

# FSM President throws first pitch at Washington Nationals game during visit to Washington D.C. for high-level meetings

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

attendance for the stadium. 9,261 fans attended the other game.

April 26, 2022

**Washington D.C.**—FSM President David Panuelo threw out the ceremonial first pitch of the Washington Nationals game on April 19. The opportunity came during a double header between the Nationals and the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Nationals won both games that day but press releases from the FSM and US Embassy to the FSM do not say which game President Panuelo attended. Nationals Park seats 41,506. On that day, one of the two games had an attendance of 7,542, a record low

The President was given a custom Nationals jersey which he wore when he threw the first pitch. The team also gave him the ball he used. The President was introduced on the PA system and his first pitch was shown on the big screen. President Panuelo called it a “once in a lifetime opportunity”.

The opportunity was hosted by the U.S. State Department. President Panuelo and members of his cabinet



President Panuelo prepares to throw the first pitch

[Click here for continuation](#)

# Monitoring and further testing detect 3 additional positive results within the Kosrae Quarantine Facility

**Kosrae-Public Information Office**

**TOFOL, Kosrae State** - On Friday, April 22, 2022, The Kosrae Laboratory services tested all 40 repatriates in the Kosrae Quarantine Facility as required 1 day prior to release from quarantine. The test results came back with 3 positives for COVID19. As a result, the release date was reset for the whole group and further testing was done on Sunday, April 24. The result of the second test results remains as 3 positive and 37 negative. All positive cases remain asymptomatic. All sample collectors and front-liners tested negative. In

addition to the 2 previous positive results from the Tofol Hill Quarantine site, these 3 positive results bring the total to 5 positive tests within the quarantine.

Kosrae remains in Emergency Declaration Condition 4, as all persons who tested positive remain isolated within quarantine, and there is still no evidence of spread to the general community.

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# ANZAC Day Dawn Service

*Australian Embassy, Pohnpei*

*April, 25, 2022*

**Pohnpei, FSM** - On 25 April, Australians, New Zealanders, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of the FSM Government came together to commemorate ANZAC Day with a dawn service at Kangaroo Court. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, with ANZAC Day being one of Australia's most important national days—a time to remember the fallen. It is a time of personal reflection where Australians and New Zealanders demonstrate our solemn respect for those who have served, and those who continue to serve in our nation. Guests included A/g Secretary of Justice Johnson Asher, A/g Secretary of TC&I Thomas Kostka, Japanese Ambassador H.E. Hisashi Michigami, and US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Benjamin Dille. The service was followed by a traditional 'gunfire' breakfast. We salute our fallen and give thanks on this memorable day. Lest We Forget.



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 Managing Editor

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: May 11, 2022**  
 Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:  
**Monday, May 9, 2022**

# Pohnpei high school students leverage online training for STEM development

*Habele Outer Island Education Fund*

*April 21, 2022*

**Pohnpei, FSM** - Students at high schools participating in the Habele Robo League across the FSM are taking advantage of online training opportunities to develop new skills for their school robotics clubs. At Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School in Pohnpei, seven students and a teacher recently completed a twenty-hour training course to become certified in the basics of VEX V5 robotics.

This course was introduced to schools in the 2019-20 school year through the Habele Certification Challenge, a program incentivizing staff and students to pursue individual learning, with an emphasis on developing opportunities for peer-to-peer instruction. This year, schools were again invited to participate in the certification challenge, with both new students and veteran students incentivized to grow their knowledge of core materials. Schools with a staff member and student earning certification were awarded a 3D

printer to add a new dimension of hands on technical training for robotics clubs. Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School was one of the first schools to add a 3D printer to their school's STEM capacity, and continues to set the pace this year for students engaging in technical training and growth.

OLMCHS's online robotics training is supported by a robust wireless network, which was equipped in the early days of the pandemic by a partnership between Habele and the Office of Insular Affairs. This buildout of wireless capacity served the dual purpose of providing schools with the capacity to still make use of expatriate teachers (across a variety of subjects), and allowing robotics clubs to independently engage with STEM learning online.

Habele is a US nonprofit, established by former Peace Corps Volunteers, that serves students and schools across Micronesia. Habele provides tuition scholarships, book donations, tools for traditional craftsmen, and introduced



high school-based robotics to the FSM in 2011. Support for the Robo League comes through a partnership with the Office of Insular Affairs.

Any student at a participating Robo League high school in Micronesia is invited to take the training challenge. All details can be found at [www.habele.org/training](http://www.habele.org/training).

# Musical chairs: Yap reshuffles health agency seats amid hospital crisis

*By Joyce McClure*

*April 23, 2020*

In what seems like a game of musical chairs, Yap's Department of Health Services has unexpectedly seen the return of Deputy Director Dominic Taruwemai to the position of acting director.

Taruwemai's reappointment follows Aileen Tareg's resignation on April 18 after two weeks on the job when she refused to sign letters of termination for 30 nurses and three doctors involved in the mass walkout.

Members of the Yap Medical Association attempted to meet with Gov. Jesse Salalu to discuss their concerns over low compensation and benefits.

Upon being refused a meeting, the medical staff handed in letters of resignation.

However, Taruwemai did not accept their resignations and they returned to work upon Tareg's arrival.

On April 20, Taruwemai issued termination letters to the 33 healthcare workers.

Salalu announced Taruwemai's reappointment during an April 19 meeting with his cabinet "to inform them of [the] new issue and be updated on developments relating to the emergency development," according to a press release from the state's Media & Protocol Division dated April 20.

After the announcement of his return, Taruwemai informed Salalu and the cabinet members that the hospital now has four permanent doctors in addition to two who did not go on strike; and two temporary doctors who responded to the FSM national emergency declaration issued by President David Panuelo on April 5.

In addition, 21 nurses, "an increase from a previous low number after the strike," are now working at the hospital. Some of the nurses are also temporary, having been flown in to replace those who have now been terminated.

A press release from the Yap government also announced that Dr. Alex Tara has been named chief of staff at the hospital "and is closely working with every available medical personnel at hand to restore health services back to normal."



*Yap State Hospital. Photo by Joyce McClure*

Taruwemai further reported that Dr. Mandela Bodunrin, former chief of staff who left due to a family emergency prior to the current hospital crisis, is "off-island but ready to return and is awaiting the next repatriation flight."

Taruwemai had held the acting director position for 90 days prior to Tareg's return to the position she held until Sept. 1, 2021 when she was forced to resign by then Gov. Henry Falan and then Lt. Gov. Salalu.

# Micronesia Red Cross Society in partnership with Pohnpei State Public Health and UNICEF conduct COVID-19 Community Engagement Training

Alvie B. Cabañez

Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor

The Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) in partnership with the Pohnpei State Department of Health with support from UNICEF conducted a one-day facilitators training to assist the development of COVID -19 community action plan targeting village settings across FSM. It was held at Tuna Commission on April 21, 2022.

In his opening remarks, the Executive Director of MRCS, Mr. Isao Frank. Jr. acknowledged the support of UNICEF and the close collaboration with the Pohnpei State Department of Public Health in the COVID-19 response. He stated that one of the important workshop outcomes is for participants to gain knowledge and skills in facilitating development of community COVID-19 outbreak preparedness plans with community members.

“The idea is to train volunteers from Red Cross and Public Health on community engagement to go to the municipalities and work with communities to come up with their own plans on how they are going to respond to COVID-19”, said Pius Attandoh, Social & Behavior Change Specialist, UNICEF North Pacific, when he took participants through the community action planning processes. “We have to involve the key people in the community and possibly set up or engage existing COVID-19 response committees for them to create their own small plan in line with the state’s COVID-19 contingency plan. These communities have the capacity and motivation to identify the behaviours and practices that increase their risk to COVID-19 and equally find solutions to them,” he added.

The participants were divided into groups according to their municipalities and developed their own community action plans. “When we presented, I noticed similarities in our plans. We developed a 3-step plan in our group, which covered Madolenihmw municipality. First is to identify our local partners, who could help us in the community. Second, build a team that can go out into communities and do awareness about what is needed in case there is an outbreak. And then finally

set community goals that everyone buys into,” explained Ms. Pamela Joseph, Marketing & Sales Manager, FSMTC who is one of the volunteer trainees.

“As a Nurse Supervisor, I believe we need this kind of training to ensure that all community members, including the most vulnerable and at risk, play an active role in discussing how to reduce the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact on the community,” said Ms. Pertina Albert, Public Health Service.

Another trainee Mr. Nixon Aldan, Chairman, Kolonia Town Taskforce also said, “The training is very useful for us to go back to our community and modify our existing plans to accommodate the view of the community members including vulnerable groups.”

The participants and guests came from the different government offices like Public Health Service, Kolonia Town Taskforce, MRCS officers, and representatives from the different municipalities, among others.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Diaz Joseph, Chairman, MRCS, reminded volunteers that communities are central to all interventions for the current COVID-19 pandemic response thus there is need to work through community-led interventions by consistently listening and responding to their feedback, doubts and concerns. This he indicated would help improve the way we work and thus produce better and more sustainable outcomes.

The Micronesia Red Cross Society-Pohnpei Chapter organized the training with much appreciation from UNICEF for the technical and funding assistance.



## ...Kosrae COVID-19

*Continued from front page*

The Quarantine and Security staffs continue to monitor the situation as the Kosrae State Hospital stands ready to administer available therapeutic treatment for anyone who may be in need.

Due to the positive test results at both quarantine sites (DHS Quarantine Facility and Tofol Hill Hotel), the duration of quarantine for all individuals will be extended despite the negative results. The new release date will be determined after further consultation with the National COVID-19 Task Force and the CDC Regional Advisor. This is a public health measure taken now to avoid any chance that the virus does not spread into the communities in Kosrae. As for those with positive test results, their quarantine period will be extended

until their test results are no longer positive, following two consecutive negative test results. The State Task Force is monitoring the situation very closely with the DEOC (Director's Emergency Operations Command), which is headed by the Acting Director of Health Services. The State Task Force continues to work with the National COVID-19 Task Force and in consultation with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization to ensure that public health measures imposed are in compliance with established guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

A message from the Governor's Office: “We seek the cooperation and assistance of the general public to adhere to available tools that have been developed to help prevent and minimize the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Get vaccinated and get your booster shot if you have not gotten it yet.”



# CTEC students pass the CareerSafe OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Course

Five students from the Pohnpei CTEC Campus took the CareerSafe OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) 10-Hour General Industry Course in partnership sponsored by the Center of Entrepreneurship COM-FSM with Continuing Education and Workforce Development of Guam Community College (GCC). The course has 14 modules that cover the workplace safety practices, which gives a thorough knowledge, understanding, and awareness of public safety set forth by the OSHA, which workers and employers need to comply with to assure utmost safety practice

in the workplace. The students are Harmony Sarongoshag (Yap), Erilaine Ludag (Chuuk), Rachel Santo (Pohnpei), Ethan Allen (Pohnpei), and Teddy Swemer (Kosrae). Dr. Nelchor Permitez is the instructor that tutored the students about the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Course coverage and how to get through the online platform that the Careersafe use. At the end of each module, an assessment was given to measure the student's level of competency and should pass it before going to the next module. At the end of the module, a final assessment is given that the student needs to pass to

claim the Certificate of achievement and thus provide them with an ID card certified by OSHA that they passed the program. This project seeks to increase the marketability of our graduates, increase earning power, and enhance the academic performance of COM-FSM students. The goal of this partnership is to extend the certification offered by Continuing Education and Workforce Development at GCC



to FSM. The College would like to extend its appreciation to Ms. Denise Mesa Mendiola and her team for making this project possible.

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## FSM secures additional Continental Shelf claim in the north of Yap area with the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

*FSM Information Services*

**NEW YORK, NY**—On April 22nd, 2022, the Honorable Jose R. Gallen Sr., Secretary of the Department of Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), filed with the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf



*The FSM delegation poses with UN officials*

a claim of an extended continental shelf covering a high-sea area of approximately 188,000 square kilometers (72,500 square miles) located in the North of Yap, pursuant to Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Joining Secretary Gallen were the Honorable Jeem Lippwe, Deputy Permanent Representative of the FSM Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Chief of Law & Assistant Attorney General Leonito Bacalando Jr., Assistant Secretary for the FSM Cybersecurity & Intelligence Bureau, Mr. Adam Caldwell, and the FSM's independent legal consultant, Mr. Clement Mulalap Jr.

The submission, put together by the FSM Continental Shelf Task Force, was made possible through a funding appropriation by the FSM Congress, designating H.E. David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, as the allottee.

According to the practices by the United Nations Division for Legal Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), the FSM's claim will be posted for a period of ninety (90) days on its website, this being one of the tasks of the Secretary of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. After this posting period, the FSM will be invited to formally present its claim to the Commission.

The extended continental shelf claim is made pursuant to Article 76 of the UNCLOS, which permits coastal states to delineate the outer limit of their continental shelf beyond the normal 200 nautical miles of exclusive economic

zone (EEZ), so long as they are able to demonstrate that the continental shelf extends beyond that 200 nautical-mile line using the technical formula and parameters established according to the UNCLOS.

The FSM Continental Shelf Task Force guided the work of the technical team that analyzed the geological and geographical data, and drafted the technical and legal documents in support of the Nation's claim. The Task Force is comprised of the Department of Foreign Affairs; the Department of Resources & Development; the Department of Justice; the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority; and the Office of National Archives, Culture, & Historic Preservation. The FSM National Government extends public recognition and appreciation to its consultants hired to assist the Task Force, Dr. Alain Murphy and Mr. Scott Sweet, a geologist and GIS expert respectively.

This partial submission by the FSM is the fourth area of interest for the Nation. Other areas claimed by the FSM are the Mussau Ridge; the Eauripik Rise; and the Ontong Java Plateau, which was a joint submission by the FSM, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands.

The FSM National Government is cognizant that other countries have lodged overlapping claims over the North of Yap Area i.e. the Republic of Palau and Japan. Palau and Japan have also lodged their respective claims, which were also received by

*Continued on next page*

### 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":

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P.O. Box PS-122  
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**...Continental Shelf**

*Continued from previous page*

the Commission. The FSM consulted interested countries prior to its filing on April 22nd, and to date no objection has been received. According to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, a submission involving an overlapping claim may still be considered for as long as it is without prejudice to the question of delimitation of the continental shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts.

Regardless of any possible outcome involving this specific issue, the FSM National Government is resolved to ensure its diplomatic relations with Palau and Japan remain stronger than can be measured or described, as the FSM has a Kizuna (special bond) with the People and Government of Japan, and Palau is part of the family of sovereign Micronesian countries.

Continental shelves have been gaining increasing interest in recent years, and this is predicated on the premise that the seabed and subsoil in these areas could one day prove to be an important source of natural resources. Persons predisposed towards the utilization of monetizing these resources would describe that continental shelves, to potentially include the FSM's claim in the North of Yap Area, could be host to numerous rare Earth metals, which are critical components for semiconductors, smartphones, solar panels, oil, petroleum, and other natural resources. It is the intention of the FSM National Government, however, to secure its claims in part so the FSM can ensure the territory is protected from deep-sea mining and other activity that poses the risk of providing economic benefit at the cost of environmental destruction.

“That’s why this claim is so important,” President Panuelo said in a statement. “Without this claim being made by the FSM, the rare opportunity to increase the FSM’s seabed territory under the UNCLOS might be lost permanently. This monumental accomplishment, using international law as a legal basis for extending the sovereign rights of our Nation to the high-sea areas, and the rich seabed resources thereof that rightfully belong to the present and future generations of citizens of the FSM. This submission is a concrete example of how we take actions today for our Nation’s prosperity tomorrow.”

# Telecom quotes government and OAE testimony in opposition to motion for summary judgment

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

April 20, 2022

**FSM**—After several months wait, transcripts of testimony were completed and distributed to attorneys representing FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (The FSM's Open Access Entity, or OAE) and FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC). Several months ago, OAE filed a civil action (2021-010) against FSMTC for nearly \$900,000 worth of billings it says that FSMTC owes it under an indefeasible right (IRU) deed for use of cable assets.

Several months ago, OAE filed a motion for Summary Judgment against FSMTC. FSMTC filed its opposition to that motion but asked for time to amend that opposition until transcripts were completed. Those transcripts now being available, FSMTC filed a 75-page amendment with attachments to its opposition to motion for summary judgment this afternoon with heavy reliance on witness testimony from the transcripts.

"An extensive opposition was

previously filed," the amendment says in its opening. "This supplement is not to repeat the same legal arguments but to provide support concerning legal arguments raised in the opposition and supported by evidence from the transcripts provided and discovery completed."

Among other things, FSMTC has consistently argued that it signed the IRU under duress, under a different statutory environment than now exists, and that many of the terms are unconscionable and therefore unenforceable.

They argue in their amendment that "The amendment to the law was made after the contract was signed at the instigation of what appears to be the World Bank for their own purposes, however, the law that was in effect at the time of signing needs to be considered."

"The Open Access Entity fully concedes that Telecom was put under enormous political pressure to sign the Deed, but our confession would be that the type of political pressure

does not constitute (inaudible) and there are certainly alternatives that could have been taken and instead of signing the Deed," Aaron Warren, who previously worked in the FSM Department of Justice and signed some of the documents involved in OAE negotiations but who now works for the firm representing OAE testified in May of last year. "Had Telecom refused to sign the Deed, Congress could have legislatively compelled Telecom to provide the access that the Deed author (other) wise granted, or the FSM simply could have said, we are not doing anything and we are not going to enforce our will on Telecom and in that case the national government would not have been the recipient of the grant funding for the World Bank Projects, so there was clearly an incentive by the national government to convince or persuade to avoid taking those more-those other alternatives."

"Being compelled to sign something against your will, even if it is the best of many worse alternatives is still duress..." FSMTC argues in its amendment to opposition. "A contract

is not valid if someone is told sign this document or we'll shoot you in the head, then comes back and says I was a little hasty, sign this document or we'll shoot you in the knee. The contract was still signed under compulsion and duress.

"This simply is a triable issue material fact, or else summary judgment should issue in favor of FSMTC."

OAE never paid anything to FSMTC for use of the Hantru Spur cable run. Ownership of that spur has not been transferred to OAE, but they have the right to use it as if they own it. OAE received \$4.66 million as the value for the use of the Yap Cable run paid for by a World Bank grant, but no value was assigned to the Hantru Spur that FSMTC owns. FSMTC argues this fact and many others is "unconscionable" and should therefore make the IRU legally unenforceable.

Further, because of its faithful payments to service two loans, RUS (Rural Utilities Service of the United States) wrote off the balance of over

*Click here for continuation*

Federated States of  
**Micronesia**  
- YAP - CHUUK - POHNPEI - KOSRAE -

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YAP

STATE OF  
CHUUK

STATE OF  
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On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Wichap community in Chuuk celebrated with FSM Telecom as the Wichap cell tower goes live. FSMTC Board Chairman Len Isotoff and management extends our sincerest appreciation for the support and cooperation we received during the installation of the tower in Wichap. The Village Chief and the community reciprocated by expressing their gratitude for this tower that will really help them get in touch with their loved ones, especially those that are far away.



## ...FSMTC, OAE

*Continued from front page*

\$8 million on the Pohnpei Spur. FSMTC characterized that as “another windfall received by OAE without compensation if they are not required to pay anything to FSMTC. However, once again OAE and the relevant witnesses have failed to address this issue...OAE has received a windfall, and wants to use this windfall for the support of the cable project with Nauru and Kiribati, while FSMTC provides the underlying support at no cost. This provision is clearly unconscionable.”

“The creation of the OAE at the behest of the World Bank is a policy decision of the FSM, but the fact is they have failed to have any meaningful accomplishments since the IRU was signed in February, 2018. That is over four years. These facts are important as per the claims under the IRU brought by OAE, FSMTC is the sole provider, will remain the sole provider, there is no attempt made to find or spread out their costs as sole provider, and FSMTC is responsible for all of OAE’s costs, no matter how much they spend and how little they accomplish. The agreement is unconscionable as FSMTC is responsible to support this dysfunctional entity and any expenses OAE wants to charge,” wrote FSMTC.

“The only fair explanation of the non-viability of this project (EMC) is the incompetence and mismanagement by OAE and the World Bank. However, the realistic effect is that OAE wants FSMTC to subsidize OAE while it works on this project, no matter how long it takes.”

In November of last year, Peter Bakker, CEO of OAE testified that the World Bank participation in the East Micronesia Cable (EMC) project for Kosrae, Nauru, and Kiribati has changed, and the countries were looking for a new funding source. Once a funding agreement is in place, it would take six months to get a contract for the installation of the cable, and that after that point it would take approximately two and a half years before it is operational.

Asking FSM Secretary of Finance and Administration Eugene Amor what would happen in Kosrae until the project is completed, FSMTC’s attorney asked if FSMTC would have

to provide internet service by satellite, Amor responded, “I do not have the answer on top of my mind. Perhaps TC&I can respond to that.”

FSMTC concluded for the court in its amendment, “No one knows how long this project will take or even if it will go forward at all. Depositions were taken several months ago, but there is still no funding agreement signed by the donors, the revised bids have not gone out, no contracts have been signed and construction has not started. FSMTC is absorbing the costs and has to fund OAE’s overhead during the next 3 to 4 years, while purchasing satellite contracts for an indefinite period.”

FSMTC pointed out that iBoom! is currently offering internet services in Yap but not only is OAE not charging the company any service access fees, the supposedly non-monopoly OAE also provided the company a significant monetary gift so that they could get started.

OAE said in a letter that it does not supply international connectivity services and, “The OAE has not put further efforts in development of service agreements pending the outcome of the ongoing litigation with FSMTC. The OAE is of the opinion that further development makes little sense as long as said litigation has not been concluded.”

Finnen says, “This is clearly a disingenuous argument. IBoom! is clearly operating but paying no costs for connectivity. Per the analysis in section 2 of this letter, the claims against FSMTC should be dismissed for any payments since OAE would not be providing international connectivity to FSMTC. By twisting the request from TRA, OAE is attempting to avoid the clear evidence that OAE is not charging iBoom! anything for connecting to and profiting from its underwater cable in Yap. Further, why would OAE need to prepare service agreements, when it is seeking 100% reimbursement from FSMTC? These facts are further evidence of unconscionability of the contract.”

“OAE went to the trouble to amend its responses on September 16, 2021, to state it was developing service agreements, it never did so in eight months, and then now says it cannot develop such agreements for cost sharing on connection to the undersea

cable because of this litigation.”

“OAE has completely abrogated its responsibilities to at a minimum even develop service agreements to split costs amongst operating retailers,” FSMTC wrote. “...OAE went to the trouble to amend its responses on September 16, 2021, to state it was developing service agreements, it never did so in eight months, and then now says it cannot develop such agreements for cost sharing on connection to the undersea cable because of this litigation.”

FSM Congress appropriated \$500,000 for OAE in light of the ongoing litigation and because FSMTC is holding its payments to OAE in a trust pending outcome of the ongoing litigation. Bakker testified that government officials told the OAE Board they would get the money but they had to give money to iBoom! as a gift for their startup costs. That amount was approximately \$50,000.

“This testimony raises issues of misappropriation of funds, in addition to the fact that there are no service agreements being produced to seek compensation from new retailers, OAE appears to be subsidizing competition, while FSMTC is supposed to absorb all the costs,” FSMTC concluded.

FSMTC argues that OAE has been given a monopoly position. “A railroad cannot say we are not a monopoly, but we need to force retailers to use the railway instead of shipping by road, or it will not justify the construction of our railroad. That is per se a monopoly definition.”

FSMTC argues that it is currently the only provider that is required to purchase all of its connectivity and internet connectivity services from OAE. Though OAE reps say they intend to build that into agreements other providers will sign, eight months after the testimony, no agreements have yet been put into place nor even been written. FSMTC is also barred from offering Satellite-based services as an alternative in markets where OAE has cables.

“The OAE has been established to play in a discriminatory role, cross pays only between multiple providers. If it’s only one provider, that does not really make sense,” Bakker testified. He said that if after five to seven years there are no competitors, the plan should be reevaluated. It’s been four

since the IRU was signed.

None of the FSM government officials or in OAE who testified knew of any international companies that expressed any interest in entering the FSM telecommunications market. Neither could any of them say whose job it was to actively solicit telecommunications industry players.

“Four different persons in charge, with four different answers. The only way this agreement works is if multiple competitors come in. However, it is not anyone’s job to find new entrants into the market, and it is clearly unlikely any will ever come in,” FSMTC concluded. Meanwhile, they argue they are expected to pay all of OAE’s expenses to do what they claim is essentially nothing.

Summarizing its arguments, FSMTC concluded its amended opposition to summary judgment:

“1. On the merits of the case, defendant has shown numerous questions of material fact and summary judgment should be denied as to OAE.

“2. On the merits of any damage claims, which are separate from any issues regarding the validity of the IRU itself, defendant has shown numerous questions of material fact and summary judgment should be denied.

“3. Both for damages sought and enforceability of the IRU it is inextricably intertwined with the FTTH project and the World Bank agreements. These projects appear to be mainly failures and it is unconscionable to require FSMTC to subsidize and support OAE for its failed attempts to manage ongoing World Bank projects.

“4. The court has the authority to void the IRU for duress or unconscionability.

“5. The court has authority to void individual provisions in the IRU for unconscionability.

“6. If provisions are then voided the court must look to see if the entire contract can stand by itself without the stricken provisions.”

The facts of the civil action are complex and will likely be heard in court for quite some time yet.



## Seventh Our Ocean Conference closing ceremony

### Closing remarks by the Honorable J. Uduch Sengebau-Senior, Vice President and Minister of Justice

Ungil kebesengei and good evening everyone! Thank you so much for your participation in the 2022 Our Ocean Conference. We are so humbled to have been able to welcome visitors from across the globe into our home. We also appreciate that, for many of you, touching down at Koror International Airport was preceded by many hours, if not days, of travel. So for your ultimate commitment to our shared marine life, and your willingness to undertake that journey: we thank you.

Our Ocean Conference 2022 has been abundant in amazing events, brilliant minds, and a shared passion for preserving and protecting our environment. I am confident that each attendee of Our Ocean Conference 2022 will walk away having learnt something new, having experienced something different, and having their eyes opened in a fresh way as to how best to protect our ocean.

Here in Palau, one of the key requirements in protecting our own marine environment is our maritime security, monitoring, control and surveillance efforts. Palauan traditional wisdom understands the importance of resource protection and conservation. By working to increase the proficiency of our maritime security and marine law enforcement services, we are able to protect not only Palauan waters, but become a stronger and more resourceful

neighbor to our partners in the Pacific region, Asia, Australia, the Americas, Europe and beyond.

To that end, I would like to make special mention of our ongoing partnerships with the Japanese, Australian, Republic of China (Taiwan), and United States Governments, and our partner non-governmental organizations, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Nippon Foundation, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, OceanMind, and our newest partnership in the works, the Global Fishing Watch.

The support of these partners has been instrumental in preserving the integrity of Palau's maritime security and marine law enforcement. These efforts have been diligently facilitated by the continued in-country support from our Australian Ambassador, Richelle Turner, the Japanese Ambassador, Akira Karasawa, the ROC Taiwan Ambassador Jessica Lee, and the US Ambassador John Hennessey-Niland. We would also like to give special thanks to the United States and Special Envoy John Kerry for the enduring support you have provided to ensure OOC continues to make important contributions towards ocean protection.



Over this past week, I have been inspired by the commitments of the states and non-actors, especially the contribution of youth. So to all individuals who are behind this hard work: we thank you for your dedication. For your willingness to continue showing up on behalf of our ocean and our planet, we are all so grateful. Your efforts are recognized, and are contributing to the protection of this planet that is so necessary for human survival.

By protecting the ocean and taking action on climate change, we renew our dedication to preserve and enhance our traditional heritage and our national identity, as well as our respect for traditional conservationist values.

Our ancestors traversed the ocean, learning its temperament, and respecting its power. As Palauans, we carry this information through generations, learning from our ancestors and educating our descendants.

The importance of the ocean to our nation is also exemplified in the Palauan flag, which showcases the golden-yellow full moon over a light blue field. The movements of the moon, intrinsically connected to the movements of the ocean, are very

significant within Palauan culture. Full moons play an especially important cultural role for Palauans: they influence timing of planting, fishing, traditional ceremonies, moving of houses and starting of new businesses: we break the mold and move boldly forward with the moon, and the sea.

As an excellent omen to close out Our Ocean 2022, a full moon will be occurring tomorrow, 15 April!

So, it is under the blessing of the new moon that I will close by again recognizing the hard work of the numerous individuals who banded together to ensure this event was able to proceed as such a success. I would like to thank every single one of those individuals for your tireless efforts in preparing for the past two days. We are so pleased to be able to join forces and collaborate, to work on our shared goal of protecting and preserving our ocean.

Now I want to sing you a traditional Palauan farewell song. The song says "Now it is time for us to part, and all of us must go our separate ways, it's bittersweet to part from you, so I bid you farewell and say goodbye until our paths cross again"

Kom kmal mesulang: thank you, and good night!

## TRADE MARK

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which is used in connection with the following goods and services:

Class 9: Telecommunications, television, computer networking and information technology equipment, components, and systems; telecommunications software; Telephones, tablet computers and wireless communication devices for voice, data, or image transmission, media players; television (TV) set-top boxes; digital video recorders (DVRs); remote controls for televisions, computers, and set-top boxes; digital media streaming devices; modems and routers; satellite navigational system, namely, a global positioning system (GPS); accessories for telephones, cellular telephones, tablet computers and wireless communication devices, namely, headsets and earphones, phone chargers, battery chargers, car mounts, mobile phone holders; charging and docking stations, cell phone and tablet computer protective cases, protective covers and cases for handheld electronic devices, cell phone holsters, fitted plastic films for anti-glare and anti-scratch protection adapted for use with mobile phone displays; wireless and mobile speakers; CD and DVD cases; computer bags; mouse pads; computer mice; decorative magnets; wireless telecommunications devices for the transmission of audio, voice, data, image, video, and messaging, internet access, access to navigation and directional service and the ability to download music, videos and applications over the air, and which may include a music player and a camera; wireless communications devices that establishes a local, wireless network; wearable personal electronic devices and sensors that process, store, and transmit biometric data of the user; electronic personal emergency response systems consisting of a wireless device worn on the body with a button that users push to notify others in the event of an emergency, and a remote unit that dials out on the telephone for help; wearable personal location devices equipped with software that enables a parent to monitor their child's location; Computer hardware and software for telecommunications, television, computer networking and information technology; software apps in the fields of entertainment, games and productivity; network management software, software for use in network access control, and creating and maintaining firewalls; computer programs for accessing a global computer network and interactive computer communications network; computer software for encryption; computer and network security software; software for machine to machine (m2m) services, connected devices and the internet of things (IoT); software development kits (sdks) and application programming interface (api) for creating software and applications related to m2m and IoT devices, and IoT goods and services; software for IoT network and data connectivity, device management, configuration, provisioning, management, and control; software that collects and transmits data from m2m and IoT connected devices and integrates data with enterprise, web and mobile application software; software application that provides for messaging and sharing of voice, data, and photos; software for providing an internet-based television service; software for authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, displaying, playing, storing and organizing text, data, graphics, images, videos, electronic games, digital media and electronic publications; video and electronic game programs and software; software for streaming of content; video clipping software; computer software for the collection, editing, organizing, modifying, book marking, transmission, storage and sharing of data and information; computer application software for mobile phones, namely, software for processing data; computer application software for mobile phones, namely, software for facilitation of communication; electronic games software for wireless devices; gesture recognition software for the sharing of voice, images and data; software application for transmitting information relating to fitness, activity and health; software application for managing information regarding a health and fitness program; software application for biometric monitoring devices and data; software to enable the transmission of mapping, navigation, traffic, weather and point-of-interest information to telecommunications networks, internet websites and cellular telephones; computer hardware and software systems, namely, on-board diagnostic (obd) reader, radio transceiver and speaker programmed for placing and responding to requests for roadside assistance, transmission of voice and data, vehicle location and recovery, real-time vehicle diagnostics, emergency incident detection and dispatching of emergency roadside assistance through the use of an internal global positioning systems (GPS) and cellular telecommunications; computer software for dispatching of emergency roadside assistance vehicles in response to requests for service; mobile application providing a parking meter timer; mobile application for locating vehicle on map; computer software that allows users to set reminders for vehicle maintenance notifications; software application for making payments and transferring and receiving money; software application for facilitating mobile payments; electronic financial platform that accommodates multiple types of payment and debt transactions via a mobile phone.

Class 14: Watches; sports watches; jewelry; clocks; stopwatches.

Class 16: Printed matter, namely, telephone directories; pamphlets, brochures, printed sheets and cards, and instructional and teaching materials all in the fields of telecommunications, computer networking and information technology; pencils; ink pens; highlighter pens; notepads; adhesive notepads; paperweights; calendars; paper staplers; money clips.

Class 18: Sports bags; umbrellas; tote bags; business card cases; backpacks; briefcases; luggage tags.

Class 24: Golf towels; blankets for outdoor use; beach towels.

Class 25: Clothing, namely, caps, jackets, shirts, pants and hats; shirts, pants and hats containing biometric monitoring devices; flip flops; ties; gloves; scarves.

Class 28: Golf equipment, namely, divot repair tools, golf ball markers, golf balls, and golf tees; beach balls; yo-yos; flying disks; balloons; dice, dominoes; playing cards; poker chips; footballs.

Class 35: Retail and online store services featuring telecommunications and information technology goods and services, wireless electronic devices and accessories such as headsets, batteries and covers, wearable wireless technology such as smart watches and fitness devices, gaming controls and devices, media streaming devices, subscription television-related goods and services, consumer electronics, connected devices for the home including thermostats, lighting and home security, and product demonstrations; subscription television services; promoting telecommunications goods and services, subscription-based tv goods and services, digital technology and consumer electronics through discounts and online coupons; subscription based television services; subscription services for the streaming of television, movies, music, live events, video, games and multimedia content; providing electronic and web based audio, video, data, gaming and multimedia content via televisions, computers, handheld computers, mobile telephones and other personal electronic devices for a fee or prepaid subscription; online retail store services; promoting sports competitions and events of others; conducting incentive award programs to promote innovation and technology; advertising on mobile electronic device for others; provision of data to wireless subscribers to promote the goods and services of others; administration of a discount program enabling participants to obtain discounts on goods and services through use of a discount membership card; advertising and promotional services including promoting the goods and services of other by providing discounts including auto repair and travel service discounts; promoting the sale of telecommunications and television services through the administration of an incentive award program whereby customers receive a reward for referring new customers; charitable services, namely, promoting public awareness of environmental issues, policy and initiatives; charitable services, namely, organizing and conducting employee volunteer programs and community service projects.

Class 36: Financial sponsorship of sports, educational and entertainment programs and events; electronic transfers of money; financial transaction services, namely, providing secure commercial transactions and payment options; charitable foundation services, namely, providing financial assistance for programs and services of others; providing grants for research and education in the areas of literacy, domestic violence prevention, promoting education of children in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects, health care and health care technology, environmental issues, and smart energy systems.

Class 37: Installation, maintenance, and repair of telecommunication networks and equipment, computer hardware, computer systems and communication networks; telephone wire and jack maintenance and repair services; emergency roadside assistance services, namely, responding to calls for roadside assistance, flat tire changing, emergency fuel supplying and battery jump starting; stolen vehicle tracking; providing automotive mechanic advice and information by telephone.

Class 38: Telecommunications services; television broadcasting services, transmission and broadcast of audio and video programming and television programs to TVs, computers and wireless electronic devices; video on demand (VOD) services; pay-per-view (PPV) services; rental of set-top boxes and digital voice recorders (DVRs) for use with televisions; providing online chat rooms for social networking; electronic transmission and streaming of television, movies, music, live events, video, games and multimedia content for others; telecommunications and information technology services, namely, transmission of voice, audio, video, images, information, data and other content by telecommunications networks, wireless communications networks, the Internet, fiberoptic communications networks, and other computer data networks; DSL and high speed Internet services; electronic mail services; providing multiple user interactive access to a global communications network; internet backbone services, namely, a high-speed line or series of connections that forms a major pathway within a network; wide area network (WAN) transmission services; Ethernet transmission services; asynchronous transfer mode (atm) services, namely, the transmission of information encoded into small fixed-sized cells; integrated service digital network (isdn) services; internet protocol (ip) communications services, namely, the transmission of information via the internet; virtual private network (vpn) services and private line services, namely, providing private and secure real time electronic communication over a computer network; electronic data transmission services; switched voice, data, video and multimedia transmission services; providing telecommunications connections to the internet and other computerized communications, data and wireless networks; providing multi-user access to a wireless communications network; telecommunications gateway services, namely, providing a gateway for connecting between independent telecommunications and computer networks for sharing of internet traffic; video, audio and data telephone conference services; wireless telecommunications services, namely, the wireless transmission of voice and data; telecommunications services, namely, providing voice over internet protocol services (voip); electronic messaging services; consulting in the field of telecommunications and computerized communications; providing network access point services (NAPs) for the exchange of internet traffic among internet traffic carriers; electronic mail and text messaging services; telecommunications and information technology services, namely, telephone and voice transmission services; teleconferencing services; electronic transmission of voice and data featuring encryption and decryption; telematics transmission of information; transmission of data and information via telemetry; telepresence services; telematic sending of information relating to vehicle safety, security, diagnostics and management; two-way wireless broadband communication services provided within automotive vehicles; providing vehicle diagnostic information and vehicle maintenance reminders through email, web and cell phone applications; telecommunication services, namely, providing the ability to contact a remote call center from a vehicle to report accidents and emergency situations so that vehicle location can be determined and emergency personnel dispatched; emergency response services, namely, sending electronic alert notices via telecommunication networks; secure electronic transmission of data and information for the healthcare industry; telepresence services; content delivery network services; digital media services platform for the encoding, delivery and display of digital media content;

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rental of telecommunications consumer premises equipment (CPE); toll free telephone services; providing call center and contact center services; voice response services and call routing services; electronic voice messaging services, namely, the recording and transmission of voice messages by telephone, text, numeric and picture wireless digital messaging services and electronic mail services; machine to machine (m2m) telecommunications services; Internet of things (IoT) telecommunications services; providing electronic transmission of data and information to wirelessly connected machine to machine (m2m) devices, network-connected devices and to internet connected devices comprising the Internet of things (IoT); electronic transmission of data on wireless networks for machine to machine (m2m) and IoT services and connected devices; electronic and telematics transmission of data related to monitoring, locating, recovery and tracking of assets and connected devices in a variety of industries; telecommunications consulting in the fields of machine to machine (m2m) technology, connected devices, remote device management and the internet of things (IoT); machine to machine services, namely, vehicle fleet management; charitable services, namely, providing donations of wireless telephones and wireless airtime to victims of domestic violence and related advocacy groups.

Class 39: Emergency roadside assistance services, namely, towing, winch-out and key delivery services; vehicle location services in the nature of providing geographic information regarding the location of vehicles; providing information via telecommunication networks and cellular telephones, namely, vehicle routing, navigation, global positioning information; information services regarding traffic, namely, traffic congestion, and travel, namely, gas station and point-of-interest information; providing a website and website links regarding geographical information, map images and trip routing; electronic storage and archiving of data for others; storage of computer and telecommunications equipment for others.

Class 41: Entertainment in the nature of television news shows and visual and audio performances via television, computers and wireless electronic devices; electronic games services provided by means of the Internet; entertainment services in the nature of development, creation, production, and post-production services of multimedia entertainment content; entertainment services, namely, the provision of television, video and live content programs featuring a wide variety of subjects; providing an internet website portal in the field of entertainment; arranging sweepstakes and contests that promote the use of telecommunication services and wireless devices; providing an incentive award program designed to award participants who demonstrate excellence relating to innovation and technology; rental of stadium facilities.

Class 42: Computer services and computer networking services; telecommunications software services; computer services, namely, technical operation and management of the computer networks of others; managed computer services and network operations for others; cloud computing services; cloud hosting provider services; computer services, namely, remote and on-site management and administration of information technology systems for others, comprising virtual and physical infrastructure, servers, storage systems, networks and software; recovery and remote backup of computer data; data recovery services and computer emergency disaster data recovery; providing virtual computer systems and virtual computer environments through cloud computing; computer services, namely, providing infrastructure management services for the monitoring, administration and management of public and private cloud computing information technology and application systems; integration of private and public cloud computing environments; providing cloud computing and cloud storage; consulting services in the field of cloud computing; technical consulting services in the fields of datacenter architecture and cloud computing solutions; remote administration and management of in-house and hosted datacenter devices, databases and software applications for others; computer co-location services, namely, providing facilities for the location of computer servers with the equipment of others; providing secure, environmentally-controlled, facilities for the computer servers and network equipment of others; technical monitoring for the computer servers and telecommunication and network equipment of others; computer infrastructure services, namely, providing remotely accessible computer network servers; computer services, namely, providing an on-line virtual environment for virtual computing accessible via the internet and other computer networks; leasing and rental of computing capacity, namely, computer software, computer hardware and computer networking equipment; leasing of computer servers; technical management of virtual infrastructure and computer networking; providing temporary use of non-downloadable software for accessing and using a cloud computing network; computer services, namely, evaluation and analysis of computer systems, including internal computer systems, extranet computer systems and global computer network systems, to assure compliance with industry standards; implementation of computer software for others; providing temporary use of on-line non-downloadable software including software development kits (SDKs) and APIs for use in software development and testing; providing information in the field of independent software application development via the internet; design, development and implementation of computer networks and computer systems for others; monitoring of computer networks and computer systems to ensure their proper functioning; computer and computer network monitoring services, namely, performance reporting and load balancing for quality control purposes; authentication services in the fields of telecommunications and network services; providing temporary use of non-downloadable network auditing software in the fields of secure communications and data networks; online security services, namely, providing security and anonymity for electronically transmitted credit card transactions; design in the field of telecommunications and computerized communications and data networks; design services and consulting related thereto in the fields of information technology, computer programming, data center management and global computer networks; installation, maintenance and repair of computer software; operating electronic information networks; computer disaster recovery planning; design of premises-based, cloud-based and hybrid unified communications systems; providing temporary use of nondownloadable computer software for compliance management and risk analysis in the fields of computer and network security; providing temporary use of non-downloadable network security software; computer consultation in the fields of internet and network security and secure transmission of data and information; technical consulting services in the fields of computer software, computer hardware and computer networks, namely, providing consultation regarding design, implementation,

configuration and use thereof; technical consulting services, namely, troubleshooting of computer hardware and software problems relating to virtual and physical infrastructure, servers, storage systems and networks; technical consulting services in the field of computer software, namely, providing consultation regarding software maintenance; technical support services relating to computer infrastructure technology, namely, providing technical advice and help desk services relating to servers, storage systems, networks and software; computer networks and communications network security services in the nature of intrusion protection, security threat analysis, managed security services, vulnerability management and assessment, threat analysis, and forensics and penetration testing; data encryption services and software; computer consultation in the field of computer security featuring secure transmission of data, data encryption and decryption; testing, analysis and evaluation of the goods and services of others in the fields of computers and computer security assessments; consulting services in the field of computer security and communications network security; hosting the applications and web sites of others; providing information in the field of vehicle diagnostics and vehicle diagnostic records via a computer information network; emissions and performance monitoring of vehicles; nondownloadable software for machine to machine (m2m) services and network and internet connected devices; non-downloadable software for the internet of things (IoT); software platform for the management of machine to machine (m2m) services, IoT services, and connected and remote devices; software platforms providing a development environment, software development kits (sdk), and an application programming interface (api) for creating applications for machine to machine (m2m) devices, network and internet connected devices, and remotely-managed devices and machines, and enabling the integration and automating the provisioning, monitoring and control of such devices and machines; providing a web portal to monitor and manage connectivity, usage and provisioning of m2m and IoT devices; engineering and computer consulting, design, and development in the field of machine to machine (m2m) and IoT communication and connected devices; technical support in the field of machine to machine (m2m) and IoT communication and connected devices; computer services, namely, creating virtual communities for registered users to participate in discussions and engage in networking; nondownloadable software for the collection, editing, transmission, storage and sharing of audiovisual content; providing a web site featuring temporary use of non-downloadable software allowing web site users to upload, post, and display online videos for sharing; providing a website featuring technology that enables internet users to develop individual playlists that create personalized viewable content and allows for independent or simultaneous viewing or sharing of content; providing a web hosting platform for nondownloadable gaming software; providing non-downloadable gaming software; uploading music, audio and video content to the internet for others; computer services, namely, monitoring, analyzing, and reporting on the wireless internet usage habits, wireless internet searching habits, and wireless customer loyalty habits of others for third party web sites for targeted advertising to the individual interests of wireless communications users; software and software platforms for digital advertisers and publishers for purposes of brand advertising; software for use by digital advertisers and publishers for the purpose of placing digital advertising, managing digital advertising campaigns, optimizing advertising impressions, targeting advertising to customer populations, tracking, analyzing, and reporting on advertising campaigns, managing advertising inventory, matching digital advertisers with publishers, participating in advertising auctions and exchanges, and buying and selling advertising; charitable services, namely donation of cellular telephones and free airtime and providing grants to organizations and other charitable services that support the prevention of domestic violence and domestic violence victims.

Class 43: Arena services, namely, providing general purpose facilities for sports, concerts, conventions and exhibitions.

Class 45: Computer and computer network security services; monitoring of computers, websites, computer networks and communications network systems for security purposes; providing user authentication services for security purposes; providing cloud-based authentication of personal identification information for security purposes; computer security services in the nature of the issuance and management of digital certificates and other security credentials for others; automotive fleet management in the nature of monitoring of automobiles through telematics for safety purposes; providing information in the fields of internet and computer network security; consultation in the field of data theft and identity theft; consulting services in the field of computer, network and data integrity and security; on-line monitoring to prevent illegal file sharing and providing electronic reports regarding attempts at illegal file sharing in connection therewith on networks worldwide; providing a web site featuring information in the field of security; security consultancy; security services, namely, providing security assessments for businesses and governmental agencies; online social networking services; emergency roadside assistance services, namely, opening of locks; stolen vehicle recovery services; emergency monitoring services, namely, monitoring of vehicle electronic device by remote call center and arranging for dispatch of emergency personnel when accident is detected; emergency response alarm monitoring services, namely, monitoring of alert devices by a remote monitoring center for the dispatch of emergency public health and security services and notification to third parties, namely, preferred family contacts, emergency responders, or a nurse.

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# President Panuelo officially opens the Consulate General of the FSM in Portland, Oregon

## FSM Information Services

**PORTLAND, Oregon**—On April 23rd, 2022, the Consulate General of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) officially opened through a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the City of Portland, U.S. State of Oregon. The ribbon was cut by His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, and First Lady Patricia E. Edwin; His Excellency Akilino H. Susaia, Ambassador of the FSM to the USA, and Mrs. Susaia; and the Honorable Joe Enlet, Consul General of the FSM in Portland, and Mrs. Enlet.

In his remarks, President Panuelo recalled his personal journey in the State of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, both when he was a student at Eastern Oregon University and later in life as a private citizen. Noting that Oregon is home to the largest FSM diaspora in the U.S. mainland, the President extended his very sincere appreciation to the many citizens and organizations who have played such a critical role in the establishment of the Consulate General of the FSM, including the COFA Alliance National Network, the FSM Coalition-USA, and the City of Portland and State of Oregon. Additionally, President Panuelo extended his and the Nation's gratitude to the Oregon Health Authority for their close partnership with the FSM community in Oregon during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and last, but not the least, to the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the 22nd FSM Congress, and other Members of the Congress, through the Honorable Victor V. Gouland, Senator in the 22nd FSM Congress, who was physically

present for the ceremony, for the FSM Congress' support in funding the Consulate and its operations.

Seizing the opportunity to address the FSM community in Portland directly, President Panuelo provided informational updates regarding the Panuelo-George administration's recent activities over the past several months. President Panuelo noted that the Nation's Chief Negotiator met with his U.S. counterpart to submit the Nation's proposed Compact economic assistance package; that the FSM severed relations with the Russian Federation as a sovereign decision to protest their brutal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine; and that the FSM stands with other democracies in seeking to promote a Free & Open Indo-Pacific, as well as maintaining and strengthening the rules-based international order.

"The actions we take today are our Nation's prosperity tomorrow," President Panuelo said, "And today's action of opening this Consulate Office here in Portland will help the prosperity and growth of our citizens who call the City of Portland their second home."

In addition to a wide and diverse range of activities including songs and dances, other speakers of the day included a representative of the Native American community, Renea Perry, and the Mayor of the City of Portland, the Honorable Ted Wheeler. With regards to the former, Ms. Perry described the Native American community's sincere and familial welcome to the People of Micronesia who call Portland and Oregon their home. With regards to the latter, Mayor Wheeler described that the City of Portland sees, recognizes, and appreciates the Micronesian community in the Pacific Northwest, and that Micronesians have enriched the lives and livelihoods of their neighbors. It was also noted that the FSM Consulate General in Portland represents the Nation's largest diplomatic structure (which, for comparison's sake, is even larger than the Department of Foreign Affairs' home office in Palikir.)

The FSM Consulate General in Portland overlooks the affairs of the FSM's citizenry in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and all other U.S. States on the U.S. mainland west of the Mississippi River. The Consulate provides assistance on topics ranging from passport applications to navigating both FSM and U.S. Government bureaucracy (e.g. I-94 documentation, drivers licenses, social security numbers, employment support, and other essential documentation and useful information).

The FSM Consulate General in Portland can be reached by email at [cg.portland@gov.fm](mailto:cg.portland@gov.fm), by telephone at +1 (503) 483-7149, or engaged in person at 2625 SE 98th Avenue, Portland Oregon 97266.



# Regional Culture Strategy and review of the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture endorsed during Culture Ministers meeting

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

21 April 2022

**Suva, Fiji** - At its 35th meeting held virtually on 13 – 14 April 2022, the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) endorsed the Pacific Regional Culture Strategy (PRCS) 2022-2032 and the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC) Review Report for tabling at the upcoming 5th Meeting of Culture Ministers.

Colin Yabaki, Chair of the Culture Strategy Working Group and Director Heritage and Arts, Fiji, provided the council a summary of the progress on developing and finalising the PRCS, saying the Strategy was flexible in that it allowed countries to select indicators that aligned with national development priorities. The five priority areas of the new PRCS include Cultural Policy Frameworks, Cultural Heritage, Cultural Wellbeing, Cultural Innovation and Cultural Statistics.

“Now more than ever, the importance of the PRCS is evident. Even before the pandemic, our small Pacific Island

nations were already struggling with low investment and budgets for culture. Over the last two years, COVID-19 has added even more pressure on our small island economies. The culture sector, in particular, has been affected in many ways and for these reasons, the PRCS is even more critical to help us to lobby for national and regional support and to seek development partner funding and assistance,” said Mr Yabaki.

The Council heard from the consultancy team which undertook a review of the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC). Findings show that countries agree that the festival’s original intentions of conservation, safeguarding and continued practice of Pacific indigenous cultures remain significant and important across all generations. Hawai’i also updated the Council on progress towards the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture.

Among the calls to action noted by the Council during the meeting was the need to invest in culture-related data and strengthen cultural statistics and culture;

the need for further work on traditional knowledge and intellectual property; support for cultural education including heritage studies, Pacific studies, Pacific language and the arts; strengthening of a culture-centred approach to conservation; protection of artists’ rights and cultural rights and safeguarding indigenous knowledge; and the need to formalise creative associations and enterprises.

“UNESCO would like to encourage continued advocacy and awareness-raising about the role of culture in sustainable development. In the frame of the Mondiacult Conference, there is an opportunity for the Pacific to discuss regional perspectives on a global level, in relation to the adaptation of cultural policies to be better equipped to address sustainable development challenges,” said Ellen Lekka, Culture Programme Specialist at the UNESCO Pacific Office in Apia.

The Council also heard from regional and international agencies on recent regional policy developments, programmes and activities which have a cultural dimension/ component, or which are informed by

cultural considerations.

Reiterating the Pacific Community (SPC)’s commitment to culture, its Deputy Director-General Dr Paula Vivili said culture has been an important area of work for SPC since its inception in 1947 and it proudly acts as custodian to the Pacific regional culture strategy and the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture.

“The SPC Strategic Plan 2022 – 2031 reflects the central role that culture plays in the organisation. SPC supports sustainable development by applying a people-centred approach to science, research and technology across the Sustainable Development Goals by interweaving science, technology and innovation with cultural wisdom and indigenous knowledge. We serve our members by harnessing the nexus of climate, ocean, land, culture, rights and good governance, through trusted partnerships, investing in Pacific people and understanding Pacific contexts,” said Dr Vivili.

The 5th Meeting of Culture Ministers is set to take place virtually from 27 – 28 April 2022.

## JOB ADVERTISEMENT:



Pacific Sub-Regional Office

**CLOSING DATE:**

1st May 2022

**DUTY STATION:**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia [FSM]

**CONTRACT:**

Individual Contract

**DURATION:**

8 months

**Background:**

UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. UNFPA’s strategic plan (2022-2025), reaffirms the relevance of the current strategic direction of UNFPA and focuses on three transformative results: to end preventable maternal deaths; end unmet need for family planning; and end gender-based violence and harmful practices. These results capture our strategic

commitments on accelerating progress towards realizing the ICPD and SDGs in the Decade of Action leading up to 2030. Our strategic plan calls upon UN Member States, organizations and individuals to “build forward better”, while addressing the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on women’s and girls’ access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, recover lost gains and realize our goals.

In a world where fundamental human rights are at risk, we need principled and ethical staff, who embody these international norms and standards, and who will defend them courageously and with full conviction.

UNFPA is seeking candidates that transform, inspire and deliver high impact and sustained results; we need staff who are transparent, exceptional in how they manage the resources entrusted to them and who commit to deliver excellence in programme results.

#	POST	CONTRACT MODALITY
1	Programme Coordinator	Individual Consultant
2	Programme Support Officer	Individual Consultant

**Conditions & Remuneration:**

UNFPA PSRO will contract the successful candidate under an individual contract and will be responsible for the payment of fees payable according to qualification and standard terms of payment and subject to satisfactory completion of assigned outputs. Payment will be made on completion of a monthly report.

Candidates must complete a United Nations Personal History (P.11) form,

together with updated Curriculum Vitae and a Cover letter. Applications without completed P.11 form will not be considered. The P.11 form as well as a complete Terms of Reference can be downloaded from the office web site <https://pacific.unfpa.org/en> or a copy be obtained by sending an email to [vacanciespsro@unfpa.org](mailto:vacanciespsro@unfpa.org).

Completed applications can be emailed to [vacanciespsro@unfpa.org](mailto:vacanciespsro@unfpa.org) before midnight on Sunday, 1st May 2022. Only nationals of FSM will be considered for this position.

Notice: There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process. UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of disabilities, HIV/AIDS and gender. UNFPA does not condone sexual exploitation and abuse.

# Celebrating a milestone for climate and ocean monitoring in the Pacific

*Secretariat of the Pacific Community*

20 April 2022

**Suva, Fiji** – This week saw the 175th session of the Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) take place as climate and ocean officers from Pacific National Meteorological Services gathered for what was a milestone meeting in the history of the Forum.

Since its establishment in 2007, OCOF has trained and supported more than a 100 Climate and Ocean Officers across the Pacific region. It is one of the longest serving platforms in the region hosting technical meetings on critical ocean and climate issues for 12 Pacific countries.

The milestone was being marked with a cake cutting ceremony before the Climate and Ocean Officers met for their monthly discussion and exchange of information on the state of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), past rainfall and outlooks for the upcoming season. The discussions are crucial to support their climate and oceans priorities for their respective countries.

“I am able to experience a different perspective from the southern hemisphere on climate monitoring, outlooks and discussions on ENSO while interacting with colleagues from other Met offices and partners from SPREP, BOM, and SPC,” said Ms. Kikuko Mochimaru, Staff Meteorologist, NOAA NWS Office, Palau.

For the Tuvalu Meteorological Service, it has helped climate staff in developing specific products such as climate outlooks.

“Our participation in the OCOF has really improved our services while strengthening our contribution to the Government decision making process, as well as to individual families in their future plans, especially with regards the impact of climate change,” said Mr Nikotemo Iona, Climate Scientific Officer, Tuvalu Meteorological Service. In recent years, OCOF has included an extensive ocean discussion as part of the ENSO update.

“OCOF is a platform I have used to build confidence in presenting on Fiji’s monthly climate bulletin and gather as much information and understanding on the various climate drivers and weather conditions in the Pacific region,” said Ms. Arieta Baleisolomone, Acting/ Principal Scientific Officer (Climatology), Fiji Meteorological Service.

“It’s great to see that ocean related elements are now included into the OCOF product. These include sea surface temperatures, sea level and also on coral bleaching alert. Information gathered have also assisted in our compilation of Ocean Outlook product.”

The SPC Deputy Director for Ocean and Maritime Programme, Jens Kruger highlighted that “the OCOF has evolved over time to now include ocean related elements, with the re-naming of its current title to the Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum. Currently we have 7 countries in the region producing ocean outlooks. We recognise that although the ocean science capacity in the region is limited, through the OCOF platform you are able to access, analyse and interpret ocean conditions which is a notable progress in itself”.

In 2016, COSPPac transitioned the operations of OCOF to SPREP with support from SPC and Bureau to ensure NMS continues to access quality information in a timely manner to support decisions of countries in the season ahead.

“The vision of Directors of NMS at the time is to continue to develop regional organisation and NMS to take lead in this service with Partners supporting with the scientific and financial resources. Since its transition, I am glad to say the monthly teleconference continue to provide the latest ENSO status and climate outlook for the region but at the same time provide training to old and new climate officers which is vital for continuation of this service” says, Ms. Tagaloa Cooper, SPREP Climate Change Resilience Programme Director. Over 30 participants from Pacific National Meteorological Services and technical partners attended the celebration. The OCOF is a platform that provides an opportunity for Pacific islands Meteorological Services to discuss the status of the El Niño Southern Oscillation – which is one of the main climate drivers in our region and to share climate outlook of the season ahead. The OCOF is supported by SPREP, SPC and Australia Bureau of Meteorology through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) project funded by the government of Australia.

**ABOUT OCOF:**

The Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (formerly known as the Online Climate



Outlook Forum) is a virtual monthly forum that supports Pacific climate and ocean officers to discuss status and outlook for the climate and ocean, and possible impacts in each of the 12 Pacific Island countries.

Established in 2007 under the Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Project (PI-CCP) and the Climate and Ocean

Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) the OCOF was intended to support Pacific officers with analysis, forecasting and reporting of climate and oceans outlooks.

For more information on OCOF <https://www.pacificmet.net/products-and-services/online-climate-outlook-forum>

## High-level regional political group on deep sea mining launched

**The Pacific Parliamentarians’ Alliance on Deep Sea Mining (PPADSM) also release ‘Our Ocean Call’**

*Pacific Parliamentarians’ Alliance on Deep Sea Mining (PPADSM)*

Thursday, 14th April 2022: The Pacific Parliamentarians’ Alliance on Deep Sea Mining (PPADSM) has been officially launched as a high-level political voice that will advocate for the protection of the Pacific Ocean from exploitation.

The launch of the regional group coincided with the 7th Our Ocean Conference, which started yesterday in Palau.

The Alliance is a collective of Pacific leaders who share a strong concern for the health of our ocean, and who have rallied against the reckless rush by large corporations, backed by powerful governments, to mine the ocean floor for minerals.

The Alliance holds firmly that, given the experimental nature of this industry and growing scientific consensus around the probable irreversible damage to the ocean and ocean systems, all deep sea mining (DSM) activities must cease immediately to allow scientific research to establish whether or not it should be pursued.

With the support of some Pacific leaders and increasing scientific evidence on the dangers of DSM, both state and non-state actors have played a key role in trying to slow down efforts to mine the region’s

seabed. But despite some success in the last decade, the rush to mine the seabed has continued to gain momentum. This has highlighted the urgent need for moral political leadership on the issue.

Ralph Regenvanu, PPADSM Chair and Vanuatu’s Leader of Opposition said, “Our Ocean defines us. It has sustained us for thousands of years. But today our ocean is facing significant threats due to man-made stressors. DSM is one of these big threats. The science is telling us that the damage from digging and drilling our ocean floors will have devastating and irreversible impacts. It will affect marine life and human lives. We have the opportunity to take action and safeguard our lifeforce. The Pacific Parliamentarians’ Alliance on Deep Sea Mining is established for exactly that reason – to act as a moral compass and advocate for what is right. It is our moral responsibility and obligation to protect what sustains us.”

The ocean also plays a crucial role in mitigating the impacts of climate change by acting as a carbon sink – absorbing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere – thereby helping regulate global climate. It is well established that the health of the ocean is already in decline from human activities such as over-exploitation, pollution, and climate change and global

*Continued on next page*

## ...Deep sea mining

*Continued from previous page*

warming. There is no scenario in which DSM does not result in damage; it can only compound these stressors.

The PPADSM also believes that the rush to commence DSM in the region bears a stark resemblance to previous instances where the Pacific ocean and its peoples were used as test subjects in experimental frontier industries, which ultimately benefitted the rich while leaving the Pacific to bear dire economic, social and environmental consequences.

These complex challenges, the Alliance believes, require strong political leadership and immediate concerted action at the regional level. They are concerned that failing to check this momentum, DSM activities could begin within the next 15 months.

With that backdrop, the PPADSM has also released the 'Our Ocean Call' as part of their launch with five key asks to protect the Pacific Ocean:

As Pacific Leaders and custodians of this vast ocean, we are obliged to preserve the ocean for the sake of future generations and for all living and nonliving things. The protection of a sacred ocean is our moral responsibility.

We therefore:

- a) call for recognition that the ocean is our common heritage and, as Leaders, we have a common responsibility and moral obligation for its protection;
- b) call on all Pacific and world leaders to join the growing ranks of governments, scientific authorities, CSOs, global leaders and indigenous peoples the world over opposing the rush to mine the ocean floor;
- c) support the call by some Pacific governments for an urgent need to suspend DSM activities in jurisdictions within the Pacific region, to allow for greater scientific understanding about potential impacts of DSM;
- d) support the growing international call for a moratorium on DSM in line with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development to scientifically assess whether DSM can be done in a way that avoids harm to ocean ecosystems, recognizing the interconnectedness of these ecosystems beyond national jurisdictions;

e) urge all states, in accordance with the precautionary principle and in support of evidence-based policy making, to adopt an approach that reviews the scientific evidence, to determine whether or not DSM activities should proceed based on agreed governance structure and regulations that support the inclusion of such measures.

The PPADSM's membership includes parliamentarians representing Aotearoa New Zealand, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Fiji, Maohi Nui (French Polynesia), Guam, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and Palau.

Read the full Statement: [A Call To Protect Our Pacific Ocean](#)

Full video recording of event: [Official Launch of the Pacific Parliamentarians' Alliance on Deep Sea Mining](#)

The PPADSM Members:

1. Ralph Regenvanu, Opposition Leader, Vanuatu (PPADSM Chair)
2. Debbie Ngarewa-Parker, Co-leader Maori Party Leader, MP Aotearoa New Zealand
3. Gary Juffa, Oro Governor, MP, PNG
4. Enele Sopoaga, Opposition Leader, Tuvalu
5. Lenora Qereqeretabua, MP, Fiji
6. Mathew Wale, Opposition Leader, Solomon Islands
7. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Minister of Environment, Samoa
8. Theonila Roka-Matbob, Minister for Education, Autonomous Region of Bougainville
9. Moetai Brotherson, Member of the National Assembly of France, Maohi Nui (French Occupied Polynesia)
10. Allan Bird, East Sepik Governor, MP, PNG
11. Teanau Tuiono, Greens Party, MP Aotearoa New Zealand
12. Rukebai Inabo, Senator, Palau
13. Sabina Flores Perez, Senator, Guam
14. Ambassador Kaliopate Tavola, Former Minister, Pacific Elders Voices, Fiji
15. Tarita Holm, Ngardmau State Legislator Palau,
16. Derick R Manu'ari, MP, Solomon Islands
17. Peter Kenilorea Junior, MP, Solomon Islands
18. John Salong, MP, Vanuatu
19. Powes Parkop, Governor NCD, MP, PNG
20. Sebastian Marino, House of Delegates, Palau

Parties to the Nauru Agreement  
PNA Office - P.O. Box 3992  
Majuro, Marshall Islands (MH) 96960  
Phone: (692) 625-7626/7627



## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO) is seeking to hire an Executive Officer to provide technical and logistical support for the Chief Executive Officer and the Parties, and take a lead role in oversight of the PNAO governance framework, including:

- a) Ensure the PNA Governance framework is implemented.
- b) Support the development, review, update and monitoring of the PNA Strategic Plan, the PNAO Business Plan, the PNAO Annual Work Program, the Budget and the Annual Report.
- c) Coordinate preparation and support for PNA meetings, workshops and consultations.
- d) Support the development and implementation of PNA Office funding policies and programmes.
- e) Oversee PNAO human resources policy and professional recruitment activities.
- f) Oversee the planned integration of the operations of FIMS (Inc) and POA with the Office.
- g) Oversee the development of the technical capacities of the Office.
- h) Oversee PNAO consultancy contracts.
- i) Supervise PNAO capacity building activities, including scholarships and internships.
- j) Maintain good relationships with other Pacific regional programmes.
- k) Represent the PNAO at regional and international forums.
- l) Undertake special projects and activities as required from time to time.
- m) Provide day to day strategic and technical advice to the Parties, CEO, PNAO staff, customers, and other stakeholders.
- n) Build relationships with industry and fishing nations to ensure effective implementation of PNA programmes and policies.
- o) Oversee the development and implementation of the IT strategic plan, the facilities manual for the PNAO office, the emergency and disaster recovery plan, and occupational health and safety plan.

Essential Requirements

- Relevant fisheries or business-related degree.
- Relevant post graduate qualification (desirable).

- Experience at a senior level in fisheries programme management.
- Working knowledge of governance frameworks of regional fisheries programmes.
- Good understanding of organisation management and governance issues in an agency relevant to, and facing similar organisational challenges to, the PNAO.
- Team building. Ensuring the high performing people in the PNAO work cohesively to meet the needs of the Parties.
- Organizes own time effectively and creates own work schedules. Has an enthusiasm for planning mechanisms that clarify responsibilities and uplift performance without being burdensome.
- Gathering relevant information and identifying key issues, relating and comparing data from different sources, identifying cause and effect relationships.
- Convincing others, gaining acceptance of ideas by using appropriate interpersonal styles.
- Proactively developing and maintaining effective internal and external relationships to facilitate the achievement of works goals.
- Demonstrates a readiness to make decisions, take initiative and originate actions making firm and timely judgements based on factual information and reasonable assumptions. Willing to commit to a definite course of action and can support or defend their decisions with confidence.
- Capable of thinking broadly around many issues. Knowledge about a wide range of issues across the fisheries sector.

The successful applicant will be offered a three-year contract with the possibility of extension.

**The position is open to anyone, but preference is given to PNA nationals. Apply now**

To apply, please submit a letter of interest to the CEO, a brief CV and 2 reference letters to pnatuna@pnatuna.com. All applications must be submitted electronically. Manual applications will not be accepted. Closing date to submit applications will be Friday, May 13, 2022.

## At the Palau Our Ocean Conference, key partners mobilize action on blue foods

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

14 April 2022

**Koror, Palau** – At the side event titled “Blue Foods: Crucial Component to a Climate-Resilient Blue Economy in Global Communities” held yesterday at the Our Ocean Conference in Palau, a multi-sectoral group of stakeholders outlined the efforts to bring blue foods into the heart of the ocean agenda and kickstart a movement toward greater recognition and adoption of this vital resource.

The Pacific Community (SPC), the Government of Iceland, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions called for the creation of a coalition on aquatic and blue foods - foods derived from aquatic resources, plants or algae, either from fresh or saltwater.

The speakers, who included Honourable Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, Prime Minister of Tonga, Fiji Ambassador and United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson, Honourable Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Samoa Minister of Natural Resources, Honourable Lidia Cardoso, Minister of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, Mozambique, and representatives from Norway, the European Commission, and USAID stressed that 3 billion people get their vital nutrients from aquatic foods, which are also an important source of income for communities around the world with 800 million people depending on blue food systems for their livelihoods.

The Pacific Ocean plays a critical role in the global food system. Coastal fisheries provide a source of income for up to 50% of households in the Pacific, and fish is one of the main sources of dietary protein in the region. In addition, the Western and Central Pacific Ocean supplies over half of the world's tuna catch, which makes this industry not only vital to the region, but also to the rest of the world.

Honourable Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga, a country that has convened a series of national dialogues



on food systems, said that the event was the opportunity for the Pacific region to share its knowledge on blue foods with a global audience: “it is so vital that we are here today to talk not only about the food, but the whole system, and how we can approach it in a sustainable manner and learn from each other.”

The side event united 13 high-level speakers from member states, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academics, and development partners in a talanoa session. To highlight the fact that food is at the heart of Pacific cultures, the Blue Foods Side Event featured indigenous Palauan food.

With their leadership role on ocean matters, and with the ocean at the centre of their food systems, Pacific Island Countries and Territories are a strong voice on the global blue foods agenda.

Dr Stuart Minchin from the Pacific Community mentioned that “The Pacific plays a vital but unrecognised role in global blue food systems and at the same time is facing critical challenges and threats that need to be addressed. With the impacts of climate change already being felt across the region our knowledge and experience as custodians of the ocean will be instrumental in developing this coalition to build a sustainable and robust global blue food system.”

Ambassador Stefan Hafstein, Chair of the UN Aquatic Blue Foods Coalition demonstrated the global relevance of blue foods and of joint action “we are now a group of 20 members states and, overall, 30 international actors with the key mission of making sure that aquatic and blue foods are an integral part of the global discussion on food systems.”

This event is a milestone on the road toward a global Aquatic Blue Foods Coalition, which was first proposed at the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and is expected to be officially launched at the UN Ocean Conference later this year in Lisbon, Portugal.

As the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson mentioned, the momentum is growing for action on blue foods: “following the very successful Food Systems Summit in New York that generated the call for this Blue Foods Coalition, there are now enough countries involved to be confident that the Lisbon UN Ocean Conference will be the platform to launch a Coalition supported by the full global community.”

The side event organisers would like to acknowledge all speakers who participated in this important event:

- Honourable Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, Prime Minister of Tonga
- Honourable Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Samoa Minister of Natural Resources
- Honourable Lidia Cardoso, Mozambique Minister of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries
- Ambassador Peter Thomson from Fiji and United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean;
- Ambassador Amatlain E. Kabua, Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations
- Ambassador Stefan Hafstein from Iceland and Chair of the United Nations Aquatic Blue Foods Coalition
- Dr Stuart Minchin, Director General of the Pacific Community
- Karena Lyons, Director – Integration and Resource Mobilisation at the Pacific Community
- Special Envoy Henrik Harboe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Craig Hart, Head of Delegation and Deputy Assistant Administrator at the United States Agency for International Development
- Eric Schwaab, Senior Vice President, Ecosystems & Oceans at the Environmental Defense Fund
- Maxine Burkett, United States Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Fisheries and Polar Affairs
- Raphaël Goulet, Head of Unit, Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea, Arctic Policy at the European Commission.

## PICRC staff take the stage at 7th Our Ocean Conference

Palau International Coral Reef Center



Executive Coordinator Adeeshia I Tellei, Palau National Marine Sanctuary Director King Sam, Science Officer / Researcher Dr. Louw Claassens, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Yimnang Golbuu

Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) staff took the stage at the 7th Our Ocean Conference last week, participating as speakers, panelists, youth delegates and attendees.

Communications and Outreach Officer Masasinge Hideos, Research Assistant McQuinnley Mesengei and Researcher Elsei Tellei joined the conference as youth delegates.

As part of the youth delegation, they held discussions with world leaders, made a collective commitment to ocean conservation and had a personal meeting with Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry.

“It was a pleasure to represent Palau with such talented young leaders and make sure our voice was heard as the next generation” said Hideos.

Researcher Ikelau Otto gave a talk on PICRC's Protected Area Network monitoring program at a panel on marine protected areas alongside Dr. Richard Spinrad, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Dr. Yimnang Golbuu, PICRC's Chief Executive Officer, also spoke during the “Nature Based Solutions – Austronesian Perspectives” panel and highlighted the

Continued on next page

## Our Ocean Conference closing reception highlights Palauan Culture

*Palau International Coral Reef Center*

Leaders of governments, non-government organization, foundations, private companies and Palau’s traditional leaders gathered at the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) last Thursday evening for the 7th Our Ocean Conference Closing Reception.

The event, which was attended by hundreds of people, featured traditional dances, Palauan cuisine from local vendors, and remarks from Vice President and Minister of Justice J. Uduch Sengebau-Senior, Asian Development Bank Pacific Director General Leah Gutierrez and Representative of Palau to the United Nations Ambassador Ilana Seid.

In her opening remarks, Vice President Senior stated, “By protecting the ocean and taking action on climate change, we renew our dedication to preserve and enhance our traditional heritage and our national identity, as well as our respect for traditional conservationist values.”

Ngarachamayong Performers opened and closed the program with traditional dances, with men performing a “Ruk” and women performing the “Delal a Ngloik”. Many of the attendees commented that the cultural performance were the highlight of

the reception. In addition to the exciting performances, guest also received explanations of the performances and attire, which deepened their understanding and appreciation of Palauan culture.

Ambassador Seid gave the closing remarks and stated, “Palau is a faraway land, but it is connected to your own homelands in two ways - by the ocean and by the air. These are the ties that bind us and remind us that we are one: if we honor them they will enthrall us, and if we don’t, they will destroy us. We Palauans are the people of a blue ocean state; but collectively, we are the people of a blue planet”.

Attendees also received guided tours of Palau Aquarium including a new exhibit showcasing the history of ocean conservation in Palau.

The event was co-hosted by Palau and NGO partners Asian Development Bank, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Nature Conservancy, Oceans5, Oceana, Ocean Conservancy, Plastic Pollution Coalition, Re:Wild, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Blue Nature Alliance, Pew Charitable Trusts, Guam Green Growth, Global Fishing Watch, Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch, Environmental Defense Fund and Island Conservation.

PICRC Research Director Geraldine Rengiil and Executive Coordinator Adeeshia I. Tellei attended the conference as well.

“This was a historic conference – the first one hosted by a small island nation” said Dr. Golbuu. “We’re very proud that our staff played a role in its success.”

Keobel Sakuma, Chairman of PICRC’s Board of Directors, also served as MC during the first day of the conference.

## ...PICRC at OOC

*Continued from previous page*

importance of indigenous knowledge in conservation.

PICRC Science Officer / Researcher Dr. Louw Claassens served as the Conference’s Thematic Lead for sustainable fisheries. Palau National Marine Sanctuary Director King Sam,



*Researcher Ikelau Otto (third from the right)*

## Closing remarks by Ambassador Ilana Seid representative of Palau to the United Nations at Our Oceans Conference

*Palau International Coral Reef Center*

*April 22, 2022*

Excellencies, Honorable ministers, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen -

Thank you again for braving the journey to Palau. Hopefully in the last couple of days, you have gotten a good sense of what feels like to live in a Small Island Developing State. This is how we live as island people - with an inextricable link to the ocean that surrounds us. We have a symbiotic relationship with the sea - passed down generation upon generation. Our elders taught us to where to look, when to take, and when to let replenish and rejuvenate. We rely on the sea for sustenance, comfort and perspective. And know that it gives, but also easily takes when we forget to respect its power.

Today in Palau and in SIDS countries around the world, our livelihoods and identities are being threatened by global issues we contribute so little to - we see bleach white reefs that were once technicolor, our tuna stock is diminishing in size and spawning capability due to warming waters, and scientist tell us one of our sea cucumbers has seen a decline in stock by 90% in the last ten years because of overconsumption and climate change- something that has long been known by the fisherwoman who collects these sea cucumbers to not only feed her family, but also to earn a living. We also see huge amounts of plastic pollution with labels we can’t read wash up on our shores, threatening our environment and marine life.

I know I am preaching to the converted - as Secretary John Kerry said, “you are certified hard-asses to travel to Palau in the middle of a global pandemic.” We all know how important our ocean is to our survival.

So I leave you with this... it is known that 70% of the planet, 70% of the human body, and 70% of the human heart is water. It’s as if by divine design that water is the element that gives us life - it provides 51% of the oxygen in the air we breathe, and it keeps not only our bodies



alive but our hearts and spirits as well.

So on your last few days in Palau, we ask that you put the work down and feel the ocean. Breathe in the salty air. Take in the expanse of brilliant blue. Feel her surface rising and falling with rhythmic ease. Dive, snorkel, or wade in the shallows. Experience the magic of our kaleidoscopic reef, and if you are lucky, perhaps the majesty of a mantra ray flying over head. But feel it and let it seep into your spirit. And be reminded of how beautiful and inspirational this planet is and how important it is to cherish it.

In Palauan, we have a phrase “otil a renguk” - “let it anchor your heart.” So when negotiations get tough with members of your Ministry, or at the Climate CoPs, or at the UN Oceans Conference in June and beyond, use these memories to hold your ground and fuel your fire... so that we might deliver the magic and awe of this beautiful planet to our children, grandchildren, and many generations to come.

Palau is a faraway land, but it is connected to your own homelands in two ways - by the ocean and by the air. These are the ties that bind us and remind us that we are one: if we honor them they will enthrall us, and if we don’t, they will destroy us. We Palauans are the people of a blue ocean state; but collectively, we are the people of a blue planet. So welcome home, we hope you enjoy our home, and we hope you have a safe journey home.

Mesulang and Mechikung. Thank you and Farewell.

# Pohnpei Swimming Club holds re-opening ceremony

*Australian Embassy Pohnpei*

On Tuesday April 12th, the Pohnpei Swimming Club held its re-opening ceremony of the Pohnpei Pool following its closure at the beginning of the pandemic. In 2020, the Australian Embassy provided a \$20,000 grant under the Direct Aid Program (DAP) to the Pohnpei Swimming Club to repair and repaint the pool. As a result, the swimming pool is now officially opened to the public. The ceremony was hosted by FSM Olympic Committee Secretary General Jim Tobin, with Ambassador Jo Cowley and FSM Olympic Committee President Berney Martin attending. During the



ceremony, newly qualified lifeguards were presented with certificates, and members of the Pohnpei Swimming Club demonstrated their abilities in the pool. The Australian Embassy hopes that these improvements will bring people from around Pohnpei together to enjoy the facilities. Congratulations to all involved with the pool's reopening.

# Australian Embassy in the FSM partner UNICEF to support WASH in schools

*UNICEF*

On 21st April 2022, the Australian Ambassador for FSM, Jo Cowley, and the embassy staff met with the Ag. Secretary of Education, FSM, Mr. T.H. Arthur Albert, and UNICEF WASH Specialist for North Pacific Field Office Mr. Jeffrey Ing to discuss implementation of a WASH in schools Programme being funded by the Australian Embassy. This WASH initiative is expected to benefit about 20,000 children in the FSM through creation of healthy and hygienic learning environment.

“A year ago, when I came to the FSM, I had discussions with UNICEF about the plans it has with the FSM government to improve the WASH conditions in schools. Today, I am happy that we have found a way to work in partnership with UNICEF and the Department of Education to implement a WASH in Schools initiative, which I believe will complement the Australian government’s efforts in improving the quality of basic education in the FSM,” said Ambassador Jo Cowley.

About the WASH in Schools Project:

On 5th April 2022, the Australian Government and UNICEF has signed a contribution agreement to support WASH in Schools in the FSM. The programme is aimed to ensure children have access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services in their schools so that they can learn, grow, and play in safe and healthy environment. In addition to that the programme will also promote low-carbon development and environmental sustainability through recycle and re-use initiatives at school level.



Australian Ambassador Jo Cowley, (2nd from Right), Mr. Jeffrey Ing, UNICEF WASH Specialist (R) and Mr. T.H. Arthur, Ag. Sec. Education (Photo credit: Dechen Zam, UNICEF), Australian Embassy Second Secretary and Consul Takuro Steele (left)

# ...Fast pitch

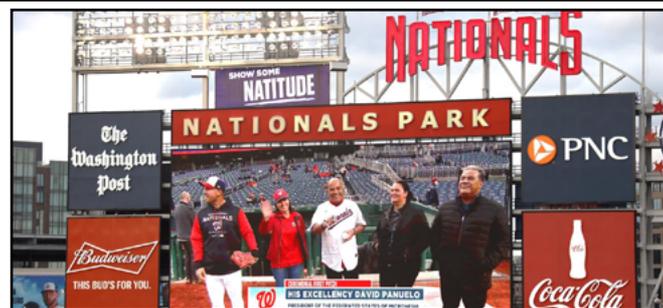
*Continued from front page*

were in Washington D.C. for a series of high-level meetings with key U.S. Government officials. U.S Ambassador to the FSM Carmen G. Cantor accompanied the President, First Lady Patricia Edwin, and FSM Ambassador

to the U.S. Akillino Susaia to the game.

The FSM Press Release said that talks at his meetings on Capitol Hill expanded on the substance discussed during the High-Level Defense Talks in July 2021, and also included talks on the negotiations for the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the United States.

The initial press release from the FSM later released some of the substance of the meetings on the Compact but have not yet released anything on the Defense talks.



President Panuelo, supported by Ambassador Cantor, Ambassador Susaia, and First Lady Edwin, prepares to throw the first pitch

# FSM & U.S. Chief Negotiators meet in Washington, DC, to discuss continued U.S. assistance under Amended Compact of Free Association

*FSM Information Services & The Joint Committee on Compact Review & Planning Joint Press Release*

April 21, 2022

**WASHINGTON:** Representatives from the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America met at the U.S. Department of State today to exchange views and discuss planning for ongoing work on expiring provisions of the Compact of Free Association and related subsidiary agreements between the two nations.

FSM Chief Negotiator Leo A. Falcam, Jr., and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Compact Negotiations Ambassador Joseph Yun led their respective delegations in a discussion of progress to date and review of work remaining in

order to quickly achieve agreement in principle.

Chief Negotiator Falcam also formally presented the FSM's economic assistance proposal under Title Two of the Amended Compact. He also indicated that the FSM would be forthcoming with proposed amendments to the Fiscal Procedures Agreement within the next several weeks.

The nations welcomed the constructive discussions and reaffirmed their commitment to the September 2022 completion of these negotiations. The sides plan to continue ongoing work in advance of the next formal round of negotiations scheduled to begin no later than June 2022, at a location to be determined.

With the exception of informal consultations between negotiators in Honolulu during November 2021, today's engagement represented the first in-person meetings of the Compact teams since the global COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020. During this period the sides have continued technical discussions on certain aspects of the Compact and related subsidiary agreements by videoconference.

Today also marked the first formal engagement by newly appointed U.S. Special Presidential Envoy Yun since his appointment by H.E. President Joe Biden in March 2022.

Today's meeting came on the heels of this week's visit to Washington by

H.E. President David Panuelo of the FSM, which included meetings between President Panuelo and U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Ambassador Yun.

The U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association entered into force in 1986 and provided economic assistance and programs and services to the FSM for an initial period of seventeen years, until 2003. The economic assistance and programs and services provisions of the Amended Compact now in force are scheduled to end at the end of Fiscal Year 2023 unless they are extended. Other elements of the Compact and its subsidiary agreements have no expiration date and remain in effect.

# Health related seminar nurtures future generation of health professionals in FSM

*World Health Organization*

Multi-country office Micronesia..

On April 06, 2022 Wednesday, Dr. Momoe Takeuchi (Country Liaison Officer) and Mr. Semenson Ehpel (Health System Coordinator) from the World Health Organization (WHO) Office for Northern Micronesia met with Dr. Paul Dacanay, Chair of the Division of Health Science at the College of Micronesia-FSM, his staffs and the students that are studying in the Nursing program and the Doctors & Dentist For Tomorrow (DDFT) program at the National FSM-COM campus.

Dr. Takeuchi presented an overall introduction of the WHO work in Universal Health Coverage (UHC), health systems and workforce. Dr. Takeuchi also presented on WHO strategy on nursing & midwifery; as well as internship and volunteer opportunities in WHO and the United Nations.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that was established in 1948 – 7 April celebrated as “World Health Day”. WHO’s goal is to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all people. The WHO Country Office for the Northern Micronesia (FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau) is currently located in Pohnpei, serving the government as a member of the UN

Mr. Ehpel presented information on the Learning supports provided by WHO Fellowship and POLHN (Pacific Open Learning Health Net). The WHO Fellowship provides opportunities for trainings and studies in the health-related areas (off island or through distance learning) and specialist trainings within own countries. POLHN provides free online learning opportunities to health workers through non-credit and accredited courses in the areas of medicine, nursing, health education and public health; as well as self-paced online courses for continuing professional development.

The students who attended the seminar showed their interest in various learning opportunities and expressed their wish to protect health of people and communities. Dr Dacanay has been instrumental in developing and leading the nursing and public health programmes of COM to nurture future generation of health professionals in FSM.



## President Panuelo announces to U.S. Special Presidential Envoy Joseph Yun & U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan the FSM's proposed package of Compact of Free Association provisions, extensions, & amendments

### FSM Information Services

WASHINGTON, DC—On April 20th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), engaged in in-depth meetings with His Excellency Joseph Y. Yun, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Compact Negotiations, and Mr. Jake Sullivan, U.S. National Security Advisor to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. President Panuelo informed Ambassador Yun and National Security Advisor Sullivan that the FSM's requested economic assistance package will be formally submitted to Ambassador Yun by Chief Negotiator Leo A. Falcam Jr. and the Joint Committee on Compact Review & Planning on April 21st, 2022. The economic assistance package, developed over several years, addresses key issues and concerns and, if accepted, would result in transformational improvements in the lives and livelihoods for all Micronesians.

“Our citizens have significant, profound, and very real concerns about the U.S. providing a substantial assistance package over the next 20 years,” President Panuelo said in a statement. “It is my sincerely held belief as President of the FSM that the package we are submitting addresses the short, medium, and long-term needs of our Nation. While flying to D.C., I saw a teacher I knew in Pohnpei State who has left both his job and his country because his salary no longer provides for his family's needs. While in D.C., I became aware of additional information regarding the Yap State hospital workers strike and its impact on public health, livelihoods, and morale. Meanwhile, the infrastructure and other needs of our country can be better met with a streamlined provision of assistance. The Education, Health, and Infrastructure Sectors are of paramount importance to our Nation's development, and the package in its presented form will be of great help.”

“Additionally,” President Panuelo described, “The proposed package includes an additional yet also critically essential pillar on the Environmental Sector, as we are collectively and keenly aware that Climate Change represents

the FSM's most significant and existential security risk. The proposed Environment Sector would play a key role in our Nation's adaptation and mitigation efforts which, given our World's lack of progress on tackling Climate Change, is ultimately going to make the difference on whether or not islands like Kapingamarangi Atoll and the Mortlocks literally exist fifty years from today.”

“The acceptance of this Compact package would be a great and significant investment for both of our countries,” the President continued.

“I believe Ambassador Yun when he says he wants the FSM to be genuinely happy with the outcomes of our negotiations, and I am touched and heartened when he describes that this is a negotiation between family,” President Panuelo said. “It's a very true statement. The People and Government of the FSM are family with the People and Government of the United States, with whom we share an Enduring Partnership.”

## New Australian project to help address the oil spill risk from WW2 wrecks in Chuuk Lagoon

### Australian Embassy

The Australian Embassy announced that the Australian Government will be funding a project to enhance efforts to address the oil spill risk from WW2 wrecks in Chuuk Lagoon. The announcement follows an offer of assistance in 2021 by Australian Foreign Minister Payne to His Excellency President David W. Panuelo. Ambassador Jo Cowley was honoured to receive President Panuelo on 7 April to discuss the new project. Oil spills from these wrecks present risks to human health and safety, and to the environmental and economic security of nearby Chuuk communities. Through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

and the Major Projects Foundation, Australian funding will support existing efforts by the Government of Japan through the Japanese Mine Action Service to remove oil from high-risk wrecks in Chuuk Lagoon. Australian support will also build and enhance local capability and capacity to manage ongoing risks from the wrecks and respond to oil spills. The initiative is valued at AUD2.12 million and will run until June 2024. It responds to a key FSM priority, which recognises that the health of the ocean is fundamental to the sustainability of island life. The project will soon work closely with National and Chuuk State Governments to begin implementation. (underwater image credit: Major Projects Foundation)



## PICRC gives virtual PNMS tour for students with Pacific Exchange Network

PICRC Communications and Outreach Officer Masasinge Hideos and Science Officer / Researcher Dr Louw Claassens recently presented an online lesson on the Palau National Marine Sanctuary for students in Guam, Alaska, Hawaii and American Samoa with Pacific Exchange Network.

“Our lesson was a special opportunity to share Palauan science and culture with a wide range of students across the Pacific” said Hideos. “It was a pleasure to introduce them to Palau and answer their questions”.

Hideos and Dr. Claassens explained the Sanctuary's foundation in Palauan traditions and its role in supporting our communities. They also highlighted research efforts in the Sanctuary and showed new footage of marine life captured on deep-sea cameras and

offshore Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs).

Pacific Exchange Network is a group of Pacific Islanders serving Pacific Island and Alaskan schools, communities, and indigenous/native people. The purpose of the network is to provide opportunities for collaboration across the Pacific, allowing the students to learn and interact with other Pacific Island and Alaskan students, along with providing local and indigenous specific presenters and STEM topics than can inspire them to become better stewards of their homes. PICRC is exploring ways to participate in the Network's activities and encourages schools and educators to reach out if they are interested.

PICRC was invited to present by the National Marine Sanctuary of

American Samoa (NMSAS), who also shared a lesson alongside Hideos and Dr. Claassens.

“The Palau National Marine Sanctuary has created great opportunities like this to strengthen our ties with other Pacific islands” continued Hideos. “We hope to continue working together to learn and grow as one region connected by the ocean.”

PICRC and NMSAS have worked together since 2020 through a Sister Sanctuary Agreement. As Pacific island communities with rich indigenous cultures dependent on the ocean, Palau and American Samoa use the agreement to share goals, challenges and opportunities to support our large-scale marine protected areas.