and Health Quarantine, and Awareness. The challenges that the EPA and its divisions faced over the last year, in general, were manpower, funding, and capacity building. He also said that ways forward for these challenges would be to work with DECEM, ODA, and DPS to gain funding sources, training programs, project and capacity building, and enforcement of laws and regulations.

The Governor said that the Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation's (V6AH) services have improved from just broadcasting on the AM stations to broadcasting on FM station, Youtube, and TV cable channel 22. Also, they have



acquired a backup generator so the station can remain operational during power outages. With other support coming from OIA-ITAP, V6AH was also able to equip the station with a number of key pieces of equipment which allows them to function more effectively for public information purposes.

He also mentioned improvements the V6AH helped to provide to the Election Commission where during the past year special elections were held in three different municipalities (Madolenihmw, Nett, and Sokehs). All related broadcasting for those elections were through V6AH radio station including other social media outlets such as Facebook and Youtube.

The Pohnpei State Housing Authority (PSHA) said that as of Sept. 30, 2021 it has approved loans to 44 different families. They have also collected over \$900,000 in payments for loans. They now are also administering a program that allows for \$3,000 loans in order to install/improve bathrooms with running water. The Governor said that PSHA does not yet have a five-year plan at the moment.

Lastly the Governor discussed the Pohnpei Port Authority office (PPA) and their accomplishments in trainings that were held for ARFF and PRTC. The Authority also performed two emergency trainings during the past year. They had an AVSEC certification training from FSM TC&I, as trainings in airport operations for repatriation of FSM citizens. Other accomplishments included COVID-19 Airport protocols and frontline screening for those coming back to Pohnpei State.



The impact of foreign-good dependence

Upon the arrival of Europeans in Micronesia, islanders were introduced to foreign goods. Overtime, Micronesians grew very fond of these convenient goods. They became so overly dependent on these products that their own local produce of the land became less appealing. In 1996, the value of imports in Micronesia was \$8.9 million, but six years later, the value of imports tripled, rising to \$26.3 million. The more modernized the islands become, the more reliant people became of the foreign goods. In 2018, the value of imports in the region accelerated to \$122 million (OEC world, 2020). Reliance on foreign goods has gained standing on some of the more serious issues in Micronesia because it has altered many aspects of the Micronesian society.

Micronesians' dependency on foreign or imported goods (especially cash) has led to the breakdown of the traditional Micronesian family structure. Formerly, Micronesians lived in extended families that could have a depth of three or four generations (Hezel, 2001). It was preferable to live in extended family units because it gave the family access to more workers. The more members a family had, the more productive it was in obtaining the necessary resources it needed from the land and sea. It used to be manageable for a multi-generational family to live off the land and sea, but today, it has become almost impossible for them to live off of

money-paying jobs. The nuclearization of the extended family then set the stage for several social issues.

Due to increased reliance on foreign means, the traditional view on land began to dissipate. Land, which used to be the way of life and source of life, lost its value to money. Last but not the least, reliance on foreign goods brought about a wide range of health implications in Micronesia. Starting in the 1960s, variety of imported goods including convenient commodities like cars and refrigerators became readily available in Micronesia, and such conveniences "made it possible for people to dispense with much of the bodily exercise that had always been such an integral part of island life" as reported by Hezel (2020). An almost sedentary lifestyle became the norm in Micronesia, adding to the growing number of social issues because more people preferred the more prestigious and convenient products-imported goods. The change in dependence from the more physically active lifestyle to the more sedentary lifestyle gave way to many health vulnerabilities, most of which are non-communicable diseases like heart disease, hypertension and diabetes. A research study as part of a "Contemporary Issues in Micronesia" coursework was carried out to verify that the dependency on store-bought goods has rendered Micronesians victims of chronic diseases. To determine whether

reliance on foreign goods is indeed an issue in Micronesia, two sets of surveys were administered, targeting 60 participants of three different age groups in the FSM (all residing on the island of Pohnpei at the time of the study). Youth in-between ages 19-23, middle-aged adults 25-39, and older adults within the age range of 40-60. The survey targeted 20 youths, 20 adults, and 20 older adults. During data-collection, participants were asked to pick which choice on the listed items they thought was the most serious issue in the FSM: 1. Breakdown in the family; 2. Reliance on foreign goods; 3. Political corruption; 4. Lack of educational opportunities; 5. Poor health services and facilities; 6. Lack of jobs; or they were asked to indicate on a space provided if there were other serious problems.

The results from both sets of survey showed 45 people from all the three age ranges chose "reliance on foreign goods" to be the most serious problem in the FSM. Although the youngest group scored lowest in "choosing reliance on foreign goods" as a serious issue, the two older aged groups unanimously picked this choice as the most serious issue. It was then concluded that since both older-aged groups lived a more traditional lifestyle than the youth group, they were more aware of the changes and how modernization has negatively impacted the islands. It was reasoned that the youths



Written By:
Jayleen B. Joel

viewed it as an ordinary way of life given that they were born and raised in this modern lifestyle. Interestingly, the majority of these participants believed that the loss of traditional culture is one cause of this issue.

Finally, while all of the survey participants believed that this problem can be fixed, they had different answers on who could fix the problem. While the writer agrees that there needs to be more study on the matter, she is convinced that "reliance on foreign goods" is an eminent issue. The percentage retrieved was significant enough to show that "reliance of foreign goods" is a serious issue in the region. While reliance on foreign goods may be beneficial to islanders, this does not rule out the negative implications. Although one cannot say for sure which one come first, "whether it's living on convenience increases reliance on foreign goods or vice versa", this change has health, social, and economic implications.

APRIL 4 - APRIL 8, 2022

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Vacancies

Opportunities at the Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Forum Secretariat) is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation, with a vision of helping to create a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The international organisation works to achieve this vision by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members - including directly engaging with community members in order to identify pressing needs of the region.

The work of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is guided by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) as:

The expression of a common sense of identity and purpose, leading progressively to the sharing of institutions, resources, and markets, with the purpose of complimenting national efforts, overcoming common constraints, and embracing sustainable and inclusive development within Pacific countries and territories and for the Pacific region as a whole.

The FPR is underpinned by the Blue Pacific narrative, endorsed by Forum Leaders in Samoa in 2017, which calls for a long-term regional commitment to act as one "Blue Continent" as the means to achieve its development aspirations. The Leaders vision was that it would serve as the platform to reinforce and inspire the region in its shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and to reaffirm the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods.

PIFS is an Employer of Choice in the region, aiming to recruit and employ staff based on merit and organisational needs, and ensures that employment selection upholds its values and commitment to Forum membership, gender balance and building a diverse and inclusive

organisation. PIFS is committed to achieving gender balance and being fully representative of our member countries. Our workforce is currently over 50% female and we have representatives from twelve of the eighteen Forum member countries.

To achieve greater workforce representation from our member countries we strongly encourage applicants from the following countries to apply: Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Nauru, Niue, New Caledonia and Palau.

The Opportunities

Applications are invited to fill two vacant international positions in the Secretariat that seeks to advise on broader and deeper regional issues.

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The position involves advising the Executive Office on political developments within the region including crisis management, high level political coordination and ensuring maintenance of political protocols as it pertains to political leadership and senior officials.

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- Emergency Response and coordination; and
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The Package

The starting salary for the Adviser position will be in the range of SDR49,457 to SDR55,639 per annum. At the 1 February 2022 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD147,589 to FJD166,037.

While the starting salary for the Officer position will be in the range of SDR 27,494 to SDR 31,020 per annum. At the 1 February 2022 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD82,047 to FJD92,569.

All appointments at the Secretariat attract competitive benefits packages that include medical, accident and life insurance. For international positions, packages include housing and education allowances for dependent children. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free.

Additional Information

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the position description and remuneration details for respective positions are also available therein. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

To be eligible for these positions, applicants must be nationals of Forum member countries*. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 25 March 2022.

*Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to commend President Panuelo for his swift, correct and courageous action in severing diplomatic relations with Russia for its unprovoked assault on a democratic and peace-loving country like Ukraine.

In the 21st century, such barbaric actions on the part of powerful nations on small and helpless small countries should no longer happen and should never be tolerated by the civilized world. Russia, having been invaded by Nazi Germany and suffered terribly during the last war to end all wars, should never forget the destruction and deaths visited on its people by the Nazi and not replicate all that on a defenseless country.

Whatever happens to diplomacy? Wars should always be the last resort, and not resorted to so easily and quickly as in the case of Russia. Diplomacy requires much patience and creativity to find solutions to difficult world problems. In today's interdependent world, there are no winners, only losers.

Russia has shown it does not deserve to be a member of the world community, having completely disregarded civilized norms and the rules-based international order. It should be ostracized until it recanted and shows that it can abide by civilized norms and principles, and become a part of the solution and not the problem.

I also would like to commend President Panuelo for the Micronesian countries' collective action in pausing their threat to exit the Pacific Island Forum. While I agree we should speak up on any unfair treatment of our Micronesian region at the hands of the PIF, I also believe strongly that the entire Pacific region is better off by sticking together and collectively pushing our important regional and global issues at the international fora. Together we are stronger as our voice will be louder and taken more seriously by the world community.

Thank you,

Kasio E. Mida

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...Women's Day

Continued from front page

with welcoming remarks by Maria Donre, Vice President of PWC. Sr. Christina Elias presided over a candlelight ritual in honor of deceased and victims of COVID-19. After morning tea, Pohnpei Governor Reed Oliver gave his remarks, followed by remarks from Speaker Marvin Yamaguchi of the Pohnpei State Legislature. A representative of UNICEF then gave a presentation on the topic of Women's Health.

Canita Nakamura of the US-FSM Veterans' Association addressed the gathered crowd, and Carla Carl-Edgar, Staff Attorney at the FSM Supreme Court spoke on the subject of access to justice. Pohnpei Department of Education Chief of Curriculum and Instruction, Pressler Martin spoke on the topic of emotional intelligence, and a representative from the Micronesia Conservation Trust spoke on Climate Change. After afternoon tea, Attorney Marstella Jack spoke on the Pohnpei Family Protection Act. A representative from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) closed the long day speaking on the topic of Australia's DFAT Pacific Women's Unit.

On Friday, March 4, the day began at

the Non en Mwomwodiso en Pohnpei Church for the International Day of Prayer hosted by Lien Alem en Pohnpei. The women reconvened at the Governor's Conference Room after lunch for an afternoon session on the FSM's Early Childhood Development Plan.

On the margins of the women's groups events, the US Embassy hosted a well-attended panel discussion on the topic of "Breaking the Bias" at the US Ambassador's residence in Pohnpei.

On Saturday, March 5, the women had a day of fun beginning with a "Beauty Pageant Parade" from the Pohnpei Island Central School Track, through town to the Spanish Wall ball field, where teams of all ages competed in a series of "Goodwill Free Style" softball games, all in good fun.

The fourth day of events was on Monday, March 7, again at the Governor's Conference Room. The morning session continued Friday's presentation of the FSM Early Childhood Development Plan. After lunch, the FSM Department of Resources and Development presented on the FSM's Strategic Development plan. The remainder of the afternoon was dedicated to presentations by the Pohnpei State Department of Social Affairs and UNFPA (United Nations

Population Fund, which concentrates on population and development, sexual and reproductive health and gender) on the ending violence against women and girls policy and action plan.

On Tuesday, March 8, the date of a newly established Pohnpei public holiday, Pohnpei women hosted the event that most people in Pohnpei think about when they think about commemorations of International Women's Day in Pohnpei—a party and a celebration. La Nina-spawned torrential downpours threatened to dampen the enthusiasm, but the women weren't having any of that. The rains did not dampen their spirits.

Pohnpei's First Lady, Estel Oliver gave the welcoming remarks, and Suwana Lawrence, PREL Education Specialist gave the keynote address. Antonia Primo-Moses, Chief Justice of the U Municipal Court spoke on Women in Leadership, and Norleen Oliver-Deorio spoke on Pohnpei's COVID-19 pandemic vaccination drive.

"The incremental increases in the role of women in public life in FSM are encouraging, yet as a UN Resident Coordinator, the father of a daughter and a husband, I am concerned that women remain absent or grossly underrepresented in decision-making positions concerning climate change

and environment policies, especially at higher levels, of political and public life," said Jaap van Hierden, UN Resident Coordinator during his speech. "I hope that in the not so distant future, we see increased woman representation in the National Congress. Indeed, women's full participation and decision-making in political, economic and public life is a pre-requisite of democracy and peace, and essential for achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

"Yet let us be clear, increasing women's participation in leadership alone will not "break the bias". Gender equality – integral part of human rights – is the responsibility of all of society. Men and boys - fathers, husbands, brothers - need to stand with women and girls as allies in the fight for gender equality and must demand accountability for violations of women's rights and access to justice."

US Ambassador to the FSM Carmen G. Cantor said that during the last two years, violence against women has been on the rise worldwide, heightened by the conditions, stresses, and strains of living in the pandemic. On a positive note, over the last few years, more women have assumed leadership positions around the world and here in the FSM.

Continued on next page



...Women's Day

Continued from previous page

“There are now three women in the FSM National Cabinet and the first woman elected to the National FSM Congress was recently sworn-in. These are women who have broken the bias,” she pointed out. “We all, men and women, have to do this together, from mentoring young girls and sponsoring girls scouts, to getting them vaccinated against COVID, and improving women’s economic development.”

“...Leadership on gender equality can come from anywhere and at any level, including and crucially by men,” said Jo Cowley, Australia’s Ambassador to the FSM. “Women need more male champions of change. Our brothers, fathers, sons, friends, colleagues and bosses can be some of our greatest supporters and can provide some of the greatest role models. In my Australian department of foreign affairs and trade, it was a male Foreign Secretary who initiated a far-reaching Women in Leadership Initiative in 2015 which has seen the numbers of women in senior leadership including women ambassadors increase dramatically.

“Australia looks forward to working with FSM’s leaders – in government

and the community – men and women - to advance gender equality. Australia stands with FSM,” Ambassador Cowley concluded.

Iso Nahken en Nett, Salvador Iriarte was given the traditional honor of presenting the final speech of the morning.

The ladies then spent the next several hours introducing candidates and ultimately crowning Ms. Pohnpei IWD 2022 Queen, Likend Kelekel Madolenihmw, Mrs. Merleen Martin Hebel.

The final event of the day was exciting performances by 24 separate women’s groups, concluding with a presentation by the Pohnpei Girl Scouts.

Organizers listed thanks to several supporting entities:

Mwoalen Wahu en Pohnpei, FSM National Government, Pohnpei State Government, Pohnpei State Legislature, Pohnpei State Governor, FSM R&O, UNICEF, Micronesia Productions, V6AH Radio, UN Joint Presence, Kolonia Town Government, Pohnpei Sports Office US Embassy, Australian Embassy, UNFPA, FSM Health, Pohnpei State Department of Health, All presenters, Pwihnn en Lih Karos.





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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
SEEKS QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES COORDINATOR FOR NORTHERN MICRONESIA (FSM, RMI AND ROP)
as Special Service Agreement (SSA)

APPOINTMENT:

12 months based in Palikir, Pohnpei State, FSM (possible for extension)

Background

WHO/Country Liaison Office for Northern Micronesia is providing technical assistance to the national and state governments of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) and Republic of Palau (ROP) in the prevention and control of communicable diseases, including vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs), neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and others. These three countries in Northern Micronesia have triple burden of public health programme, Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), Communicable diseases (CDs) and the consequences of the global climate change which also increase risks of vector- and water- borne diseases. While there are tropical diseases such as lymphatic filariasis (LF), soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH), dengue fever, zika infection and others, the prevalence of tuberculosis and leprosy is also high in the Pacific Region. WHO has been assisting the government's programs to eliminate those diseases and identified the need to bring more intensified technical and financial support to progress them. In addition, routine immunization remains the backbone and main element of the primary health care programme. Vaccine-Preventable Disease (VPD) surveillance is critical and allows sensitive and timely detection, investigation, and response to VPDs. A well-functioning routine immunization including high vaccination coverage and VPD surveillance system are critical to achieving and sustaining national and regional Vaccine-Preventable Disease and Immunization (VDIs) elimination and control goals.

Objectives

Provide general and technical assistance to the government of Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau in the area

of communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases, vaccine preventable diseases and other key public health programmes in collaboration with relevant technical units of WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support. The Coordinator, Communicable Diseases will have the following terms of reference:

Description of Duties

Under the overall supervision of the Country Liaison Officer, WHO Office for Northern Micronesia:

- (1) Provide general and technical support in implementing the WHO Country workplan on communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases;
- (2) Provide technical support in planning and implementing immunization and vaccine preventable disease surveillance activities;
- (3) Assist Tuberculosis/Leprosy Elimination Program including integrated mass screening;
- (4) Plan and implement the Lymphatic filariasis (LF) Transmission Assessment Survey (TAS) in Chuuk State, FSM;
- (5) Assist in the reporting, management and analysis of data related to Neglected tropical Diseases (NTDs) in FSM including the potential use of GoData tool for communicable disease surveillance;
- (6) Provide general and technical support in the planning and implementation of the Emergency Medical Team Initiative (EMT) in the FSM/RMI/Palau including oversight of each EMT focal point;
- (7) Assist initiatives to develop environmentally sustainable and climate change resilient health systems including measures against vector- and water-borne diseases; and
- (8) Perform other related duties as assigned by the Country Liaison Office (CLO) including COVID-19 response and preparedness (maximum of 20%)

Education/Experience

Education required: Bachelor's degree in medicine, nursing, public health or other relevant field in health or social science. Post graduate degree in relevant field is desirable. Knowledge in programme/project management is an asset.

Experience required:

At least three years of working experience in public health sector, health service delivery or relevant field. Work experience with the UN system or international organization is an asset.

Language

- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential.

Other skills

- Working knowledge of standard MS Office software applications. Presentation skills.

Competencies

- Communicating in a credible and effective way;
- Producing results;
- Moving forward in a changing environment; and
- Fostering integration and teamwork

Salary range

- The salary package will be based on academic qualifications and experience in line with the revised job evaluation for civil servants in FSM.

Medical clearance

The selected SSA will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

Interested applicants should complete the WHO Vacancy Application Form (WHO-PHF) together with a letter of interest and resume/CV via email by 21 March 2022 to:

Dr Momoe Takeuchi, Country Liaison Officer, World Health Organization Office for Northern Micronesia takeuchim@who.int

Rotary Club of Pohnpei completes its sporting goods project



Rotary Club of Pohnpei is pleased to announce it has completed its sporting goods project to help school children be physically active in school.

It is our biggest project so far this year and we gave sporting goods including basket balls, soccer balls, volley balls, nets and jump ropes to every school in Pohnpei, including the outer islands. This project was made possible with donations from the consortium in our Rotary Club District who have been most generous. These are twelve clubs that supported a number of projects over the years, and donated \$11,500.00 for this project. The clubs are Tokyo Akasaka RC, Tokyo Ginza RC, Tokyo Tsukiji RC, Tokyo Shinagawa RC, Tokyo Ebisu RC, Tokyo Hiroo RC, Tokyo Seijo-shin RC, Tokyo Musashi-Fuchu RC, Tokyo Chuo RC, Tokyo Ginza-shin RC, Tokyo Sunrise-Shiodome RC and Tokyo Chou-shin RC.

We donated sporting goods to 32 schools and put up 16 basketball backboards.

Exercise and health is very important so we want to make sure that school kids have an opportunity to improve their fitness and well being.

Part of the project also was the painting of a fitness challenge at the Spanish Wall in front of the gym.

Many thanks to all those who supported and helped with this project, including Pohnpei DOE.



ADF supports maritime surveillance in the FSM

9 March 2022

Royal Australian Navy vessel HMAS Melville has deployed to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to support national maritime surveillance operations.

The Royal Australian Navy and Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) are working with FSM's Division of Maritime Surveillance and Border Control to protect ecosystems, preserve livelihoods, and foster economic development.

The AFMA officer on board Melville has extensive knowledge of regional legal frameworks and Pacific fisheries, enabling them to quickly identify illegal fishing. Should any suspicious fishing vessels or equipment be sighted, AFMA will provide actionable evidence of this to the Government of FSM.

Melville's port visit to Pohnpei was contactless, to ensure the health and safety of the FSM community in the COVID-19 environment. No Australian Defence Force personnel stepped ashore.

"The health of our Pacific family is our top priority," said Australian Ambassador to FSM, H.E. Jo Cowley. "All of our personnel are well-prepared to protect themselves and local communities."

Commanding Officer of HMAS Melville, CMDR Paul Savage, said the deployment of Melville to FSM was important to provide surveillance coverage across the country's Exclusive Economic Zone, which is just under three million square kilometres in size.

"FSM has reduced maritime capability at the moment while it awaits the imminent arrival of two new Guardian-class Patrol Boats, with the first vessel, FSS Tosiwo Nakayama to be handed over in Perth shortly." CMDR Savage said.

As part of the Australian Government's Pacific Step-up, Australia is investing more than AUD \$2.1 billion over 30 years in the Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP) to help the Federated States of Micronesia and other partners across the Pacific and Timor-Leste protect their maritime territory and resources.



This includes providing Guardian-class Patrol Boats, contracted aerial surveillance, upgrading wharf infrastructure and other maritime security support.

A Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan plane has also been deployed to the North Pacific this month, with its surveillance operations focused in Palau. Under the Pacific Step-up, Australia is boosting our cooperation with partners across Micronesia.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate: A regional solution for cross border travel

Pacific Community

23 February 2022

Suva, Fiji – The availability of vaccines and ongoing evidence-based research to mitigate COVID-19 is allowing Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to explore a variety of safe and efficient means of re-opening borders in efforts to revive economies. One idea quickly gaining ground is a Digital travel certificate.

The proposal to adopt digital certificates to facilitate cross border travel was raised at the Fifty First Pacific Island Forum Meeting held in August 2021 and enjoyed wide support among the representatives present.

While many PICTs have implemented various COVID-19 vaccine certification and required documents for travel, creating a digital one stop shop for information related to a person's vaccine status, COVID-19 laboratory results and proof of recovery will facilitate seamless travel and border control. A regionally recognized

certificate, would help business and tourism travel within the Pacific region recover, while also lowering the barriers for the return of global tourists, which represent a major part of the Pacific economy.

However, the wide-ranging levels of internet connectivity, ICT infrastructure and digital health maturity across the Pacific represent significant challenges to seeing the vision come to light.

Bearing this in mind, Mr Sunia Soakai, Deputy Director for the Pacific Community's (SPC) Public Health Division, said PICTs will need to work collaboratively and quickly to find a solution, "The will is there, and the benefits are obvious. Our job now is to find a way to make it happen which aligns with global standards and ensures that the COVID-19 certificates are ethical, reliable, and internationally accepted."

SPC is currently working with World Health Organization in collaboration with a Technical Working Group and the information technology organization Accenture, to develop a COVID-19 vaccination certification solution for cross border travel in the region through a proposed regional protocol agreement.

A series of workshops have been designed to deliberate on the legalities, policies, ethics, and technical composition of what COVID-19 vaccine certificates will mean for the Pacific Region.

These workshops will be attended by health, immigration and customs, civil and maritime transport authorities, police and border services, labour, tourism, foreign affairs, trade and industry, and economic development. Public stakeholders include the general public and concerned interest groups, members of the national chamber of commerce, overseas labour agencies, the tourism and travel associations.

Senator E:
The Kaselehlie Press respectfully requests your kind attention



Employment Opportunity NORMA Communications Officer Application submissions starting March 01, 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 Communications Officer in the office of NORMA, FSM National Government, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941.

The Position:

The FSM NORMA Communications Officer will report to the Assistant Director for the Division of Corporate Services and undertake the following illustrative activities:

Primary responsibility for implementation of the NORMA Communications Plan; Initiate and coordinate all communications and awareness activities, including those of World Tuna Day, in alignment with the NORMA Communications Plan; Oversee working groups and individuals assigned to organize and provide support to such activities; Conduct awareness raising activities including powerpoint presentations to various audiences in the four FSM States of the FSM; Promote the work of NORMA and Fisheries management issues in public events, social media or other modes as may be approved by FSM NORMA; Provide support to NORMA in development of appropriate public awareness materials, particularly those relating to World Tuna Day and public presentations; Provide advice to FSM NORMA on appropriate communications activities and appropriate tools with proper audience to target; Oversee updating of content and format of NORMA website and other modes of information dissemination by NORMA; Assist NORMA staff in drafting of press releases or other communications materials as needed by FSM NORMA; Coordinate the development and publishing of NORMA Annual Report, Newsletter and other required periodic reports and publications; Other related communications activities as may be assigned under the Communications Plan implementation; perform other related duties as required by the Authority.

The Incumbent:

Bachelors Degree in communications, journalism, marine science or related fields. Associate degree may be acceptable given additional years of experience. Minimum of one year relevant work experience. FSM Nationals are highly encouraged to apply.

Benefits:

The Annual Salary is based on market rates but negotiable within a range from \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 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 "Communications Officer":

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

United States Embassy hosts panel discussion on “Breaking the Bias”

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

March 4, 2022

Pohnpei—On the afternoon of March 4, the U.S. Embassy hosted a panel discussion on the issue of “Breaking the Bias” in conjunction with Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day. US Ambassador to the FSM, Carmen G. Cantor served as the facilitator for the discussion. Delihna Ehmes, Professor at the College of Micronesia, FSM; Yolanda Y. Nanpei, Principal of Pohnpei Catholic School; Patterson K. Shed, Regional Coordinator for the USAID Climate Ready Project, and Commander Thomas Price, Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy comprised the panel.

Ambassador Cantor began the discussion with an explanation of the importance of the matter of gender equality. She asked the large assembled crowd to join her in a moment of silence for Christina “Kiki” Stinnett of Chuuk and Susana Sohs of Pohnpei, two great women’s leaders who have passed away.

“When you all hear the theme, what does it mean to you?” the Ambassador asked each of the panelists.

“...Breaking the bias means giving everyone an opportunity to share who they are, to celebrate who they are, to build a world that has no separation, a world that is inclusive that we can celebrate each other’s differences,” Principal Nanpei said.

“...To me, it’s respecting differences, building a community and a society and a country that is inclusive, equitable, and respecting the contributions of women, girls, and all genders really,” said Patterson Shed.

“It’s really easy to spot bias outside of us but...really, I have to stop and see what it is that I’m doing, and that a lot more complicated the more senior I’m becoming in the military...one of the things I find myself having to do...with a variety of topics, and this one included, is to stop myself and think about why I’m making certain decisions,” Commander Price answered. “So, it’s come in handy quite a number of times to be able to stop and go, ‘am I providing the right opportunities of ALL of the sailors under my command? Am I offering everyone an equal opportunity?’ So breaking the bias is remembering

to stop as you’re making some of the decisions and some of the assumptions you’re making and do a little bit of introspection...and question why you’re making some of those decisions.”

“When I read about the theme was, I think it’s a matter of perception on what we perceive or define to be bias,” Delihna Ehmes answered. “Because bias can be anywhere. Bias can be something that has to do with ethnic equality, gender equalities...I mean, talking from the perspective as a teacher, every day in our classrooms we see bias, and these biases are not just of gender biases, but also if we think in terms of socio-economic class or statuses, there’s also that bias...It’s a matter of introspection...how we see the things around us and towards us. The ways in which we address these biases...are really dependent on how we judge, how we perceive, even how we choose to treat these inequalities.”

The rest of the panel discussions centered on precisely that, how people can choose to treat inequalities.

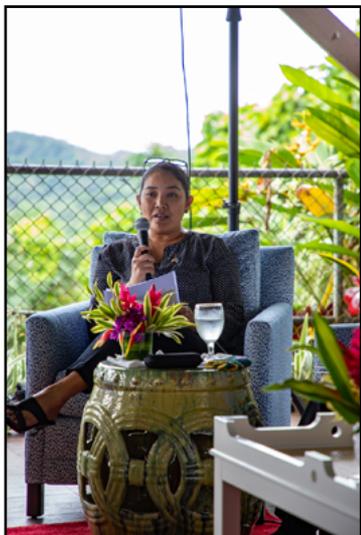
The next question for the panelists was, “How do you challenge gender stereotypes and biases in the FSM and why is gender equality important?” Each of the panelists had their separate responses from their own perspectives. (See full event video at: <https://youtu.be/6iOZjVTkHmQ>).

“A critical aspect of addressing gender biases is the empowerment of women,” Ambassador Cantor said. “I personally strongly believe that men have a very important role in achieving gender equality or balance, as Delihna said, and promoting women’s empowerment issues. Men as an ally can be role models...So, in your opinion, what specific steps can men take here in the FSM to elevate women’s access to employment and appropriate working conditions?”

The Ambassador opened the floor for questions and generated several good questions along with some extemporaneous speeches from the floor.

During her speech at the International Women’s Day celebration on March 8, Ambassador summarized what she felt were the most important points raised during the panel discussion. In no specific order she shared ways discussed in which men and women could break the bias together. Her list included:

- Boost girl’s and women’s self-esteem.
- Shut down negativity.
- Be open and honest.
- Advocate for female colleagues.
- Lead by example.
- Mentor girls and women.
- Support women-run businesses.
- Fight against injustice.
- Sign laws that help women.
- Show your appreciation for the women in your life.
- Keep girls in school and support them in college
- And last, but not least, support organizations that empower women.



WHO

Photographer for COVID-19 response in the Pacific

Description**BACKGROUND**

Several Pacific island countries and areas (PICs) have remained COVID-free since the start of the pandemic in 2020. However, some of these PICs are now reporting COVID-19 cases and community transmission for the first time. The health ministries and departments in each of the PICs are responding to the pandemic, working alongside different sectors and partners in the country, including the WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support. WHO has been providing COVID-19 preparedness and response technical support across the Pacific, with contribution from donors such as the European Union (EU). Communication and visibility of these efforts through high quality photographs are critical to ensure transparency to the communities served as well as donor countries. These images will be used by WHO in a variety of communication products such as reports, social media posts, websites, and print materials.

PURPOSE/SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITY

This APW has been created by the Communications, Resource Mobilization & External Relations team in the Division of Pacific Technical Support of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office. It aims to document the COVID-19 response activities in Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Solomon Islands and Tonga. WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support require high quality, emotive imagery to use in a variety of publications and communications products for improved visibility, and to add to the Region's Multimedia Library. WHO is looking for one photographer from each country – Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands and Tonga. The photographer should be currently based in country.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT

WHO is looking for one (1) photographer per country to deliver on the following:

Deliverable 1: COVID-19 response in Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Solomon Islands or Tonga

- The photographer will create a shot list of planned photographs covering these areas of work:
 - o COVID-19 vaccination
 - o Emergency medical teams (for Fiji, FSM, Solomon Islands and Tonga only)
 - o Logistics and delivery of equipment and supplies
 - o COVID-19 testing and laboratory strengthening
 - o Infection prevention and control
 - o Risk communication and community engagement
 - o Continuation of essential health services, including routine immunization, noncommunicable diseases and mental health
- Over the course of a specified

number of shooting days in Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Solomon Islands or Tonga the photographer will capture a total of approximately 350 high-resolution images (at least 50 from each area of work). Images will be uploaded to the Regional Office's Multimedia Library (MML) and a flash drive will be submitted to WHO's South Pacific office in Fiji.

- Each image will be submitted with a complete caption (date, place, subject, brief description) and photo metadata. Images will be both uploaded to the Region's Multimedia Library and submitted by flash drive to WHO's South Pacific office in Fiji.
- Every image will have a consent form, submitted to the office with final deliverables.

Deliverable 2: Living with COVID-19

- The photographer will create a shot list of planned photographs and submit them to WHO.

Over the course of a specified number of shooting days in Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Solomon Islands or Tonga the photographer will capture a total of approximately 150 high-resolution images of health workers and people in various setting as they live and work with COVID-19. Images will be uploaded to the Regional Office's Multimedia Library and a flash drive will be submitted to WHO's South Pacific office in Fiji.

- Each image will be submitted with a complete caption (date, place, subject, brief description) and photo metadata. Images will be both uploaded to the Region's Multimedia Library and submitted by flash drive to WHO's South Pacific office in Fiji.

Every image will have a consent form, submitted to the office with final deliverables.

Deliverable 3: Other activities in Fiji, Micronesia or Tonga

- The photographer will create a shot list of planned photographs and submit them to WHO.

Over the course of a specified number of shooting days in Fiji, Micronesia or Tonga the photographer will capture a total of approximately 100-250 high-resolution images of specific activities and events. In Fiji, the events may be related to handover of supplies and equipment, launch event, training workshops, among others, related to EU funding. In Micronesia, the events may be related to handover of supplies and equipment, launch event, training workshops, among others, related to Government of Japan funding. In Tonga, the activities are related to response to the volcanic eruption and tsunami. Images will be uploaded to the Regional Office's Multimedia Library and a flash drive will be submitted to WHO's South Pacific office in Fiji.

- Each image will be submitted with a complete caption (date, place, subject, brief description) and photo metadata. Images will be both uploaded to the Region's Multimedia Library and submitted by flash drive to WHO's South Pacific office in Fiji.
- Every image will have a consent form, submitted to the office with final

deliverables.

Planned timelines

- Start date: 01 April 2022
- End date: 31 August 2022

The photographer will be engaged by WHO for different shooting number of days depending on the country:

- Fiji: 30 days (inclusive of 20 shooting, 5 travel and 5 editing days) spread across three months
- Kiribati: 15 days (inclusive of 9 shooting, 3 travel and 3 editing days) spread across two months
- Micronesia: 20 days (inclusive of 13 shooting, 4 travel and 3 editing days) spread across four months
- Solomon Islands: 16 days (inclusive of 10 shooting, 3 travel and 3 editing days) spread across two months
- Tonga: 18 days (inclusive of 12 shooting, 3 travel and 3 editing days) spread across two months

The photographer will travel with WHO staff to identified project locations and the schedule will be determined by the WHO in collaboration with its partners. The specified working days should fall within the start and end dates indicated above.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**EDUCATION****Essential:**

Relevant qualifications as professional photographer. In lieu of certifications, over five years of experience will suffice.

EXPERIENCE**Essential:**

- More than five years of experience in professional photography, with proven track record of producing high-quality human-interest photographs.

Local photographers should be based in Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Solomon Islands or Tonga and have photography experience working in-country.

Desirable:

- Previous experience of working with WHO, other UN agencies or INGOs is desirable.
- Experience in documenting humanitarian, development or public health subjects and settings is an asset.

TECHNICAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

- Expert knowledge of technical requirements for taking photos in various settings (i.e. outdoor, indoor, portraits, group activities etc.) is expected.

The photographer is expected to have production capacity including photographic equipment for capturing high-resolution images and other relevant hardware, accessories, and software to complete the work.

- Familiarity with COVID-19 response and local culture in Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Solomon Islands or Tonga is an advantage.

LANGUAGES

Excellent speaking, reading and writing

knowledge of the English language. Knowledge of local language is an advantage.

COMPETENCIES

Able to complete the task within the given timeframe

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**Warranties**

The photographer warrants to WHO that:

- i. the photographs are his or her original work and in no way a violation of any existing copyright, and that he or she has the power to grant the rights set forth in this agreement;
- ii. he or she has obtained, prior to the delivery of the Photographs to WHO, all necessary permissions for all non-original material (including, without limitation, copyrighted materials), so as to permit WHO to fully exercise its rights in the photographs without any obligation to make any additional payments to, or obtain any permissions from, any party; and
- iii. he or she shall deliver the photographs to WHO free and clear of any and all encumbrances of any nature whatsoever.

Consent of Subjects

The photographer warrants that informed consent has been obtained with regard to the name, likeness, biography, picture and clinical details of any identifiable person in the photographs, pursuant to the requirements of the Photo Policy, including by using the Declaration of Consent and Release for Photograph, Video and/or Sound Recordings.

The photographer shall provide to WHO such evidence of informed consent (completed form or video) with each photograph at the time of submission of the photographs to WHO.

The photographer shall indemnify WHO from and against the full amount of any and all claims and liabilities, including legal fees and costs, arising from violation of the warranties provided, including, without limitation, any failure by the photographer to obtain appropriate consent.

Use of WHO Logo

The photographer does not have the right to use the WHO name, emblem or logo in connection with the photographs or otherwise.

SUBMISSIONS

Qualified and interested specialists should submit the following documents to Dr Momoe Takeuchi (Country Liaison Officer) <takeuchim@who.int> by **21 March 2022**

- Curriculum Vitae {for individual contractors}
- Expression of Interest (cover letter). The cover letter should outline how their experience and qualifications make them a suitable candidate for this position
- Technical and financial proposals. The proposals should include 1) Link to online portfolio of previous work and 2) Proposed daily fee

World must take lead from Pacific Island nations in addressing worst impacts of climate change

SPREP

The future of Pacific Islands' future security requires aggressive emissions reductions by Western countries and wide implementation of climate adaptation, a co-author of the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says.

Professor Mark Howden from The Australian National University (ANU) said the latest IPCC report made "starkly clear" that the world's most vulnerable people and nations, including across the Pacific, will be the worst hit by climate change.

"The report shows climate change is already pushing some human systems and ecosystems beyond their tolerance

and adaptation limits," Professor Howden said.

"It also paints a stark picture; that climate change is adversely impacting every region in the world. More worryingly, the report clearly shows the most vulnerable people and ecosystems will be the worst hit, including the Pacific."

Ms 'Ofa Ma'asi-Kaisamy, Manager of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), the regional centre of excellence for climate change information, research and innovation, hosted at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Programme (SPREP) in Apia, Samoa, emphasises that the IPCC reports are a consistent reminder of the current and future climate change risks faced by Pacific Island communities.

"Climate change is the most pressing issue of our time. The IPCC reports confirmed the urgency for global climate actions. Our Pacific countries are the least responsible for global warming and biodiversity loss, yet we are facing the harshest consequences that will continue to worsen in years to come. Our future is uncertain if the world fails to pay attention to the warnings in the report", said Ms Kaisamy.

"We have had to deal with these impacts and vulnerabilities in addition to the global COVID-19 pandemic, however, our strength and resilience as tight-knit communities has helped us to adjust our lives as needed. Impacts are and will affect key sectors such as food, infrastructure, water and sanitation, marine ecosystems, disaster management, and health and wellbeing."

Professor Howden said Australia and other developed nations must take a lead from Pacific Island nations when it comes to addressing the worst impacts of climate change.

"The risks from climate change will keep on mounting as long as we have our foot on the greenhouse gas accelerator globally. Pacific Islands nations have been leading the call for emission-reduction action and climate adaptation for decades," he said.

"But they can't fairly do this on their own – and nor should they be asked to. There are growing calls for developed countries to urgently dial up action on adaptation policy, finance and practice so that they keep pace with climate change.

"And of course, developed countries must ramp up their emission reduction actions because while climate adaptation can take the edge off climate impacts in the Pacific, the IPCC report shows clearly that on its own adaptation will not be enough."

On 10 March 2022, the PCCC and the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions at the Australian National University will host a webinar to discuss the key findings for the Pacific from the IPCC WGII Report. A key objective of this webinar is to close the knowledge gap in the Pacific region around the work of the IPCC, engaging key decision makers including policymakers, experts, and the public.

**St. Patrick's Day
Vaccination Drive**

**In Partnership with
Pohnpei State Public Health**

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GIVEAWAYS FOR FIRST 100 PEOPLE!

BRING YOUR VACCINE CARD!

Date: Friday, March 18, 2022

Time: 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: U.S. Embassy Kolonia Parking Lot

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority assists FSM

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority in conjunction with the Forum Fisheries Agency has donated two new sets of equipment to FSM recipients at NORMA and the Division of Border Control and Maritime Surveillance.

Each set of equipment consists of a Freezer Suit and associated personal safety equipment to allow fisheries inspection officers to efficiently enter freezer compartments on fishing vessels to check the vessels fish catch records against the actual freezer holdings.

Mr Justino Helgen, Senior Fisheries Compliance Officer from NORMA stated ‘once again we would like to reiterate our sincere thanks to Australia and FFA for the continued assistance given to us in support of the management of our fisheries resources’.

The Maritime Surveillance Adviser to FSM, LCDR David Perry, presented the kits on behalf of Australia and in particular AFMA to the recipients and it is hoped that these kits will improve the ability of FSM agencies and their officers to monitor and report on the activities of fishing vessels operating within the FSM EEZ.



Office of the Director FSM Personnel Office

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
IQBE Administrative Assistant
(National)
FSM Department of Education

The Position: The Administrative Assistant will support the National Department of Education and State Departments of Education to coordinate all administrative tasks and assist in all procurement related activities including procurement of goods and services under the IQBE (Improving the Quality of Basic Education) project. The AA will be expected to be available for regular inputs over the life of the project to assure smooth functioning of IQBE project in each state and at the national level.

Key responsibilities include:

- i. Collect, file, and manage all paperwork and processing for procurement, progress reporting, and other project functions.
- ii. Assist in implementation of a procurement system, in compliance with ADB’s procurement guidelines.
- iii. Assist with the preparation and timely submission of procurement related updates to the NDOE as well to ADB in the agreed format.
- iv. Keep inventory of project supplies and equipment
- v. Manage the central filing system for all project compliance-related tasks, such as no-objection communication with ADB and requests for audits.
- vi. Collect all bi-weekly reports and timesheets and submit for approval from the PD
- vii. Input all project consultants’ bi-weekly hours in the NDOE timesheet for submission
- viii. Take minutes of all project related meetings, including of the Project Steering Committee and PIU.
- ix. Perform other duties and tasks as advised by the Project Director and PIU.

Qualifications:

Minimum of a Bachelors’ degree or higher in relevant field. At least 5 years of working experience in project administrative activities, financial management, disbursements, and reimbursement. Prior experience of working in an ADB (Asian Development Bank) project is a plus.

Location and Term of Assignment:

The Administrative Assistant will be based in Pohnpei at FSM National Department of Education for the duration of the assignment. This is a full-time assignment with a duration of 21 months, from April 2022 to January 2024.

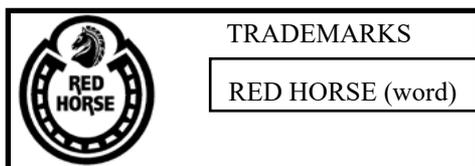
Benefits: The annual salary is \$18,200 depending upon qualification and experience of the applicant.

To apply: Register on the ADB Consultant Management System at www.cms.adb.org first then submit a Curriculum Vitae and Expression of Interest. Deadline to submit CV and EOI through ADB CMS is March 31, 2022.

For further clarifications, please contact Marlynn Halbert at marlynn.halbert@national.doe.fm or 320-2609/2647.

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE MICRONESIA

Notice is hereby given that our client, San Miguel Brewing International Limited, a company organized and existing under the laws of the British Virgin Islands, with a registered address of 9/F Citimark Building, 28 Yuen Shun Circuit, Siu Lek Yuen, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademarks:



The said trademarks are used in International Class 032 with respect to the following goods:

Class 032: Beers; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages; fruit beverages and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages

Our client claims all rights to the above-mentioned trademarks and will take all appropriate legal actions against any person or persons, firm, or corporation counterfeiting, imitating, violating, using the above-mentioned trademarks or any other trademark deceptively or confusingly similar, or otherwise infringing the said rights of our client in MICRONESIA.

Any inquiry relating thereto may be referred to the following:

MIU EPSTEIN LAW, PC
One Park Plaza, Suite 600
Irvine, California 92614
USA
Tel: (949) 688-0268
E-mail: info@miuepsteinlaw.com

Cook Islands strongly condemns Russia’s invasion of Ukraine Friday

Government of the Cook Islands

25 February 2022

The Cook Islands join with others in condemning Russia’s unprovoked invasion of the Ukraine. We call on Russia to end the hostilities and violations of the international rule of law.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ukraine and her people at this time. It is our hope Russia will heed calls to cease military operations in the Ukraine and withdraw immediately before there is further loss of innocent lives.

More than ever, diplomatic effort to de-escalate this situation is needed and we urge parties to return to dialogue.



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT

Vacancies

Opportunities at the Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Forum Secretariat) is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation, with a vision of helping to create a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The international organisation works to achieve this vision by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members - including directly engaging with community members in order to identify pressing needs of the region.

The work of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is guided by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) as:

The expression of a common sense of identity and purpose, leading progressively to the sharing of institutions, resources, and markets, with the purpose of complimenting national efforts, overcoming common constraints, and embracing sustainable and inclusive development within Pacific countries and territories and for the Pacific region as a whole.

The FPR is underpinned by the Blue Pacific narrative, endorsed by Forum Leaders in Samoa in 2017, which calls for a long-term regional commitment to act as one "Blue Continent" as the means to achieve its development aspirations. The Leaders vision was that it would serve as the platform to reinforce and inspire the region in its shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and to reaffirm the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods.

PIFS is an Employer of Choice in the region, aiming to recruit and employ staff based on merit and organisational needs, and ensures that employment selection upholds its values and commitment to Forum membership, gender balance and building a diverse and inclusive organisation. PIFS is

committed to achieving gender balance and being fully representative of our member countries. Our workforce is currently over 50% female and we have representatives from twelve of the eighteen Forum member countries.

To achieve greater workforce representation from our member countries we strongly encourage applicants from the following countries to apply: Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Nauru, Niue, New Caledonia and Palau.

The Opportunities

Applications are invited to fill four vacant international positions across the Secretariat that seeks to boost and increase intra-regional and international relation through strengthening of institutional and human capacity of the Pacific region.

1. Engagement Adviser (Multilateral)

The position reports to the Director Governance & Engagement. The core role is to advise and take forward the Secretariat's strategic engagement work with key inter-governmental agencies such as the EU and the UN.

To facilitate the above, the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Strategic partnerships with key multilateral/inter-governmental agencies;
- Coordinating high level forums and international political engagements;
- EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement; and
- Team Performance & Leadership.

2. Policy Adviser (Strategic Policy)

This position reports to the Director Policy, this role is to advise and prepare timely, high quality advice on issues which impact our region.

To facilitate the above, the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Monitoring and assessing global and regional issues;
- Pacific Regionalism Overview, Analysis and Advice; and
- Leading, participating and/or

coordinating regional processes.

approved workplans.

3. Public Affairs Officer (Digital Communications & Content)

This position reports to the Team Leader – Communications, the role will drive the development of digital communications across the organisation, providing proactive management and growth for platforms including our website and social media channels.

To facilitate the above, the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Digital Environment;
- Web Management;
- Social Media Management; and
- Content Development.

4. Programme Officer (Aid for Trade)

This position reports to the Director Programmes & Initiatives, this role is to provide technical support and advice in the broader economic development of the Blue Pacific region.

To facilitate the above, the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Responding quickly and effectively to requests from Forum Island Countries (FICs) and Forum Secretariat Senior Management as and when guided by the Programme Adviser-Trade for the provision of advice, correspondence, briefings, media statements and reporting covering various areas including economic reforms, trade policy issues, and private sector engagement;
- Coordinating and organize meetings, workshops and training seminars, including preparation of meeting and workshop papers and materials;
- Providing services and technical advice, either directly or through consultants, development partners or other counterparts;
- Monitoring and reporting on mandates from Forum and PACP Trade Ministers and Officials;
- Draft reports to monitor and assess outcomes; and
- Support Advisers in the effective delivery of the Secretariat's work plan focusing on Key Result Areas (KRAs) as determined by the FOC

The Package

The starting salary for the two Adviser positions will be in the range of SDR 37,373 to SDR 43,143 per annum. At the 1 January 2022 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD111,295 to FJD128,478.

While the starting salary for the two Officer positions will be in the range of SDR 27,494 to SDR 31,020 per annum. At the 1 January 2022 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD81,876 to FJD92,376.

All appointments at the Secretariat attract competitive benefits packages that include medical, accident and life insurance. For international positions, packages include housing and education allowances for dependent children. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free.

Additional Information

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the position description and remuneration details for respective positions are also available therein. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

To be eligible for these positions, applicants must be nationals of Forum member countries*. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 25 March 2022.

*Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Thinking of moving abroad for work?

Make the most of your experience in another country and follow these tips on how to migrate safely:



Take your time

before accepting a job. Visit your local employment office to discuss the legitimacy of the job.

Get the name of the recruiter

and ask to see his or her identification. Check with the Department of Labor to make sure the recruiter is properly licensed.



Get information

about any job you are offered, including the conditions of the work, salary, location and working hours. If the recruiter won't answer your questions then he or she is not someone you should trust.

Before you sign a contract

make sure you have read and understood it. Ask for help if you need clarification on anything.

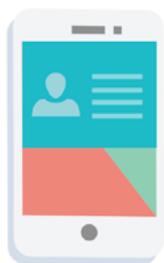


Memorize a number

of someone that can help you in emergencies and also save it in your phone. Make sure you know the emergency numbers in the new country.

Keep identification

with you at all times. Take copies of your identification with you and also leave copies at home with your family or a trusted friend.



Make sure you have enough money

to get you to where you're going and to get back home so you don't need to rely on loans from other people along the way.

Make plans to stay in touch

with your family and friends, and find out who you can contact at your destination for assistance in settling in.



For more information on safe migration, please contact IOM Micronesia at micronesiaenquiries@iom.int and visit our Facebook page @IOMMicronesia



**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
SEEKS QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF
NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAM (EMT) COORDINATOR FOR THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM)
as Special Service Agreement (SSA)**

APPOINTMENT: 12 months based in Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM

Background

The WHO/Country Liaison Office for Northern Micronesia provides technical assistance in the area of public health to the national and state governments of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and seeks qualified applicant to support national Emergency Medical Team (EMT) development in the FSM.

The WHO Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Initiative assists countries to build capacity and strengthen health systems by coordinating the deployment of quality assured, self-sufficient medical teams in emergencies. The EMT Initiative aims to improve rapid response to the health consequences of sudden onset emergencies, including disease outbreaks and natural disaster, by providing guidance, standards, training and coordination mechanisms, and ensuring the quality and accountability of deployable national and international EMTs through the global EMT classification and quality assurance system.

Pacific EMTs are mobile groups of health professionals (doctors, nurses, logisticians etc.) that deploy to treat patients affected by an emergency, outbreak or disaster. Some national EMTs also provide primary health care and public health services.

The EMT Initiative places a strong focus on supporting countries to develop their own national teams that can arrive where they are needed in the shortest time possible, and ensure that governments have a coordination system in place to accept and use international EMTs when local capacity is exceeded.

In FSM, Yap is the only state with an established EMT team roster

so far, and it is expected that the other three states will also establish EMTs and initiate EMT training within 2022.

Objectives

The WHO national EMT Coordinator in FSM will work with the national and state government EMT focal points to facilitate the development of EMT rosters in the four states in FSM; to support development of policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs); to facilitate training and capacity building of EMT members including coordination with other stakeholders within FSM and WHO EMT experts; to support management of logistics and supplies of EMTs; and support financial tracking and reporting related to EMT support. Technical backstopping will be provided from WHO's Division of Pacific Technical Support and from international experts coordinated by the WHO's global EMT secretariat.

Description of Duties

As directed by the FSM government national and state EMT focal point(s):

- Support the DHSA/State departments of health to develop national/state emergency response plans, policies, standard operating procedures (SOPs), national /state team structures and rosters of trained emergency response personnel for national/state EMT preparedness and response, and coordination of international EMTs.
- Support the DHSA/State departments of health to develop and refine plans and SOPs for international EMT reception, tasking, coordination and onsite monitoring as specified in the WHO guidance on EMT classification and minimum standards.
- Develop training content, documents and materials for national/state EMTs and

staff involved in emergency coordination functions at the national and State levels, supported by the WHO EMT secretariat and experts.

- Provide on-site management support to national and state EMT workshops and simulation exercises, and test SOPs and policies for EMT for necessary revision or update.
- Support strengthening of communication and coordination between the national and state government EMT focal points, other relevant departments and other stakeholders within the FSM.
- Provide project management and external relations support to all EMT related funding, including possible coordination with donors and relevant departments of WHO on programme management.
- Provide support for logistics and supplies management of EMT in coordination with DPS.
- Provide monthly written status reports to the DHSA and WHO regarding progress and status of national/state EMT capacity strengthening and development.

Skills/Knowledge

- Understanding of national and emergency response procedures at strategic and operational level, with a focus on health care delivery in difficult and austere environments.
- Excellent communicator with strong negotiation and advocacy skills.
- Ability to coordinate teams and meetings, demonstrate leadership and initiative.
- Proactivity and enthusiasm.
- Able to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Education/Training

- Bachelor's degree in project management, medicine, nursing, health sciences or disaster risk management; or two years' experience in

management.

- Desirable: Specialized training in emergency management, international aid, humanitarian principles, health system recovery, and health cluster coordination desirable.

Experience

- Demonstrated knowledge of rapid response operations and their implementation in emergencies as related to clinical care and public health highly desirable.

Language

- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential.

Other skills

- Working knowledge of standard MS Office software applications. Presentation skills.

Competencies

- Communicating in a credible and effective way;
- Producing results;
- Moving forward in a changing environment; and
- Fostering integration and teamwork

Salary range

- The salary package will be based on academic qualifications and experience in line with the revised job evaluation for civil servants in FSM.

Medical clearance

The selected SSA will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work

Interested applicants should send a letter of interest and resume/CV via email by **21 March 2022** to:

Dr Momoe Takeuchi, Country Liaison Officer, World Health Organization Office for Northern Micronesia takeuchim@who.int

PIF, USP launch joint courses for Climate Change and Resilience

Forum Secretariat

28 Feb 2022

Suva – A series of short courses to build the capacity of climate change and resilience practitioners, was jointly launched by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) this week. Starting Wednesday 23 February the short virtual courses will provide more than 200 participants including youth and the private sector, with improved understanding of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). and a comprehensive set of tools to assist stakeholders in obtaining grants not only by writing proposals, but also reporting on activity and managing the project.

On behalf of the participants, Ms. Lavenia Naivalu, one of the participants from Fiji, said “As a women representative from a community and very remote here in the maritime areas in Fiji, I couldn’t believe that I would be selected. Because I was given this opportunity, I want to thank you for this great opportunity, and I’ve learnt a lot as a beginner in this programme.”

PIFS Director for Programmes and Initiatives Zarak Khan, in his opening remarks underlined that the need for capacity building should not be underestimated as a key enabler to continually improve our approaches and efforts. He further emphasized that in doing so it should strengthen the quality of our actions and its impacts. He encouraged all participants to utilise and share the acquired skills to develop practical and tangible solutions through quality project proposals and project management for their respective agencies, communities and networks that will enhance resilience building in

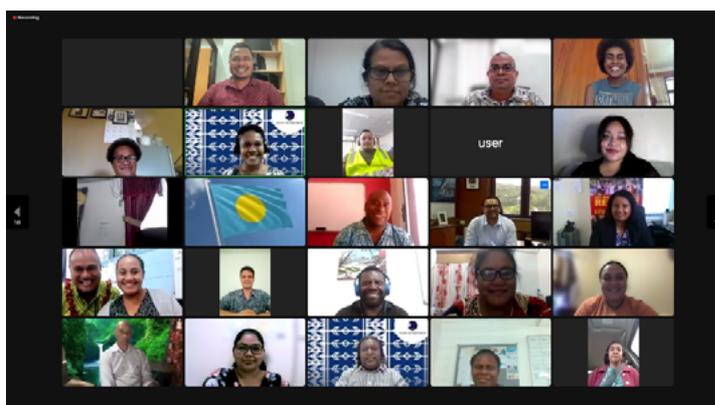
the Pacific.

Gabor Sasvari, European Union’s Programme Manager – Climate Change and Human Mobility welcomed the diversity of participants benefitting from the short training.

“Looking at the list of the participants I’m really happy to see how diverse it is. Ranging from the government to NGO’s, private sectors and stakeholders, “ he said, noting the European Union support to the region through the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building, Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership and he Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling up Pacific Adaptation projects captures the broad spectrum of resilience in the region and this capacity building is one part of enabling increased engagement within these areas.

“As a member of the Pacific Resilience Partnership, the Australian Government is proud to support implementation of the FRDP. Australia is a long term, committed partner in building Pacific climate change and disaster resilience and is pleased to see such a large volume of diverse stakeholders engaging with the FRDP to build resilience in their respective fields,” said Ms. Emi Tag, Acting Director, Pacific Climate Change Section, DFAT.

This initiative is supported by the Australian Government through the grant supporting implementation of the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP), and the European Union through the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) and Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme. —ENDS



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES) (FOR FSM NATIONALS ONLY)

COUNTRY:

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

NAME OF PROJECT:

Programmatic Preparation Advance (PPA) Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program-Economic Resilience (P178237) Project

GRANT NO.:

IDA-V381-FM

Assignment Title:

PROPER Project Assistant

Reference No.:

FM-DOFA-280805-CS-INDV

Additional Desirable Requirements:

- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and pay attention to detail.
- Ability to learn quickly.
- Organized and detail-oriented person.
- Good communication skills.
- Experience in procurement, project accounting and/or administration.

The Federated States of Micronesia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the preparation of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program – Economic Resilience (PROPER) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers July 2016, Revised November 2017 (“the Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

The consulting services (“the Services”) for the Project Assistant includes supporting the Project Manager in the day-to-day operations under the project and further liaise with other project staff, consultants, Central Implementation Unit (CIU) finance staff, PROPER Steering Committee and member Implementing Agencies on administrative requirements of the project under the direct supervision of the Project Officer.

Submission Requirements
The Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA) now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide the following:

- 1) A cover letter with information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services;
- 2) Curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc.; and
- 3) The names and contact details of two references.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: <https://dofa.gov.fm> and can be also obtained at the address given below.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail or by e-mail) by Friday, 25th March, 2022.

The criteria for selecting the Consultant are:

Minimum Mandatory Requirements

- Associate Degree from a recognized institution in Accounting, Business Administration or other relevant degree.
- Minimum of one (1) year relevant experience.
- Experience working in a team environment.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Competency in the use of computer applications, especially MS Office and Excel.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office 0800 to 1700 hours.

Mr. Kwame Shiroya
CIU Program Manager
Central Implementation Unit
Department of Finance & Administration
Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Email: kwame.shiroya@dofa.gov.fm

and cc to: Central Implementation Unit: ciu.dofa@gov.fm

East-West Center launches Pacific Islands Matter for America / America Matters for the Pacific Islands publication and website

The East-West Center

March 8, 2022

WASHINGTON, DC – The East-West Center (EWC) has officially launched a premier publication and website on US-Pacific Islands relations, *The Pacific Islands Matter for America / America Matters for the Pacific Islands*.

The publication and accompanying data visualizations highlight the deep historical and contemporary significance of the relationship between the United States, the State of Hawai'i and Pacific Islands countries and territories including the US territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The publication also covers Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The publication and website feature infographics, data, and analysis of economic, diplomatic, and cultural ties at the national, state, and local levels.

"The Pacific Islands Matter for America initiative creates space for the diverse voices of the Pacific by opening dialogue about how and why the people of the Pacific Islands and America matter to each other, advancing collective efforts to address climate, governance, education, economies, health, and sustainable development," said Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, President of the East-West Center. "The East-West Center Pacific Islands Development Program, which is Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL), remains enthusiastic about new and exciting partnerships and initiatives, looking forward to serving as a bridge between the United States and Pacific Islands governments and peoples across the region. Our efforts propel us on a new journey toward exploring and discovering uncharted ideas, solutions, and possibilities."

A hybrid event to launch the new publication, jointly hosted by the House Pacific Islands Caucus and the EWC, was led by Dr. Satu Limaye, Vice President of the East-West Center and Director of the Center's Washington office, and concluded with an in-person reception on

Capitol Hill.

Key remarks were offered by East-West Center President Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum and Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. The launch included remarks from prominent US and Pacific Islands leaders and government officials, including co-chairs of the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus:

Rep. Ami Bera (CA-7),
Rep. Don Young (AK-At Large) Rep. Steve Chabot (OH-1), Rep. Ed Case (HI-1), and
Rep. Brad Sherman (CA-30).

Additional speakers included:

Erika L. Moritsugu, Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian American and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison for the White House Office of the Chief of Staff
Mark Lambert, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, United States Department of State
Rep. Aumua Amata Radewagen, Delegate, (American Samoa – At Large), US House of Representatives
Cara Allison Marshall, Principal Director, East Asia, OSD-Policy/Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, Department of Defense
H.E. Arthur Sinodinos, Ambassador of Australia to the United States, Embassy of Australia in Washington, DC
H.E. Rosemary Banks, Ambassador of New Zealand to the United States, New Zealand Embassy to the United States of America
H.E. Hersey Kyota, Ambassador of Palau to the United States, Embassy of Palau in Washington, DC
H.E. Dr. Satyendra Prasad, Ambassador of Fiji to the UN, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations

The event brought together members of Congress and their staff, US and Pacific Islands government officials, the private sector, and regional experts to celebrate the partnerships between the United States and the Pacific Islands region.

"This product of one of our country's and world's premier Indo-Pacific institutions captures the critical importance of the Pacific Islands in this Pacific Century," said Congressman Ed Case (HI-1), co-chair of the bipartisan US House Pacific Islands Caucus. "It will prove the go-to resource for stakeholders to focus on and appreciate the shared histories, cultures, values and interests with which we can

and must forge a common path in the Indo-Pacific on regional security and stability, development, trade, climate change and other challenges of our times."

"The Pacific Islands Matter for America publication and website highlight the important connections and relationships that Hawai'i and the rest of the United States have not only with the Insular Areas, but with all Pacific Islands," said Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "The deep, historic, and mutually-beneficial relationships that the United States have in the Pacific remain strong and the US territories and the freely associated states harbor important strategic locations with significant ocean resources. Moreover, the Pacific Island peoples have and continue to contribute greatly to the fabric of this country. This publication aims to highlight some of the key aspects of the unique relationships the Pacific Islands and the United States have with one another."

Produced by the East-West Center with funding support from the US Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, the inaugural edition of *The Pacific Islands Matter for America / America Matters for The Pacific Islands* brings to light important facts and figures, including:

The Pacific Islands region spans 15% of the world's surface area; Pacific Island economies have a combined GDP of \$139 billion; US relations with the Pacific span over 150 years;

The United States partners with Pacific militaries and law enforcement; Under the Pacific Pledge, the US government has committed about \$350 million in assistance to Pacific Islands countries;

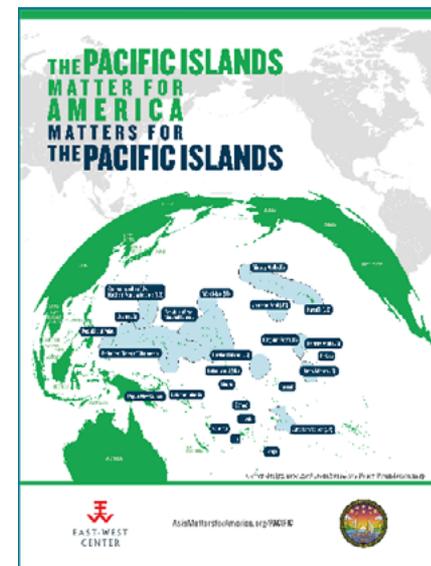
The United States exports over \$400 million in goods to Pacific Islands countries;

Over 250,000 US tourists visit Pacific Islands countries annually; 57% of US students who studied in the Pacific Islands studied in Fiji;

California and Hawai'i host nearly 50% of the Pacific Islander population in the United States; and

The United States shares eight sister city partnerships with five Pacific Islands countries.

"I am pleased that the Asia Matters for America initiative can add the focus on the Pacific Islands region, countries, and territories to increase mutual



understanding of this increasingly vital region of interest to the United States, allies, and partners. And I thank the Office of Insular Affairs and the Pacific Islands Caucus and its co-chairs for their support," said Satu Limaye, East-West Center Vice President and Director, Asia Matters for America initiative.

The Pacific Islands Matter for America / America Matters for Pacific Islands publication is funded in part through the US Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program. The publication can also be found on the Asia Matters for America website.

About the Asia Matters for America Initiative

The East-West Center's Asia Matters for America initiative maps the trade, investment, employment, business, diplomacy, security, education, tourism, and people-to-people connections between the United States and the Indo-Pacific at the national, state, and local levels. The website, publications, and one-page summaries for states and congressional districts are resources for understanding the robust and dynamic US-Indo-Pacific relationship. The initiative was created in 2008 and has produced 19 publications, thousands of one-page connections summaries for US states and congressional districts, hundreds of articles on US-Asia relations at the national, state, and local levels, dozens of public programs involving a range of government and private stakeholders and partners, and over 150 data visualizations on the initiative's website: AsiaMattersforAmerica.org.

Shaping our future: How Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) takes responsibility in making a change

Micronesian Legal Services Corporation

Group Grant Recipients (1)

Interviewee: Danally Daniel (Directing Attorney for Pohnpei Office)

When it comes to shaping our future, the first people we think of are our youth. They are our future.

There are many issues that need to be addressed with our youth and Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) aims to make it their responsibility in doing so. A hot topic today that MLSC wants to take part in raising awareness is the issue of gender discrimination.

Gender discrimination awareness raising strives to promote and foster a widespread understanding of gender-related issues such as violence against women and the pay gap between men and women. It also seeks to demonstrate how values and norms shape our reality, promote stereotypes, and support inequality-producing mechanisms.

“We wanted to teach about gender discrimination, gender violence, and especially how gender biases are connected to those things” says Danally Daniel, Directing Attorney of MLSC.

“We know that the youth is our future and therefore spreading awareness on important issues should start there.”

MLSC is all about making positive changes in Micronesia, which is why they applied for the competitive small grants for NGO through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Inspiring Women’s Advancement Through Collective Actions (IWA) project

MLSC believes in a Micronesia where everyone is treated equally and with respect, where government and institutions are held accountable, even to the most vulnerable among us; where justice and fairness for all, including the poor, is the standard not only in their courts but in every community; and where communities thrive under democratic principles. This is what MLSC advocates.

“Our community is very reserved, causing them to be a bit reluctant and hesitant when coming to us with their issues, so we aim to help people understand what rights they are entitled to,” says Danally. MLSC believes public awareness to

be one of the most efficient ways to get an idea across, so they wanted to develop a project specifically on gender discrimination. The company has assisted women and men with a variety of legal issues throughout the years and thus understands the realities that women endure as a result of gender bias, gender discrimination, and gender-based violence.

The MLSC is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting persons who cannot afford legal representation. The mission of the MLSC is to promote equal access to justice and to offer low-income people with high-quality civil legal help. MLSC focuses on enhancing people's lives in Micronesia by assisting them in resolving important legal issues and strengthening communities through advocacy.

Luckily for Pohnpei, MLSC decided to make it their responsibility to take a stand and raise awareness on gender discrimination among the youth. Since they unfortunately would not be able to reach all of Pohnpei, MLSC chose to visit all of the high schools based in Kolonia, including PICS, PCS (Pohnpei Catholic School), OLM (Our Lady of Mercy), SDA (Seventh Day Adventist), and CCA (Calvary Christian Academy).

MLSC believes the students did great and believes the project was quite effective.

“We have fully completed our project and we feel we accomplished our goal very well”, says Danally.

By informing people, particularly the youth about the links between gender biases and gender-based violence, will assist to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence altogether. MLSC believes that spreading awareness on this issue is vital because while women are most victims to gender-based violence, people must understand that this is not just a women’s issue, but that of men too. “It is everybody's issue, a human rights issue, that should be taught and made known to all to help prevent it” says Danally. Public awareness doesn’t have to be limited, each of us can do our share, and our responsibility in raising awareness on the importance of issues like gender discrimination, gender biases, and gender-based violence. Danally says “it’s important to do that because it is the right thing to do, it is the human right thing to do.”

When asked about the project's drawbacks, Danally says listening to the

youth speak about their own experiences and having to face the unpleasant reality that, while the students may be young, they too face issues such as stereotyping, gender biases, and gender-based violence on a daily basis.

“It was eye-opening,” Danally says. “We hope for the best and hope that this does not happen to them, but sadly, whether we want to admit it or not, they do, just as we adults experience gender bias and discrimination.”

These uncomfortable conversations are exactly the reason raising awareness to the youth should be prioritized, to help prevent it altogether. “Everybody should just speak out, talk about it, everyone can do their part” says Danally.

“At the end of the project, we asked the principals to send one student from their high school to do an internship at MLSC, and what happened was, they sent their best students! They did so well, they are so smart and amazing. We had them do everything we did and they were so great. They could be great lawyers one day!”

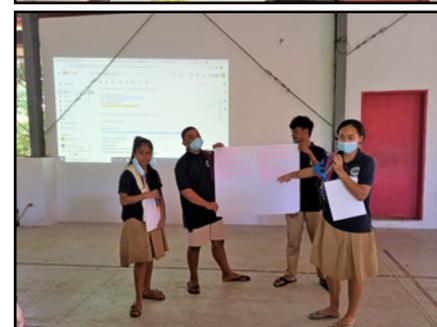
While MLSC began this project with youth, they hope to eventually reach out to community elders, leaders, and churches, which would be the real challenge.

“It also starts at home,” Danally says. “Introducing this idea and making the issue known was one step, but now it’s up to you to have those uncomfortable conversations at home, end the generational curse, and speak on these issues, maybe everyone will change their perspective a little bit, it all starts with you.”

“When we see the positive changes, especially for Micronesia, it is very fulfilling,” says Danally.

It was an honor and a privilege to speak with Danally Daniel. Her and MLSC’s dedication for raising awareness about gender-based violence demonstrates how much she cares about her country, her people, and, most importantly, the youth of our future. MLSC hopes that their outreach effort was successful and that it will hopefully inspire others especially youth to do the same in their families and their communities. MLSC believes spreading the awareness of gender-based violence is everyone’s responsibility.

MLSC has offices in Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas



(Saipan), each of the Federated States of Micronesia's four states (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae), and the Marshall Islands (Majuro and Ebeye). Their central administrative office is located in Saipan. Should you have any legal questions, head over to your nearest MLSC office in your region or check out their facebook page at “Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.”

Through funding from the US Department of State, IOM Micronesia provided Competitive small Grants applications to NGO’s, youth-led and faith based or other agencies in FSM to build their capacity by developing and implementing education and community awareness initiatives on gender discrimination for target populations within their respective thematic areas

Kosrae Red Cross youth volunteers trained on social data collection and COVID-19 community action planning

Micronesia Red Cross Society

March 4, 2022

Tofol Kosrae -The Kosrae State chapter of the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) in partnership with UNICEF organized a 2-day capacity building workshop for 15 youth volunteers as part of efforts to support the FSM to generate critical social data to help understand barriers to COVID-19 vaccine demand as well help equip volunteers with important community engagement skills for facilitating development of community outbreak prepared plans. Overall, there are two main aims for this initiative. First, to generate evidence through collection of relevant social data such as knowledge, attitudes and practices that can provide useful community insights for shaping risk communication and vaccination service delivery strategies. Second, strengthen community ownership and accountability by equipping volunteers with basic community engagement skills for facilitating Community Covid-19 Action planning.

The MRCS Kosrae Chapter brought together 15 youth volunteers and trained them on data collection using AKVO Flow app, and shared facilitation skills for organizing effective community action planning processes. The training was supported by Mr. Pius Attandoh, UNICEF FSM Social and Behaviour Change Specialist who is currently providing technical support to Kosrae State COVID-19 response. He underscored the importance of using relevant social data for action while also equipping training participants with basic skills for bringing community members together to develop their own Covid19 outbreak preparedness plans. "Within the context of COVID-19 action plan development, our primary role in the community is to bring community members together to identify behaviors and practices that put the community at risk and increase vulnerability to COVID-19, and then come up with local solutions."



The 15 youth volunteers successfully completed the training requirements and are now eager to go into the community to collect the data in contributing to Kosrae's goal of becoming COVID19-protected state. "I am glad to know that our actions will produce information that can be used to help our Health Department to improve services to the community," said volunteer Benur Lonno. Volunteer, Lucian Sigráh added "This training helps each of us to help our own communities to prepare for COVID."

"It was interesting to learn about bringing people together and having to facilitate the process with community leaders and other influential people," said volunteer Basil George.

"I believe the best way to address our issues is to bring ideas together," added volunteer Singkitchy G. George.

Volunteer Vita Joseph also said, "Not only do we get to make friends from all over the island, but our actions can also help to change minds and behaviors from negative to positive."

Micronesia Red Cross Society relishes its longstanding partnership with UNICEF in strengthening communities and building the capacity local volunteers in order to carry out needed services for the communities in the FSM.



New Pacific-wide initiative targets greater exports and trade

Pacific Community

11 March 2022

Noumea, New Caledonia – The European Union (EU) and the Pacific Community (SPC) have launched the 'Safe Agricultural Trade Facilitation through Economic Integration in the Pacific' (SAFE Pacific) project to strengthen and enhance trade capacities designed to improve economic growth in the Pacific.

The EUR 10.5 million SAFE Pacific project is funded by the EU and will be implemented by the SPC's Land Resources Division. The project will target increasing production and exports through improved compliance with international trade standards and by adopting approaches that foster greater production for domestic and regional markets.

Speaking at the launch of the project in Noumea, the Ambassador of the European Union for the Pacific, H.E. Sujiro Seam said, "At a time when the EU becomes Permanent Observer, I am happy to partner with SPC on this SAFE Pacific project. As the region progressively reopens to build back better, international trade plays a crucial role. The SAFE Pacific project enhances the capabilities of Pacific Island Countries to comply with regulatory obligations, such as biosecurity and quarantine measures, as well as rules intended to safeguard product quality and safety. It lays the foundation to increase exports and thus strengthen regional and international trade,

including trade between the Pacific Island Countries and the EU thanks to the Economic Partnership Agreement". The project launch coincided with the inception meeting of the SAFE Pacific project and was broadcasted live via Zoom in New Caledonia.

SPC's Director-General Mr Stuart Minchin said, "SPC is pleased to launch the SAFE Pacific project and strengthen our commitment to supporting the essential work being carried out by our member countries to improve and promote sustainable economic growth and livelihoods. SAFE Pacific comes at a critical time when the region grapples with the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and severe natural disasters, reaffirming the importance of collaborative action to pave a way forward in the near and long-term for post-COVID recovery."

This partnership confirms the EU-SPC commitment to contribute to growth and development in the Pacific in order to provide decent jobs, to reduce inequalities and tackle poverty to sustain livelihoods, and to preserve the natural capital on which the region depends.

The project will be implemented in 15 Pacific African Caribbean Pacific countries, including the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



Pacific Ocean Connections highlighted in International Ocean Sciences Meeting

The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) co-hosted an Innovative Session during the Ocean Sciences 2022 conference focused on connections between Pacific islands. The virtual session brought together scientist and thought leaders, including PICRC staff, from throughout the Pacific to explore relationships between our oceans and cultures.

The session was held virtually from March 1st -3rd. Native Hawaiian navigator and President of the Polynesian Voyaging Society Nainoa Thompson opened the session with a keynote address highlighting the need for a shared destination for our ocean conservation journey.

During the remainder of the session researchers and panelists led presentations on their work in Pacific islands and shared visions of how our region can come together to protect our unique environments and societies.

Several PICRC collaborators presented their research projects, including studies of Pacific food systems, the connectivity of near shore and offshore marine ecosystems and the economics of shifting diets towards pelagic fish.

As a highlight of the session, Palauan students shared their recent research project focused on decolonizing environmental social research. The Ebiil Society and Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions led the project and trained students on social-ecological research approaches. Students applied their new skills through interviews with Palauan elders.

To close the session, PICRC CEO Dr. Yimnang Golbuu and Atuatasi-Lelei Peau, Superintendent of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS), chaired a dynamic session showcasing the Sister Sanctuary Agreement between NMSAS and the Palau National Marine Sanctuary.

“It was an honor to participate in this session with so many talented researchers from across the Pacific” said Dr. Golbuu. “Together, we can build a future for our islands that preserves our rich environment and culture.”

The conference was co-hosted by PICRC, NMSAS, the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions and the University of Hawaii.

Mand Branch Groundbreaking, Pohnpei

The high, coral-capped volcanic island of Pohnpei is known as the “garden of Micronesia” due to its heavy rainfall and luxuriant tropical foliage. Missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints first arrived in 1976, having their first baptisms in 1977. The Church's Mand Pohnpei branch was created shortly thereafter.

The Mand Branch is part of the Pohnpei Stake led by Stake President Williamson Rodriguez. The members have met in the same church building for many years. They currently meet in a meeting house hidden out in the boonies. As their numbers have increased it is time to have a new meeting house built. A site was chosen in Pohnlangas, in the Madolenihm Municipality. President Rodriguez told how “The older building is kind of hiding in the community where nobody sees it but now, we’re very excited that it will be on the main road and visible to many in the center of the community.”

March 4th the Mand Branch and others attended a groundbreaking where their new meeting house will be built. Among the 63 attendees were the Prominent Chief Dauk Madolenihmw and Mayor Kiomy Albert’s representative, Welbet Perez.

An outdoor program adorned with tropical greenery and an island breeze was conducted by Brother Lensper Kalio with Stake President Rodriguez presiding. The Mand Branch President John Saimon offered the opening prayer. A couple of group hymns were sung, Mand Branch's Relief Society President Rose Tihpen gave her testimony after which President Nixon Redes, Stake Presidency 1st counselor, offered some words, followed by Stake President Williamson Rodriguez speaking before the groundbreaking ceremony.

Two separate groups donned with hard hats and shovels, proceeded to take turns at breaking ground. The benediction was given by Stake Presidency 2nd counselor Ozimy Edward.

This meeting house is expected to be completed in March of 2023. There is a lot of excitement among the members as they look forward to their new building. It will serve Pohnpeian as well as Pingelapese speaking members.



Mand Branch meeting house groundbreaking, Pohnpei Stake. L-R: PLEC Construction Manager Raynoldo Carlos; Mand Branch Relief Society President Rose Tihpen; Mand Branch President John Saimon; Traditional leader “Dauk Madolenihmw” Sinteriko Hadley; Representative of Municipal office of Meninkeder Madolenihmw (Police officer); Pohnpei Stake President Williamson Rodriguez.



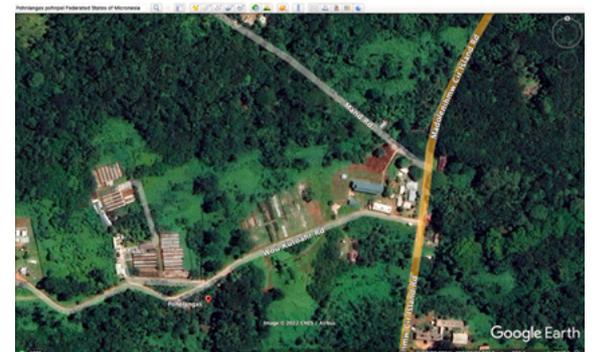
Mand Branch meeting house groundbreaking, Pohnpei Stake



Mand meeting house site in Pohnlangas, in the Madolenihm Municipality, Pohnpei, FSM.



Mand Branch meeting house groundbreaking, Pohnpei Stake. L-R: Sister Saimon; Sister Elies; Johnny Ludrick Jr, Primary; Salane Pablo, Young Women; President Ozimy Edward Pohnpei Stake 2nd counselor; President Nixon Redes Pohnpei Stake 1st counselor.



Mand Branch meeting house groundbreaking, Pohnpei Stake.

President Panuelo concludes State visit to Yap by proclaiming Woleai Atoll as temporary host of the office of the president

*FSM Information Services
Yap State Media & Protocol Division
Joint Press Release*

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), has recently concluded his first State Visit to the State of Yap. After an exit meeting with the leadership of Yap State and the signing of an outcomes document, the President and his delegation sojourned to Woleai Atoll, and then back to Pohnpei State.

During the exit meeting with Yap State's leadership, the latter solicited President Panuelo's assistance to extend Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA) flights into the Republic of Palau, as well as assistance in addressing the ban on imported labor from the Republic of the Philippines which is heavily impacting infrastructure projects in Yap and other FSM States. President Panuelo advised that, regarding PMA, and potentially Caroline Islands Air as well, flights will resume to the Republic of Palau after the COVID-19 Pandemic has subsided; and, regarding the labor ban, the President advised that the FSM National Government is working diligently to address this issue bilaterally with the Philippines.

The other items discussed in the exit meeting, and the other substantive briefings held, can be found in a summarized outcomes document available here: https://gov.fm/files/Joint%20Communiques/First_Visit_by_H_E_David_W_Panuelo_to_the_State_of_Yap_Outcome_DOC-compressed.pdf

After departing Yap State, the President and his delegation visited Woleai Atoll. While there, the President informed the People of Woleai Atoll of the goings-on in the Nation's capital. The President concluded his visit to Woleai by proclaiming that the Office of the President was temporarily hosted by the atoll. The President's proclamation is available here: https://gov.fm/files/March_7_2022-Presidential_Proclamation-Woleai.pdf

While in the State of Yap, President Panuelo and the Honorable Isaac V. Figir made a number of gifts and/or promises of gifts using funding available from the

Office of the President's representation fund. In all, the President provided the following support to the State of Yap: \$500 to Rumuu, Fanif; \$500 to Gilman boys and girls; \$500 to Dugor, Weloy boys and girls; one outboard motor and one boat (of the community's choosing) to the Tamil Marine Protected Areas Initiative; \$3,000 to the Yap Women's Association; \$3,000 to the Neighboring Islands Women's Association; \$3,000 worth of food to the Fisheries & Maritime Institute; \$1,000 to Bael Elementary School; \$1,000 to Colonia Middle School; \$1,000 to Dalipebinaw Elementary School; \$1,000 to Faith Christian Academy; \$1,000 to Fanif Elementary School; \$1,000 to Gaanelay Elementary School; \$1,000 to Gagil Elementary School; \$1,000 to Gilman Elementary School; \$1,000 to Maap Elementary School; \$1,000 to North Fanif Elementary School; \$1,000 to St. Mary's School; \$5,000 to Tamilang Elementary School; \$5,000 to Yap Catholic High School; \$1,000 to Yap International Christian School; \$1,000 to Yap Seventh Day Adventist

School; \$1,000 to Woleai Elementary School; \$1,000 to Neighboring Islands High School; and a promise to restore internet connectivity to Woleai Atoll. Additionally, where appropriate, the President gifted various items to the People of Woleai, such as school supplies.

The FSM National Government is committed to the values on the Nation's seal of peace, unity, and liberty. The FSM National Government extends its sincere appreciation to the People & Government of the State of Yap for their hospitality and warm welcome afforded to President Panuelo and his delegation.



Gender equality and climate justice: Pacific Civil Society reinforces the nexus between the two during International Women's Day

Climate Action Network

8th of March, 2022

Port Vila, Vanuatu - For the first time, this year's 66th Session for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) will look at "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes"; indicating a global shift in the conversation, particularly in this UN Decade for Action on Ecosystem Restoration, the final decade of the SDGs and in the middle of the five-year Gender Equality Forum (GEF) global Action Coalitions (2021-5).

There is growing acknowledgement that work for climate justice does not stand independent of gender justice and that the nexus between the two is incontestable. There is an urgent need to integrate gender responsive frameworks into creating, funding and implementing policies and programmes to urgently mitigate and address climate change, and its associated losses and damage.

Noelene Nabulivou, Executive Director of DIVA for Equality said that:

"There are limits to adaptation. Pacific women's human rights and environmental defenders and our communities demand climate justice and restitution from industrialised countries to address current and future loss and damage, and to see this properly reflected in CSW66 Agreed Outcomes and at UNFCCC COP27. We must recognise and address women's unpaid care, domestic and communal work, address gender and food sovereignty, water and sanitation, work for an end to the epidemic levels of violence against women, and more. We must strengthen overall national and regional responses to gender and climate injustice, including national focal points on Gender and Climate Change as already in place in 90 countries, but none yet in Pacific small island states. We look forward to this and more in 2022."

The Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) also recognises that Indigenous

Continued on next page

...Climate Action Network

Continued from previous page

women, particularly from the Pacific, have long protected the Commons - the air, ocean, waterways, land and biodiversity that continue to nurture, protect, buffer and support the living planet and are simultaneously affronted by the impacts of the climate crises, extractive capitalism and violent patriarchy. This recognition has in turn informed the need to centre and amplify the voices, views and perspectives of Indigenous and local women whose generational knowledge, skills and practices provide innovative solutions to environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change and its impacts.

Vice President for the Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC), Belyndar Maonia Rikimani says that:

“Today the Pacific is faced with battling the worst effects of climate change and COVID-19 in our communities. Women are finding it very difficult to cope with the increasing impacts of climate change and the unexpected outbreaks of COVID-19 as there has been very limited healthcare facilities and equipment to cater for the population. Climate change has really had a massive impact on the food security, fresh water supply and many communities are now faced with the scarcity of resources. Yet women have turned out to be strong and resilient through these crises by the use of creative and innovative traditional knowledge and food preservation knowledge in ensuring that their families have sufficient food, clean water and basic needs are provided. This shows that our Pacific women have excellent adaptive capacity because they have managed to sustain their families through these disasters that have passed. Therefore it is very important that we have a strong recognition for Gender and Climate change here in the Pacific as our women are the ones who are at the forefront of the climate crisis”.

Processes like CSW66, the UNFCCC COPs and the recent devastating IPCC reports continue to reinforce the importance of recognising that approaches to gender justice and climate justice cannot be siloed. Women and girls in all their diversity need to be seen as experiencing some of the greatest impacts, and also as important leaders of climate-just solutions that can reframe the climate change landscape. International Women’s Day, March 8 2022 reminds us yet again of the massive, urgent changes that we need to make toward a safe future for all Pacific islanders and the world, including women and girls in all of their diversity.

White House nominates Ambassador Cantor for Insular and International Affairs at the Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON — The White House today announced the intent to nominate Carmen G. Cantor to be Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs at the Department of the Interior. The nomination will now be considered by the U.S. Senate.

“The territories are an integral part of the fabric of America, and the freely associated states are uniquely interwoven with the United States in terms of a shared history, ongoing partnership, and a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific,” said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. “Carmen’s extensive experience as a diplomat will help ensure that insular areas have the resources and support they need to mitigate climate-related challenges, address critical infrastructure projects, and promote economic development.”

Carmen is a career member of the Senior Executive Service and currently serves as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federated States of Micronesia. Previously, she served in various roles within the Department of State, including as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Bureau of International Information Programs, Executive Director of the Bureau of Counterterrorism, Director of the Office of Civil Service Human Resource Management and as Deputy Director for Recruitment, Examination, and Employment.

Carmen also served as Director of the Office of Civil Rights for the Foreign Agricultural Service, and as Director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity at the Federal Maritime Commission. She earned a B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico and an M.A. from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary’s responsibilities for U.S.-affiliated insular areas, which includes the territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Residents of these U.S. territories are U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance to three freely associated states: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Women hold the key to unlocking the potential of sustainable energy in the Pacific

SPC

4 March 2022

Suva, Fiji – The countries and territories of the Pacific share some common energy challenges, but their success in meeting them has been uneven, particularly in rural areas. Addressing the shortfalls will require a renewed focus on women at every stage, as key and informed users, decision-makers, and also engineers of the region’s sustainable energy solutions.

Improving women’s access to sustainable energy is essential to equitable and sustainable development across the Pacific, according to a report titled Gender equality and sustainable energy: Lessons from Pacific Island countries and territories, published today by the Pacific Community (SPC), together with UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Many remote communities across the Pacific are lacking in reliable, clean energy, a burden that falls disproportionately on women and girls in those communities. And even where most households are connected to the grid, the region is home to some of the highest electricity prices in the world, which also have a gendered impact.

The report analyses available data from a range of sources to explore how the type, price and availability of energy affect women’s well-being in several complex but interconnected ways, including unpaid work in the home, health, pollution, climate change, education and financial services.

To address this broad scope of challenges, the report recommends: improving women and girl’s access to technical education and professions; ensuring women’s equitable access to productive and financial resources; broadening off-grid access to solar power; increasing clean energy in the mix supplying the grid; involving more women in energy decision-making; and improving the availability of data on gender and energy.

“Gender equality and environmental conservation are intertwined and both are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Sarah Knibbs, Officer-in-Charge for UN Women Asia and the Pacific. “Without a shift to sustainable energy, women will continue to lag behind and suffer disproportionately, given the cooking, fuel collection and household management burdens they carry.”

In several of the 14 Pacific countries examined, almost all households

are connected to the power grid. But in others, the picture is very different, with just 13 per cent of rural households in the Marshall Islands connected, 11 per cent in Vanuatu 6 per cent in Kiribati, and 0.2 per cent in the Solomon Islands.

In some countries small-scale solar power generators are filling energy gaps. More than 70 per cent of rural households in the Marshall Islands and Kiribati rely on them. Solar generators provide energy in remote areas, and without damaging air quality, which is particularly beneficial to women and girls, who are largely responsible for tending fires and cooking.

There is some evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the situation by increasing household energy use as restrictions have forced more cooking and cleaning at home.

The report also found that women in the region remain staggeringly absent from energy-related decision-making. Of all the countries examined, only one had a female minister for energy. Women also made up very few of the decision-makers in energy utility firms, and even fewer of the technicians – but the overwhelming majority of clerical positions.

Paula Vivili, Deputy Director-General of SPC, highlighted the importance of women’s voices in energy policy saying: “Engaging Pacific women in the decision-making process for our region’s energy sector will be key to providing reliable clean energy for the future of all Pacific people. This report shows we can do more to ‘break the bias’ and ensure gender equality at all levels of leadership.”

The problem needs addressing from the root level of education, to boost the numbers of women students in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects above the current levels of 20 per cent.

To continue furthering access to sustainable energy in PICTs, and meet the commitments made in the Pacific Energy and Gender Strategic Action Plan (PEGSAP) for 2021 to 2030, as well as Sustainable Development Goal 7, providing access to sustainable energy will be key, and will benefit women substantially.

The SPC is also working alongside Pacific States to implement the endorsed Framework for Energy Security and Resilience (2021-2030) to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels across the region whilst rapidly increasing access to clean and renewable energy.

The FSM's maritime security is enhanced with new Guardian-class Patrol Boat, the FSS Tosiwo Nakayama

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On March 11th, 2022, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received the first of its two Guardian-class Patrol Boats, delivered through the Australian Government's Pacific Maritime Security Program at a handover ceremony in Henderson, Western Australia. Named after the FSM's first President, the FSS Tosiwo Nakayama will provide protection for the FSM's marine ecosystems and livelihoods, and contribute to the preservation of a Free & Open Indo-Pacific.

His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, and the Honorable Andrew Hastie, Australia's Assistant Minister for Defense, provided remarks, each describing the closeness of FSM-Australia relations, our shared values, and our shared vision for the Indo-Pacific region.

"The People & Government of Australia are not only a close friend and partner of our Nation, but also a very close ally. I reaffirm our Nation's commitment

to our partnership with Australia, and solicit Australia's continued efforts to promote Indo-Pacific peace, stability, and security," President Panuelo said. "The FSS Tosiwo Nakayama is bigger, faster, and a categorical improvement in every way over the previous Patrol Boats. Named after our first President of the FSM who advocated strongly for a united Micronesia, you have our Government's guarantee that we will use this sovereign asset of our Nation to navigate our way towards a more peaceful and secure Pacific."

"Australia has a longstanding commitment to supporting our Pacific partners through the Pacific Maritime Security Program, working together to address illegal fishing, transnational crime, and other maritime security challenges," Minister Hastie said. "While the [FSS] Tosiwo Nakayama crew has been preparing for this handover, the Royal Australian Navy vessel HMAS Melville was simultaneously supporting maritime surveillance efforts within the FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone to detect and deter suspicious and illicit vessels."

President Panuelo was represented at the handover ceremony by the Commanding Officer of the FSS Tosiwo Nakayama, LCDR Paulino Yangitesmal. The Australian Defence Force was represented by CDRE Ivan Ingham, Senior Officer, Western Australia.

The FSS Tosiwo Nakayama is the 14th of 21 vessels being delivered to 10 Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste under the Pacific Maritime Security Program, and the 1st of 2 vessels for the FSM specifically.

President Panuelo's remarks at the handover ceremony can be found below, in full and as delivered.

The video of President Panuelo's remarks can be found here: <https://fb.watch/bGyNAxGP6S/>

Photos of the event can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGLcpapx9E4>

President Panuelo solicits establishment of an Office of the European Union in the FSM during address to Pacific Islands Program Opening Conference

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On March 10th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—provided introductory remarks at the Pacific Islands Program Opening Conference. Co-hosted by both the Pacific Community (SPC) and the French Institute of International Relations, President Panuelo described what is going on in the FSM and other Pacific Island Countries, what interest and role there might be for Europeans in the Pacific more generally, and advocated for the establishment of an Office of the European Union to be based in the FSM and to serve the North Pacific. President Panuelo's remarks, as delivered, are below in full. A video of the statement can be found here: <https://fb.watch/bGfuhbupXj/>

REMARKS: Pacific Islands Forum Statement to UN Emergency Special Session on Ukraine

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

28 Feb 2022

The Pacific Islands Forum member states with presence at the United Nations in New York, register our deep alarm at the unfolding crisis in Ukraine.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we call on the Russian Federation, Ukraine and all parties to take every available measure to de-escalate the situation and return to the path of diplomacy in good conscience.

We welcome the beginning of talks between the Ukrainian and Russian governments, and we call for an immediate ceasefire, safe humanitarian access to affected areas and the urgent withdrawal of military forces in accordance with internationally recognised borders.

The actions of the Russian Federation are violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We call on the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally reverse its decision related to the status of certain

areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

Our Blue Pacific relies on the rules-based international order that has promoted peace among our global family for over half a century. The challenges we collectively face today are numerous and will not be overcome without peaceful dialogue. Climate Change and COVID-19 must remain at the forefront of our global efforts. Our actions must be guided by established rules and norms.

We wish to recall the Preamble of the UN Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.

We reaffirm the importance of the rules-based international order and the resolution of international disputes by peaceful means, respect for national sovereignty and collective action in response to unlawful challenges to national integrity and independence.

In doing so, the PIF UN members join the widespread calls for a return to peace and dialogue in the spirit of multilateralism which the United Nations holds among its highest ideals.



Micronesia Productions hands over print materials to Arthur Albert, the Assistant Secretary, Division of Special Services, Department of Education, FSM National Government. Micronesia Productions worked with UNICEF to create these Wash in Schools (WinS) materials for all elementary schools throughout the FSM. The handover included the following: One 3-minute video, directed towards teachers, detailing how to use their school's hygiene kits which were provided by UNICEF. One 10-minute video detailing the importance of hygiene in schools. Brochures on hygiene, and posters. All materials were provided in English and all FSM local languages.