

Pohnpei team takes first place in UOG "Startup Weekend Micronesia" with recycling business idea

University of Guam

MANGILAO (UOG) — Seven sustainability-focused business ideas from teams representing the CNMI, Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, and Yap came out of the Startup Weekend Micronesia "Solve 2Day, Evolve 2Morrow" event hosted online from April 27 to 29. The event was hosted by the University of Guam Entrepreneur Society student organization, UOG's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, and the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network.

With the assistance of Northern Marianas College, the College of Micronesia-

FSM, and SBDC centers throughout Micronesia, the weekend-long event engaged a total of 35 participants on five islands throughout Micronesia with the dream of starting their own business.

Participants pitched their business ideas with a focus on sustainability. The participants then formed teams and built business plans to turn the most feasible ideas into small-business startups. The teams pitched their startups to a panel of judges who determined the winners.

"This year's event brought forth the diverse communities of Micronesia, along with their sustainable ideas, to solve concerns in their respective

islands. The passion and drive from each team just radiated through the final pitches and was easily seen by all those who were present," said Christasha Aguon, an officer of the Entrepreneur Society at UOG and Startup Weekend Micronesia organizing lead. The winning teams were as follows:

First Place: SCRAP (Pohnpei)
 Concept: Sustainable conservation recycling of agricultural products
 Members: Celena Albis, Isabel Emrhedrose Pacyaya



The winning team of Startup Weekend Micronesia gather for a photo after participating in the Micronesia wide event from April 27 to April 29. The team's winning concept was sustainable conservation recycling of agricultural products. Participants pitched their ideas with a focus on sustainability.

[Click here for continuation](#)

Food items 66 percent of Pohnpei Legislature representation and committee operations expenses

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

May 7, 2022

Pohnpei—After finding questionable costs in operations fund expenditures of the Pohnpei State Legislature's Justice and Governmental Operations standing committee, the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) conducted inspections of the all of the committee's operations funds expenditures, as well as the Speaker's representation fund. The inspections covered fiscal years 2020 and 2021. After POPA completed their inspections they presented a complete

copy of their findings to current Speaker Marvin Yamaguchi, summarized in a letter dated April 25, showing more questionable costs.

POPA did not share a copy of the full management advisory but did share a copy of the cover letter to it.

It said that a total of \$210,000 was appropriated to finance the office operations of the seven standing committees during the inspection period. Of that total, \$190,738.80, or 91 percent was expended to support the operations of the committees and related program

activities for the two fiscal years combined. Of that total, \$132,471.41 or 69 percent was disbursed as payments for food and related activities. The purchases included food take-out, sakau, live pigs, roast pigs, alcoholic beverages, snacks, farewell parties, Christmas parties, birthday parties, funerals, and more.

Further, of the \$132,471.41 spent for food related items, \$58,076.86, or 44 percent was disbursed as payment for food trays, catering services, luncheon meetings, take-outs, and others from several local businesses owned by "certain members

of the Legislature". POPA could find no record of compliance with the requirement for three price quotations for price comparison for government expenditures.

POPA reported that two standing committees spent in excess of the \$15,000 allowable by law to fund each Committee's operations during the two investigated fiscal years.

POPA looked into five preceding years of spending trends for food item

[Click here for continuation](#)

 <p>Ramp & Mida Law Firm</p> <p>Suite 2W Varner-Boylan Building No.2, Nett P.O. Box 1480, Pohnpei FM 96941 Telephone: +691 320-2870/5507 Email: info@rampmida.fm</p>	<p>WITH OFFICES IN</p> <p>CHUUK & POHNPEI</p> <p>to serve you</p>	<p>Chuuk's Premier Traveler's Destination</p> 	<p>L5 Hotel</p> <p>PO Box 790 Weno, Chuuk FM 96942 691.330.7048/7049 reservations@l5hotel.fm www.l5hotel.fm</p>
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KOHWA completes first Healthy Homes project in Madolenihmw

KOHWA

April 27, 2022

Pohnpei - An official open-house ceremony for the first successful Healthy Homes Program was held on April 24, 2022 for Mr. William Thomas and his family. The ceremony and key-handover was organized by some KOHWA members and KOHWA Board of Advisors representatives, with support

from community members of the Wapar village in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei FSM. The short ceremony was attended by about 40 individuals, with mostly relatives of Mr. Thomas and his wife. It included an opening prayer and welcoming remarks, as well as a brief statement on KOHWA and its work, and its Healthy Homes program. The ceremony concluded with attendees sharing some snacks and sakau. Mr. Thomas and his wife expressed their genuine gratitude to KOHWA and all those who contributed to the project.

In 2019, KOHWA received \$3,000 from the Global Greengrants Fund to pilot the Healthy Homes Program in Pohnpei. The program aims to

provide home renovation assistance to families with little to no income source, specifically targeting households with persons living with disabilities and senior citizens. After two years of organizing the program's operation including fundraising and thorough review of potential recipients from the 5 municipalities, KOHWA launched its first project in Wapar, Madolenihmw. The selected beneficiary was Mr. William Thomas and his family. The total amount raised was approximately \$11k which renovated Mr. Thomas' family home.

The success of this first project is owed to the generous donations from individuals and groups around the region. We are extremely grateful for all the support and financial assistance we received for the project. Kalahngan!



A recent photo (taken on April 24) of Mr. Thomas and wife (Relihna Tihpen) and KOHWA's current president Shane Toa Nanpei (grey shirt) and KOHWA's Secretary Koden Lebehn (red/pink shirt).



Mr. Thomas and wife with former President Yota Oue and Vice-President Luan Gilmete with the old house.



Thomas family home before



Thomas family home after



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:**

May 25, 2022

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

Monday, May 23, 2022

Once a UOG student janitor, Emanuel Mori went on to champion for a cleaner climate as president of the FSM

University of Guam

April 27, 2022

If there is one piece of advice former Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel “Manny” Mori could impart to the current students of his alma mater, it would be to take up the responsibility of serving the island they are from.

Mori, who served as the president of the FSM from 2007 to 2015, said the knowledge he gained from his time as a student at the University of Guam helped boost his potential to give back to his community.

“UOG played a very critical role in the education and development of [the FSM] — from providing health services to creating more jobs,” Mori said. “When people from our islands earn our college degree, whether from UOG or elsewhere, we have a responsibility to return and help build the nation that raised us.”

This includes the environmental challenges islands face, which was a focal point during Mori’s presidency.

Memories of student life

Mori attended UOG from 1969 to 1973 and graduated with a bachelor’s in business management. He was active in campus activities and became the first student from the FSM to be elected to the Student Body Association. As senator, he was responsible for coordinating student life activities, from dances to movie nights to the annual UOG Charter Day.

“There might be different Charter Day activities now, but back then the students loved having picnics. We also had games like climbing coconut trees and husking coconuts. Most of the CHamorus on campus spoke their language, too,” he said.

As a newcomer to Guam, Mori learned a lot about the island from friends he made while staying in the dormitories. Two friends in particular — longtime Guam educator Salvador Avilla and George Chargualaf — often took him out on adventures around the island to experience the community.

To help pay his tuition, he worked as a janitor in the dorms and advanced to supervisory status through the work-study program. The overall experience was a ton

of fun, he said.

In academics, Mori said his education from Xavier High School in Chuuk prepared him for the first two years of college classes. The lessons started to become a little difficult afterwards, he admitted.

“I was struggling with finance and accounting because I couldn’t understand it. It wasn’t until I did an internship at a bank that it started to click for me,” he said. “Public speaking was also a difficult one. I wasn’t very good at it. But I enjoyed the class because it was great to see people make enormous improvements.”

Pivotal career moment

Funnily enough, the two types of classes he struggled with ended up being the precursors for his decorated career in banking and politics.

Upon graduating from UOG, he went on to work for the banking industry for 25 years, starting in Guam and Saipan before ultimately moving back home to hold leadership positions in public and private banks.

Then came the call for public service. Mori found himself serving in FSM Congress, which later led him down the path to presidency.

Protecting natural resources, environment

As president, Mori brought environmental concerns and impacts in the four island

states to the forefront of global discussions.

During the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, Mori pleaded with world leaders to take action in reversing the global trends of pollution to counter climate change. He reiterated this message at the 64th U.N. General Assembly in 2009, noting visible changes in sea-level rise and intensity of storms, and again in 2014 at the 69th General Assembly, when he advocated for immediate action on climate pollutants and voiced support for the U.N.’s proposed and now adopted global Sustainable Development Goals.

“Much of my discussions with the United Nations involved climate change and the concern for our environment,” he said. “The impacts of sea-level rise were visible in some of our surrounding islands. They were eroding. Houses were disappearing.”

His speeches focused on the impacts that Micronesia had already witnessed, such as damages to subsistence agriculture and fishing and threats to endemic marine and terrestrial species.

“The environmental concerns also affected our health,” he said. “Non-communicable diseases were intensifying. We needed to consider how we can improve food security.”

Another pressing issue he raised with the U.N. was the potential of oil seeping from World War II-era ships laying at the bottom of the Chuuk Lagoon. A portion

of this ship graveyard is a popular diving destination for tourism, but Mori said he had expressed concern to both the United States and Japan governments about the possibility of oil pollution from cracked tanks over time. This is a matter that is still being looked at today, he said.

Mori’s efforts to bring these issues to a bigger table has since advanced discussions on solutions to protect the FSM’s natural and cultural resources. His presidency was a catalyst to the FSM becoming the first country in Oceania to ratify the UNESCO Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention in 2018, which will help protect and manage the shipwreck sites as well as other underwater artifacts.

The FSM’s signing of the convention has also contributed to Japan, the United States, and Australia starting to assist with oil pollution mitigation in the FSM.

In 2009, UOG conferred unto Mori an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree to recognize his work as a distinguished public servant in the FSM and Micronesian region. He gave the commencement speech that year, staying true to his cause as he challenged students to take on climate change as the priority of their generation.



Emanuel Mori and his wife, Emma Nelson Mori, with former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama during a reception on Sept. 23, 2009, at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, when Mori was president of the Federated States of Micronesia. Official White House photo by Lawrence Jackson



Emanuel Mori speaks at an August 2008 ceremony in Chuuk launching the Pacific Partnership to improve bilateral relations with the United States in addressing mutual issues and concerns.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Martin

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
SUSTAINABLE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROJECT**

Assignment Title: Financial Management Specialist

Reference No: FSM-DTCI-6039-CS-INDV

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received a Project Readiness Grant (PRF) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to assist in the preparation of the FSM Sustainable Road Infrastructure Investment Project (SRIIP). The PRF will be used to lay the groundwork for the ensuing project by supporting, i) upstream project pipeline and sector studies to identify the policies, strategies and investments for the ensuring project, (ii) the preparation of feasibility studies, designs and bid documents for critical climate resilient road, bridge or drainage improvement works to be implemented under the ensuring project, (iii) the design and implementation of a small-scale pilot project and, (iv) setting up organizational arrangements for the SRIIP.

Scope of Assignment

The main objective of the Financial Management Specialist (FMS) position is to provide accounting and financial management support for the PRF activities and to assist in setting up the financial and management information systems for the ensuring project. The FMS will be based in the Program Management Unit of DTC&I but will work closely with the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA).

Duration of the Assignment and Estimated Time Input

This is a part-time assignment and the Consultant will provide 12 months of services over a two year period from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024.

The Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (attach curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc. and the details of two references). Firms' staff may express interest through the employing firm for the assignment and, under such situation, only the experience and qualifications of individuals shall be considered in the selection process.

The criteria for selecting the Consultant are:

Mandatory

- Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Finance or Business Administration
- Professional qualification in accounting (CPA, CA, or equivalent) – note: experience of 10 years or more in accounting may be considered in lieu of a professional qualification.
- Minimum of 10 years working experience of which at least 5 years should be in accounting
- Familiarity with public sector accounting systems.
- Fluency in written and spoken English

Desirable

- Experience in setting up and managing project accounting systems
- Experience on donor funded projects

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment is attached and can be found at the following website: www.tci.gov.fm.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by Friday, May 20th 2022.

Eileen Mackenzie

Administrative Officer

Program Management Unit (PMU)

Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DTC&I)

Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

Tel: (+691) 320 2080

Email: eymcnz7@gmail.com

Web: www.tci.gov.fm

...Startup Weekend

Continued from front page

Garcia, Erika Lynn Nakasone, and Marissa Quiambao.

Second Place: Package WAAB Wellness Camp (Yap)

Concept: Yap's first recreation center aimed at holistic health

Members: Jalani Gootinmutnguy, Teresita Laarwon, Demetria Mtag, Jamilyn Mooteb, Sebastiana Tinagpitin, and Joshua Tun

Third Place: Recycle to Print (CNMI)

Concept: Taking recycled materials and creating useful objects using a 3D printer

Members: Kirsten Jensen, Anushi Joshi, Sharon Paek, and Vicente Juan Ythemar

Other teams that took part included: Beep! (Guam), Dachelbil (Palau), Kenhke 4 Wheels (Pohnpei), and Linguistic Learning Services (LLS) (Pohnpei).

First-place winners will receive \$2,500 in seed money with provisions, second-place winners will receive three Cricut Explore Machines with supplies and AirTags, and third-place winners will receive entrepreneurship books, notebooks, bags, and other sustainable goods.

The event is associated with Google Techstars Startup Weekend, a program that has been launched in more than 150 countries across the world that teaches aspiring entrepreneurs how to create a real company.

UOG graduate students in the Professional Master of Business Administration program and the Pacific Islands SBDC at UOG first brought the Startup Weekend event model to Guam in 2014, to Saipan in 2016, and to Palau, Chuuk, Kosrae, Yap, and Pohnpei for the first time in 2019.

[Click here for more details](#)

...Legislative expenses

Continued from front page

expenditures. They found that in 2019 food purchases amounted to \$39,892. In 2018 the amount was \$29,628. In 2017, it was \$20,550. 2016 had the lowest expenditure for food items over the seven fiscal years at \$9,628. In 2015 the amount was \$13,182.

The expenditures above were just for the standing committees. POPA looked at the expenditures under the \$60,000 appropriated for the Speaker's account for official representation, entertainment, and activities directly related to the Legislature or the Office of Speaker, or both during the two years. They found that \$63,824.42 was spent in total, \$3824.42 more than was appropriated. Of that amount, \$46,417, or 73% was spent for food items. The remaining amount was used to pay for other related support activities and services.

Combined, the standing committees and the Speakers offices spent just over a quarter of a million dollars. Of that amount, \$178,888 or 66 percent of the expenditures was for food items, while \$91,112 or 34 percent was spent to pay for other related support services.

"Although the usage of standing Committee operation funds for official representation, entertainment and related social or political functions may be within the legal frameworks, we find the current practice of expending a large portion of these public resources on food items excessive, most especially when we are all aware of our government's limited financial and budgetary constraint," wrote State Auditor Ihlen K. Joseph in his management report cover letter.

POPA shared the full report with the Governor, the Acting Attorney General, and Director of Treasury and Administration.



Pohnpei Wins First Place in Start-Up Weekend Micronesia

Three teams from Pohnpei and four other teams from Guam, CNMI, Palau, and Yap competed for innovative business ideas aimed towards sustainability, in the virtual event Start-Up Weekend Micronesia: Solve 2day, Evolve 2morrow. The College of Micronesia-FSM's Center for Entrepreneurship participated in the virtual event from April 27th to April 29th, developed by Google Techstars Startup Weekend, hosted by the University of Guam's Entrepreneur Society student organization, University of Guam's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, and the Pacific Islands

Small Business Development Center Network, in partnership with SBDC sites within Micronesia and the Northern Marianas College. Over the course of 54 hours, the thirty-five participants were put to the test and experienced the entrepreneurial challenges of solidifying their business plans while receiving the guidance of well-versed mentors. The teams were then given the opportunity to present their business ideas and plans to a group of panelists who would decide the winning team of this year's event. First place went to Team SCRAP of Pohnpei, second place was Team WAAB

Wellness Camp of Yap, and third place was Team Recycle to Print of CNMI. **W i n n i n g** team SCRAP (Sustainable Conservation Recycling of Agricultural Products) of Pohnpei, composed of Erika Lynn Nakasone, Celena Albis, Isabel Emrhedrose Pacyaya Garcia, and Marissa Quiambao, won the panelists over with their ingenious idea to turn leftover food into pig's feed and compost. Their business plan not only tackled the island's issue of excessive waste in



regards to food, but would also be culturally beneficial as pigs play a significant role in the Pohnpeian community's social gatherings. The young women displayed their extensive research through a solid business plan and confident presentation. Team SCRAP was awarded \$2,500 in seed money plus additional rewards.

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Mauricio Santiago
Commencement Speaker

CLICK HERE:

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT

Bank of Guam Fishing Tournament turns into Yellow Fin Tuna roundup

By Pohnpei Fishing Club

April 30, 2022

Pohnpei—The Bank of Guam 50th Anniversary Fishing Tournament of the Pohnpei Fishing Club turned into a bit of a yellow fin tuna fest. The winning angler was young Dave Spencer with a 119.4-pound yellow fin, just 20 pounds short of the club record. His fish earned him the \$500 top spot prize.

Anglers also landed several good-sized sailfish, though one disappointedly missed the 50-pound requirement with his sailfish. Though the rest of the sailfish landed were large, none of them qualified for the big fish prizes due to the number of big yellow fin tuna caught. All of the five big fish prizes were awarded for yellow fin catches.

Leeson Nicholson won the \$400 second prize for biggest fish with a 106.4-pound yellow fin. The Bank of Guam presented

a \$400 check to Leeson Nicholson for his second place winning yellow fin of 106.4 pounds. The ever amazing young Junior Spencer took the last three prizes in the big fish category for a total prize of \$750. His third place winning yellow fin weighed 99.6 pounds. He followed that one up with a 92-pound fish. Last was a 90.4-pound yellow fin. In one of his photos of him holding up a sign with the weight of his fish, several onlookers were heard to comment that they couldn't tell if the sign was the weight of the fish or Junior's weight.

The Bank of Guam also sponsored prizes for the biggest fish caught in each of several species. Prize winners in that category each won \$100 for their catches. Club rules say that only one prize can be awarded per fish so that in the yellow fin category, Shawnjay,, aboard the Hakuna Matata, won first prize for his big 85.2-pound yellow fin even though larger examples were

caught. Stencia Hawley won a prize for her 17.6-pound mahi mahi. She also landed a 75.4-pound sailfish, which, had she not been awarded the higher paying prize of \$125 for lady angler for that fish, also qualified as the biggest sailfish caught. Dr. Yepesy Esperanza won a prize for her 21.2-pound barracuda. Emerald Eperiam had a 15-pound skipjack tuna, and Mark Hadley rounded out the special prizes with a 24-pound wahoo.

In addition to the top prize for his massive yellow fin tuna, young Dave Spencer also won \$25 for an 80.6-pound yellow fin in the junior angler category.

The United States Embassy donated an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) to be awarded to a registered boat competing in the tournament with an engine below 60 horsepower that didn't already have an EPIRB. The winner of that EPIRB was Rodney Alexander on "Dien Poison".

21 boats and crews signed up for the tournament. Mary Simmering, Bank of Guam Manager, awarded the prizes to the top anglers.

Uta Krause and Nathan Bonnice sold hot dogs and sausages to support the Pohnpei Public Library.

Many thanks to them and all the people who helped out on the dock and with the weigh in, including Virginia, John Hedson and James Wichman, along with others too numerous to mention.

Thanks again to Bank of Guam for a new tournament.

It was a fun day, and we plan to do it again.

The next tournament is the annual tournament set for May 28.



JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



1. Position: Program Officer

Duty Office: JICA Micronesia Office

Duration: Probationary period about 4 months until end of November 2022 and the contract period renewed with agreement of both parties

Expected Start Date: July 1, 2022 (Negotiable)

Salary: \$1,073 minimum monthly, higher salary considered depending on qualification

2. Expected Responsibilities

1. Duties associated with JICA Projects and Program management, oversight and support under the supervision of the Resident Representative;
2. Represent agency at conferences, meetings and workshops;
3. Provide guidance and maintain frequent communication with project counterparts;
4. Preparation of documents, office and administrative procedures;
5. Drafting official letters and other correspondence;
6. Library and information management, such as collecting, classifying and filing;
7. Arrangement of reservations and appointments in coordination with related officials and organizations;
8. Field Trips (incl. other states) for needs survey;
9. Other duties as may be requested by other JICA staff members

3. Qualifications and Experience

1. University Graduate;
2. Proficiency in all Microsoft Office applications;
3. Good command of English and strong communication and interpersonal skills;
4. Good organization, time management and scheduling skills;
5. Must have Drivers' license;
6. Sound knowledge of international assistance and cooperation (preferable);
7. At least two (2) years of proven full-time experience working in an office environment (advantage);
8. Ability to work in a multicultural environment;
9. Excellent writing skills;
10. The ability to multitask and;
11. Micronesian citizenship

Please submit the following materials to the address below:

- a Employment application (available for pick up at JICA Micronesia office or request by email);
- b Curriculum Vitae (CV) with one attached photo (taken within the past three (3) months);
- c Health Clearance and Police Clearance;
- d Copy of social security card;
- e Copy of Driver's License;
- f Two references with complete contact details of the referees

JICA Micronesia Office

2nd Floor of Martin's building, Kaselehlie Street, Pohnpei 96941 FM

Available time: 9:00 am -12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Phone: +691-320-5350

*When you submit application documents through e-mail, please title as: APPLICATION FOR JICA MICRONESIA OFFICE (Yamada.Tomohide@jica.go.jp, billentrishfarrah.fm@jica.go.jp)

CLOSING DATE: May 31, 2022

Please note that we will notify only short-listed candidates for next step of selection. Applications and supporting material will not be returned to applicants.

Quarantine legal complaint filed and withdrawn after untimely Court response

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 2, 2022

Pohnpei—Early on the afternoon of Friday, April 29, three FSM citizens resident in Pohnpei filed suit against the Pohnpei Government, the Pohnpei COVID Taskforce, and Norleen Oliver, Chair of the Taskforce. The complaint asked for a temporary restraining order and damages related to the extension of the quarantine period beyond what the three citizens were told that it would be.

Plaintiffs filed the complaint while they were still in quarantine, but the Court did not schedule a hearing on the matter until the application for a restraining order was a moot issue since plaintiffs had been released by time the complaint could be heard. As a result, plaintiffs' attorney, Salomon Saimon withdrew the civil action. However, he has said that he intends to file a new complaint for monetary damages, including attorney fees at the FSM Supreme Court.

The initially filed complaint said that on April 23, approximately 90 people arrived in Pohnpei, including plaintiffs Glorinda Crace Charley, Bob Celestine, and Rickson Martin. They were told they would be quarantined for five days until April 28. However, on April 28, one person that was in quarantine tested positive for COVID-19. The Task Force then decided to keep all 90 people in quarantine for another five days even if

they tested negative.

Saimon argued on behalf of his clients that there was no medical reason for keeping the people who tested negative in quarantine for another five days. He argued that in the past, the Task Force had not acted in that manner, and further that "keeping the Plaintiffs and those that were not tested positive in closer proximity to that one person that has been tested positive may potentially expose the Plaintiffs and those that had not been tested positive to the virus due to the close proximity."

As example, he pointed out that Plaintiff Charley, who lives in Poahlong, Kitti, has less chance of getting the virus from the one person who tested positive if he returned home than he would by staying in quarantine living a few feet away in a separate room "as cross contamination is always there".

Plaintiffs claimed that the lengthening of the period of quarantine amounted to wrongful confinement or arrest, and that the actions are a violation of the plaintiffs' civil rights. They asked the court to award damages for the alleged violations. They also asked for a temporary restraining order barring the State Government from confining them further.

At press time, Saimon had not yet filed a new complaint at the FSM Supreme Court.



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The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Programme Coordinator – FSM Enhancing Direct Access within its Micronesia Regional Office (MRO) located at its regional office in Pohnpei, Micronesia

Description

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. We are an international development organisation owned and governed by our 27 country and territory members. In pursuit of sustainable development to benefit Pacific people, our unique organisation works across more than 25 sectors. We are known for our knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience, and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Micronesia Regional Office (MRO) situated in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), is the main hub for SPC's projects and partnerships with the Micronesian members of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Republic of Palau, and the United States territories of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Guam. The MRO opened in January 2006.

The role – the Programme Coordinator – FSM Enhancing Direct Access will lead the Programme Coordination Unit for the Green Climate Fund (GCF)- FSM Enhancing Direct Access programme “Climate change adaptation solutions for Local Authorities in the Federated States of Micronesia” (FSM EDA programme). The role will include management of the unit, in line with the policy and administrative guidelines provided by GCF, FSM authorities and SPC, and provision of advice and support to ensure efficient programme implementation for beneficiaries and partners.

The key responsibilities of the role include the following:

1. Leadership, management and delivery of the FSM EDA Programme
2. Programme governance, monitoring and advocacy
3. Implementation oversight
4. External communication

For a more detailed account of the key responsibilities, please refer to the online job description.

1. Qualifications

- Postgraduate degree in international development, climate change, natural resources management or related field at university level.

2. Technical expertise

- At least 8 years of relevant experience in international

development in cross-sectoral natural resources management or climate change adaptation, with a minimum of 5 years in the North Pacific Region at strategic, technical, regional and national levels.

- Demonstrated experience managing high volume and high value procurements.
- Managing logistics in challenging and remote locations.
- Demonstrated abilities in staff management and performance evaluations as well as managing programmes and resources.
- Thorough understanding of project management including project cycles, log-frames, monitoring and evaluation, and risk management.
- Proven ability to work with partners and the ability to plan, coordinate and manage complex programs and projects.
- Management skills with the ability to identify the most crucial activities and prioritising and sequencing.
- Excellent English communication skills (oral and written).
- Driver license.

Remuneration – the Programme Coordinator – FSM Enhancing Direct Access is a Band 11 position in SPC's 2022 salary scale, with a starting salary range of 3,768–4,644 SDR (special drawing rights) per month, which currently converts to approximately USD 5,388–6,641.

Benefits for international staff employees based in Pohnpei – SPC provides a housing allowance of USD 1,000–2,000 and other entitlements for eligible employees and their recognised dependents. 25 days annual leave per annum, sick leave, medical and life insurance, and access to SPC's Provident Fund.

Closing date: 29 May 2022 – 11:00 pm Pohnpei time

Job Reference: AL000473

Applicants must apply online at <http://careers.spc.int/>

For your application to be considered, you must provide us with:

- an updated resume with contact details for three professional referees
- a cover letter detailing your skills, experience and interest in this position
- responses to all screening questions

Your application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed at shortlisting stage if all the above documents are not provided.

FSM says goodbye to DCM Vy Duong and hello to DCM Matthew Holloway

Pohnpei—On Thursday evening, May 5, the Australian Embassy to the FSM hosted a reception at the Orchid Restaurant at Oceanview Hotel to say farewell to Deputy Chief of Mission Vy Duong and to briefly welcome incoming DCM Matthew Holloway.

Ambassador Jo Cowley praised Vy's accomplishments during her three-year tenure in the FSM. She said that the

FSM was Duong's first Department of Foreign Affairs appointment and that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she ended up with a far more challenging position than she had expected. Due to border closures in the FSM, Ambassador Cowley was unable to assume her position as Ambassador to the FSM, the Marshall Islands and Palau for a year. Duong, by necessity and convention became the Charges de Affaires with responsibilities for all three countries.

Ambassador Cowley said that Duong handled the increased responsibilities with honor, dignity, and devotion to the mutual interests of the three countries. Australia presented her with the Secretary's Award for Australia in 2021 for outstanding services in exceptional circumstances, which Vy says was awarded to the remote Pacific Missions.

FSM's Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Kandhi Elieisar also spoke, this time, uncharacteristically without notes and delivered from the heart. He also praised Duong's service to the joint issues of the FSM, and her infamous, effervescent personality.



ARCHERY MASTER SMS Game

Grab your arrows and prepare to win great prizes!

text **SHOOT**
to **505**

May 4 - 30, 2022 | Charges: .40 cents/SMS

Weekly instant \$50 top-ups.

Rank 1

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• \$800

Rank 3

• \$500

Terms & Conditions: Campaign starts May 04, 2022 at 12:01am (Pohnpei local time) and ends May 30, 2022 at 11:59pm (Pohnpei local time). To participate in the **ARCHERY MASTER SMS GAME**, the customer will need to text the keyword **SHOOT** to short-code **505** to collect points. With a chance to win promotional and eventually win the grand prize, customer will need to play the game on a daily basis to accumulate points. Each text (correct or incorrect keyword) sent to short-code 505 will be charged 0.40/txt (GST incl.). For more information call customer care at 691-320-2740.



JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



1. Position: Administrative Officer

Duty Office: JICA Micronesia Office

Duration: Probationary period about 3 months until end of November 2022 and the contract period renewed with agreement of both parties

Expected Start Date: July 1, 2022 (Negotiable)

Salary: \$1,073.00 minimum monthly, higher salary considered depending on level of qualification

2. Expected Responsibilities

1. Provide Accounting support and Procurement duties;
2. Security and logistics management;
3. Composition and filing of official documents;
4. Ensuring the confidentiality and security of files and filing systems;
5. Duties associated with Volunteers Program, Training Programs and Other JICA Programs under the supervision of the Volunteer Coordinator and the Resident Representative.
6. Field Trips (incl. other states) for needs survey
7. Assisting with maintenance of office facility, office vehicles, and dormitories
8. Other duties in program management as may be requested by Resident Representative and other staff

3. Qualifications and Experience

1. University Graduate with Bachelor's degree, preferably in business management, public administration or a related field;
2. Basic bookkeeping experience, especially in accounts payable/receivable;
3. Proficiency in all Microsoft Office applications;
4. Good command of English and strong communication skills;
5. Good organization, time management and scheduling skills;
6. Must have Drivers' license;
7. Sound knowledge of international assistance and cooperation (preferable);
8. At least two (2) years of proven full-time experience working in an office environment (advantage);
9. Ability to work in a multicultural environment;
10. The ability to multitask and;
11. Micronesian citizenship

Please submit the following materials to the address below:

- a Employment application (available for pick-up at JICA Micronesia office or request by email);
- b Curriculum Vitae (CV) with one attached photo (taken within the past three (3) months);
- c Health Clearance and Police Clearance;
- d Copy of Social Security Card;
- e Copy of Driver's License;
- f Two references with complete contact details of the referees

JICA Micronesia Office

2nd Floor of Martin's building, Kaselehlie Street, Pohnpei 96941 FM

Available time: 9:00 am -12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Phone: +691-320-5350

*When you submit application documents through e-mail, please title as: APPLICATION FOR JICA MICRONESIA OFFICE (Yamada. Tomohide@jica.go.jp, billentrishfarrah.fm@jica.go.jp)

CLOSING DATE: May 31, 2022

Please note that we will notify only short-listed candidates for next step of selection. Applications and supporting material will not be returned to applicants.

Happy 43rd FSM Constitution Day

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 10th, 2022, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) formally celebrates forty-three (43) years of Constitutional Self-Government and the extension of peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity to all peoples and nations throughout the world. The FSM's stated values of peace, unity, and liberty remain upheld through the steadfast commitment of the Nation and its States in their promotion of respect and dignity for all people. The Micronesian canoe and its 607 islands, connected by the peaceful Pacific, is

prepared to endure any hardship, any challenge, and any weather, be it calm or storm, in its journey to provide for the continued sovereignty of its people.

“My dear fellow Micronesians,” His Excellency David W. Panuelo, ninth President of the FSM, said in a statement. “We are, each of us, strong through our diversity, resilient through our unity, and compassionate through our respect for others as well as ourselves. Happy 43rd FSM Constitution Day, my fellow Micronesians. God bless you, and God bless the Federated States of Micronesia.”

The Republic of the Marshall Islands becomes first Pacific island nation to publish fishing activity to Global Fishing Watch map

Global Fishing Watch commends the Republic of Marshall Islands' leadership toward fisheries transparency

Global Fishing Watch

KOROR, THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU - The Republic of the Marshall Islands has committed to sharing its vessel monitoring data on Global Fishing Watch's public map, bolstering ocean governance and promoting compliance throughout some of the world's richest fishing grounds. This momentous decision was announced on April 14, 2022 at the seventh Our Oceans Conference by the Honorable John M. Silk, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce for the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The declaration marks the first Pacific island nation to make its fishing activity visible to the world.

The partnership agreement was signed between the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) and Global Fishing Watch, symbolizing the two organizations' dedication to advancing transparency of fishing activities in the Pacific Islands region, home to the world's most productive tuna fisheries.

All vessels flying the Marshall Islands' flag and foreign vessels fishing in its fishery waters will appear on Global Fishing Watch's map through the integration of the government's vessel monitoring system (VMS) data. These vessels primarily target tropical tuna species of the Western and Central Pacific ocean, which hold environmental, economic and cultural significance across the region's island nations—around half of the world's tuna catch comes from these waters.

“There is real value in open data when it comes to monitoring the ocean,” said Glen Joseph, Director of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority. “By making its fishing activity visible on the Global Fishing Watch map, the Republic of the Marshall Islands is helping demonstrate compliance. We hope the data-led insights complement already existing monitoring, control and surveillance tools to validate what is being reported by flag States and strengthen the way fisheries are managed.”

Continued on next page



...Global Fishing Watch

Continued from previous page

“Global Fishing Watch is honored to be partnering with the Marshall Islands to build greater transparency of fishing activity in the Pacific,” said Tony Long, chief executive officer of Global Fishing Watch. “This progressive decision will help facilitate accountability and good behavior in the region and support a more sustainable future by strengthening fisheries monitoring.”

“Our partnership with Global Fishing Watch is an important element of our regional commitment to combat IUU fishing,” said the Honorable John Silk, Minister for Natural Resources and Commerce, Republic of the Marshall Islands. “In 2018, Marshall Islands’ President Hilda Heine set out a bold vision of an IUU-free Pacific by 2023. Other Micronesian presidents signed onto that challenge the following year. To achieve this ambitious goal, we must

harness innovative technologies to protect our marine resources and the livelihoods of Pacific people.”

Global Fishing Watch uses publicly broadcast automatic identification system data to track close to 70,000 commercial fishing vessels operating globally. Adding VMS data, which is required by many governments, provides an even clearer view of global fishing activity. The data can assist fishers abiding by the rules through faster, more efficient port entry and provide opportunities to implement regulatory and market incentives to reward them.

A country of coral islands and atolls spread out over 750,000 square miles (1.94 million square kilometers) of ocean between Hawaii and the Philippines, the Marshall Islands relies heavily on revenue from the tuna industry—well over one-third of the government’s domestic revenue comes from the tuna sector.

As a member of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and one of eight Parties to the Nauru

Agreement, this independent small island developing State recognizes the importance of collaboration to secure sustainable fisheries. Enhanced monitoring and regional solidarity across FFA’s 17 Members has led to a decrease in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing throughout the Pacific, according to a recent quantification study which, in part, used Global Fishing Watch data to examine vessel activity throughout the region’s waters.

MIMRA’s fisheries MCS systems are state-of-the-art, and are backed by the resources of the FFA’s Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre. Their monitoring systems build on an innovative management approach used by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement that caps regional fishing activity to support conservation and economic goals. With Global Fishing Watch now available to support and complement existing efforts, the Marshall Islands is taking the next step toward embracing fisheries transparency.

“Transparency can help vessel

operators publicly demonstrate compliance and show their commitment to implementing relevant conservation measures,” added Tony Long. “We believe the Marshall Islands’ pioneering leadership will encourage other Pacific nations, as well as industry stakeholders, to embrace transparency in support of enhanced ocean governance.”

The Marshall Islands joins a growing group of countries that are already publicly sharing their VMS data through Global Fishing Watch, including Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. Transparency of its fishing activity demonstrates the Marshall Islands’ steadfast commitment towards compliance and will help amplify management and coordination efforts undertaken by the FFA. Global Fishing Watch’s international program to advance ocean governance through greater transparency is made possible with the generous support of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Opinion Editorial

We stand with Ukraine

A statement by the Ambassadors of Australia and Japan and the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States to the Federated States of Micronesia

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine is a gross violation of international law and an attack on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Russia's full scale invasion has created a humanitarian catastrophe resulting in the death of civilians and creating the fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II.

The international community needs to take a firm stand.

On 25 February 2022, FSM President HE David W. Panuelo said: "The FSM condemns the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine and the unjustified and brutal assault on its people and territory, which our country recognizes as unambiguously villainous and holds in the highest form of contempt...The FSM condemns any actions which threaten global peace and stability and the rules-based international order."

Australia, Japan and the United States stand strongly with the Federated States of Micronesia and other Pacific Island countries in condemning in the strongest possible terms Russia's brutal and inhumane war against Ukraine.

All four of our countries demonstrated this by supporting three United Nations General Assembly resolutions against the invasion.

Australia, Japan and the US condemn atrocities committed by Russia's forces in the strongest possible terms and are contributing to the humanitarian response in Ukraine. We, and the world, must support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We call on Russia to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukrainian territory, consistent with the decision of the International Court of Justice on 16 March.

Russian aggression is not only a security threat to Europe but also to the international order and global peace.

While Ukraine is geographically distant



from our Blue Pacific, the values and norms being undermined by Russia's aggression go to the heart of our national, regional and global security.

We know that huge efforts and sacrifices have been paid in modern history - particularly in the Pacific - to achieve the existing rules-based world order.

We are working with international partners to support Ukraine and its people by providing humanitarian support. The far-reaching sanctions imposed by members of the international community, including Australia, Japan and the US, inflict heavy costs on those in Russia and Belarus who bear responsibility or hold levers of power. We are not turning against the Russian people. The Russian people need to know the truth about this unjustified war that is taking the lives of their soldiers. The sanctions aim to spare the Russian population to the extent possible. For example, humanitarian goods such as medicine and food are not subject to sanctions.

In times of crisis, the truth is often one of the first casualties. Russia's war against Ukraine has also become a war of words where disinformation is widespread and difficult to identify. Australia, Japan and the US are committed to fact-based communication and calling out Russia's lies.

Australia, Japan and the US reaffirm their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. We support openness, the rule of law and the right of all countries large and small to pursue their national interests free of coercion.

HE Jo Cowley, Ambassador of Australia
HE Michigami Hisashi, Ambassador of Japan
Mr Benjamin Dille, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States

PIF statement to mark 40th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

03 May 2022

Suva, Fiji-With law of the sea critical to the prosperity and security of the Blue Pacific, the Pacific Islands Forum has delivered a statement to a high-level United Nations General Assembly event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the UNCLOS.

Delivering a statement on behalf of the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Tuvalu's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Samuelu Laloni, spoke to the critical role UNCLOS plays as the Constitution for the oceans and recalled the historic negotiations and adoption of UNCLOS – one of the most comprehensive and successful environmental diplomatic efforts of the 20th century.

"As guardians of the largest part of the Ocean, we are proud and strong defenders of UNCLOS as the legal order for the world's oceans and seas. UNCLOS is the backbone that upholds legal certainty, stability, security, and predictability for our island nations."

Owing to UNCLOS, the Blue Pacific enjoys its status as large ocean states covering territories with a combined

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of close to 40 million square kilometres, which is more than the combined size of Russia, China, the US, and the EU.

"UNCLOS has continued to shape our vision and goals for the region, including through the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, the 2010 Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, the Blue Pacific narrative, and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent which Pacific Leaders will consider this year."

With climate change the single greatest threat to the Blue Pacific region, the statement highlights the 2021 Forum Leaders' Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level Rise, which upholds the supremacy of UNCLOS and calls on States Parties to join the Pacific Islands Forum in adopting similar regional and national practices.

The Pacific Islands Forum calls on States who have not done so to ratify UNCLOS, which continues to inspire and pave the way for collective leadership and solutions on present and future challenges and opportunities for our home, our one Blue Planet.

Salute to Pohnpei's Captain Semens

US Veterans of Pohnpei Association

May 4, 2022

USVPA would like to recognize and thank Captain Frank Semens for paving the way for many Pohnpeians to join the US Armed Forces.

His leadership and mentoring of young people on Pohnpei as a Chief of Police, pointing many Pohnpeians towards education and joining the military. He was also one of the few veterans at that time that advanced the idea to form an organization to take care of those who have served in the military. Today, that organization is transformed to USVPA.

We salute Captain Semens in his outstanding and exceptional achievement while serving in the US military and Pohnpei State Government.

Your outstanding contribution will never be forgotten.

As we set aside this month to honor and thank our veterans and their families on our Family Day and also honor and recognize those who have died for freedom during Memorial Day, we will never forget you and others who took the form of readiness to die for a greater cause.



Let me end with this perfect quote for all veterans to contemplate and ponder: "it's better to fight for something in life than to die for nothing."

God bless the families and friends of Captain Semens.

Thank you for sharing the story of Captain Semens.

World Bank assistance to boost access to jobs and training in the FSM

US\$17.7 million project to create new national academy and increase access to training and employment for thousands of Micronesians

The World Bank

May 4, 2022

WASHINGTON – Access to quality vocational and skills training for job seekers in Micronesia will receive a significant boost under a newly approved World Bank Project. The US\$17.7 million Skills and Employability Enhancement Project will address a lack of access to technical and vocational training and improve the employability and opportunities for job-seeking Micronesians, including through the establishment of a new national institution, the FSM Skills Academy.

Unemployment remains high in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), particularly among young people, and job seekers frequently migrate to other countries for work, especially to the United States. To address the lack of opportunities and skills gaps among job seekers, the project will directly address key challenges facing the technical and

vocational training sector in the country. “We are proud to be supporting the government of FSM to unlock the full potential of Micronesian technical and vocational skills graduates through our new skills and employment project,” said Degi Young, World Bank Resident Representative for the Federated States of Micronesia. “The project will have an immense benefit for job seekers and educators, but I am very pleased that it will also see around 4,000 high school age Micronesians have their opportunities expanded including those from outer-islands and students with disabilities.”

The project includes direct financial support to students for living allowances and travel or relocations costs, grants to vocational institutions and information campaigns on educational opportunities for outer-island and low-income families.

It will also focus on the quality of

training available by supporting the government to establish the new FSM Skills Academy, assist with curriculum development and improve training and support for educators so students get better outcomes from their skills education.

“We welcome this new assistance from the World Bank. The government has worked with the World Bank on project design, using cutting edge evidence of ‘what works’ in skills development and employment interventions elsewhere in the world,” said Gardenia Aisek, Secretary of the FSM Department of Education. “Strong government involvement and input has brought FSM’s unique context together with this expertise for long-term solutions for our employment and education system.”

The project employs a ‘full-scale’ approach that proceeds all the way through to job placement. This will be achieved through improvements to

labor market information and job search assistance services.

“We are pleased to see this project responds directly to the needs of the FSM labor market while ensuring benefits and access to education will reach all of those seeking to further their skills and find employment,” said Hon. Eugene Amor, Secretary Department of Finance & Administration. “The focus on women and girls entering the labor market and performance grants for FSM’s technical and vocational institutions are a positive step for the sector and we look forward to seeing the project roll out.”

The project also includes an option for the government to reallocate project resources in the event of an emergency or natural disasters, ensuring FSM can quickly and effectively respond to crises and disasters when they occur.

World Bank to support disaster protection for Marshall Islands’ Urban Communities

New US\$30 million project will improve climate resilience and safety of densely populated urban areas in the country

The World Bank

May 3, 2022

WASHINGTON– The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors has approved a new project to strengthen the climate resilience, safety, and livability of urban areas of the Marshall Islands.

The US\$30 million Republic of the Marshall Islands Urban Resilience Project includes support for more climate resilient public facilities and urban spaces, and assistance for climate adaptation planning and policies. The project also includes the construction of coastal protection including sea walls, dikes and embankments, to protect important infrastructure in the capital, Majuro.

Marshall Islands’ urban centers are some of the most densely populated areas in the Pacific, and internal

migration from outer islands has only intensified over the past 30 years. This rapid urbanization and growth exacerbate risks to climate change and natural hazards and requires more risk-informed urban planning and regulations. This is a particularly serious concern in the low-lying atoll nation that is already highly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, tropical storms, typhoons, and prolonged droughts.

“As people continue to move to our country’s urban centers, there is increasing pressure on our efforts to ensure there is appropriate housing, urban infrastructure and services,” said Hon. Jiba Kabua, Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities. “We recognize the need to address these planning issues by improving urban resilience at the building, neighborhood and island levels, and welcome this new World Bank support to address these

serious risks to urban communities.”

The project will invest in more resilient and sustainable public facilities to act as demonstration projects for future developments. This will include the construction of more climate resilient government buildings in Majuro which will play an important role in supporting government services during natural disasters.

“We are pleased to be supporting the Government of the Marshall Islands through this new project that will also provide analysis of current and future climate related risks to people, housing and infrastructure,” said Degi Young, the World Bank’s Resident Representative for the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. “We are also proud that this builds on the World Bank’s climate adaptation support for the country through existing projects

including the Pacific Resilience Project and our work on mapping the impacts of sea level rise and adaptation options for Marshall Islands through our recent Atoll Study.”

Throughout the urban planning improvements and coastal resilience measures to improve protection from storm surges and sea level rise, the project will maintain a focus on outreach and consultation with communities.

“When making local level improvements to land planning, the strong participation of local communities, landowners, public authorities and the private sector is vital,” said Degi Young. “We have worked with the government to ensure consultation is front and center in this work, which will ultimately improve the quality and safety of urban communities.”

Pacifical partners ask tuna fishing companies to adopt the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS)

April 28th, 2022

Pacifical partners call for the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS) to be adopted in their MSC tuna supply chain. Retailers and brand owners, sourcing MSC tuna from the Pacific, are aware that labor conditions in wild capture fisheries, such as tuna, are difficult to observe and monitor, due to the remote nature of their workplace. The RFVS certification can play an important role in providing assurances for crew members and their families, but also to End of Chain tuna buyers.

The potential for workers in the fishing industry to be exposed to exploitation, due to the challenging environment of working at sea, is a reality. In some instances, there could be inadequate living facilities onboard the vessels, physically dangerous working conditions, lack of safety equipment, excessive working hours and low wages.

The RFVS specifically focuses on ensuring the crew's rights, their welfare and safety on board and provides comprehensive assurances of vessel best management practices from catch to shore. The standard was developed to be in alignment with International Labor Organization (ILO) C188, the fundamental ILO labor conventions, as well as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN International Marine Organization (IMO).

The RFVS is offered by the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA). The RFVS is not an industry based social accountability standard, but rather a one designed through a global multi stakeholder engagement process. Developed in line with ISO 17065 requirements to ensure that impartial, robust, and credible certification decisions are made by independent certification bodies. It is also the first vessel standard program to apply for the new SCCI At-Sea Operations Benchmark.

Pacifical partners, including Simplot Australia, producers of John West Tuna products, are backing the move to have vessels adopt the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS) in the Western

Pacific region. Simplot sources 100% Marine Stewardship Council certified skipjack tuna, from the waters of the PNA Pacifical Island nations. Graham Dugdale, Managing Director Simplot Australia, said, "Ensuring that our John West tuna products are responsibly sourced is of paramount importance to our business. This extends beyond the way fish are caught, it runs through the entire supply chain and includes protecting the human rights of the people working on fishing vessels."

"Knowing that fair working and living conditions are undertaken on board these vessels is vital and integral to our business values. We are committed to increasing our visibility of human rights, enhancing practices and remediating any issues that we may find."

The PNA nation's observers bring an extra dimension to social accountability on board. They are their eyes and ears on board of purse seiner vessels. Daily, they monitor and report on everything that happens on the boat, including living and working conditions. These observations will assist in continuously monitoring compliance with the RFVS program.

"Without these crews and observers hard work we would not have any sustainable tuna. So ensuring their daily well-being is fundamental to us all. The RFVS governance is a further evolution of the already robust practices that we have in place across our Pacifical supply chain. With our fishing partners we will work closely together to further improve on-board practices and conditions" says Henk Brus, Chief Executive Officer at Pacifical.

Working under one social standard within PNA waters brings several benefits for Pacifical's fishing partners. The social accountability criteria will be clear for all crew, captains and fishing masters, the management staff and human resources department. Social accountability claims will be independently verified onboard, on a trip-to-trip basis. Default and simplified independent verification processes will replace the self-assessment protocols currently in place.

The FSM joins like-minded countries, in signing a Declaration for the Future of the Internet

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On April 28th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—signed the Declaration for the Future of the Internet. In this regard, the FSM joins more than fifty-five (55) other like-minded nations, including the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Members of the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine—to affirm a collective "commitment to promote and sustain an internet that is open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure, and to ensure that the internet reinforces democratic principles and human rights and fundamental freedoms; offers opportunities for collaborative research and commerce; is developed, governed, and deployed in an inclusive way so that unserved and underserved communities, particularly those coming online the first time, can navigate it safely and with personal data privacy and protections in place; and is governed by multistakeholder processes."

In short, the FSM joins like-minded countries in ensuring "an internet that can deliver on the promise of connecting humankind and helping societies and democracies to thrive."

The non-binding Declaration describes that its signatories will protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principles of the rule of law, legitimate purpose, non-arbitrariness, effective oversight, and transparency, both online and offline, as well as calling upon others to do the same.

The Declaration describes that its signatories will refrain from Government-imposed internet shutdowns or degrading domestic internet access, either entirely or partially, and refrain from blocking or degrading access to lawful content, services, and applications on the internet, consistent with the principles of Net Neutrality as subject to applicable law, including international human rights law.

The Declaration describes that its signatories promote an inclusive and affordable access to the internet,

including supporting digital literacy, skills acquisition, and development so that individuals can overcome the digital divide, participate in the internet safely, and realize the economic and social potential of the digital economy.

Additionally, and relevant to the FSM, the Declaration describes that its signatories will work together to combat cybercrime, including cyber-enabled crime, and deter malicious cyber activity. Signatories will protect individuals' privacy and personal data, the confidentiality of electronic communications and information on end-users' electronic devices, as well as promote the protection of consumers from online scams and other unfair practices. Signatories will promote and use trustworthy network infrastructure and service suppliers, relying on risk-based assessments that include technical and non-technical factors for network security, and refrain from using the internet to undermine electoral infrastructure, elections, and political processes, including through covert information manipulation campaigns.

"The FSM is committed to human rights and the rules-based international order," President Panuelo said in a statement. "Access to the internet is a human right, and all citizens, residents, and visitors in the FSM have the right to access lawful content. The FSM National Government supports the principles and details of the Declaration for the Future of the Internet, including the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, promoting a global internet, ensuring inclusive and affordable access to the internet, bestowing trust in the digital ecosystem, and ensuring multistakeholder internet governance. The FSM is committed towards using the internet for the democratization of knowledge, and not the dissemination of disinformation and misinformation from scam-seekers and malign state actors. The FSM believes that the principles for the future of the internet are universal in nature, and our Nation invites those who share this vision to affirm these principles and join us in its implementation."

The Declaration for the Future of the Internet can be found here: https://gov.fm/files/Declaration_for_the_Future_for_the_Internet_FINAL_20220425.pdf

President Panuelo discusses FSM & regional security with Commanding General of United States Army Pacific

FSM Information Services

HONOLULU, Hawaii—On May 7th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with Charles A. Flynn, Commanding General of United States Army Pacific. Immediately prior to their meeting, President Panuelo and General Flynn met with FSM citizens from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae who serve in the U.S. Army and other branches and services under the U.S. Armed Forces.

Over the course of their in-depth conversation, President Panuelo described some of the FSM’s perspectives on national, regional, and global security, including on topics like Climate Change (the FSM’s single-most existential security risk) and geopolitical competition across the Indo-Pacific.

President Panuelo, for his part, reiterated and detailed the FSM’s continuing commitment to ensuring a Free & Open Indo-Pacific as part of the broader Indo-Pacific Strategy, inclusive of partnership with the United States of America, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and other like-minded countries who have an interest in strengthening and maintaining the rules-based international order and the rule of law. General Flynn, for his part, described various tools and processes for the U.S. Army to assist the FSM in achieving its development and security objectives.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with President Panuelo and his delegation walking away confident in the knowledge that the FSM-U.S. Enduring Partnership continues to be the Nation’s most essential relationship.



Prioritising mental health, selfcare, wellbeing and safety at work: an ethical imperative

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

28 April 2022

Noumea/Suva - April 28th is the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, and the Pacific Community (SPC) is commemorating this day by organising and launching a series of advocacy tools including selfcare journals, e-cards, and “3min Pacific break” videos that contribute to physical, mental and psychosocial well-being at the Workplace.

While this World Day is observed to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally, SPC is using this as an opportunity to promote and create awareness on having a safe and healthy workplace- it serves as a reminder of the importance of looking after our wellbeing and to prioritise safety at work, in alignment with our Social and Environmental



Responsibility policy.

The COVID-19 pandemic had wide ranging impacts on health, economy, livelihoods, jobs, and education; it has increased peoples’ anxiety, and stress levels thus affecting relationships and interactions at personal but also at organisational levels. As an Organisation SPC is committed to implementing preventive and response measures to better support our staff especially during the Pandemic when staff were working remotely.

SPC’s Director of Public Health, Dr Berlin Kafoa, stressed the importance of the effort saying, “The pandemic has placed an increasing strain on everyone especially those who are struggling to cope with physical or mental health related issues. Our responsibility to SPC staff and their families is to ensure they have adequate support to access the help they need.”.

Looking after our physical and mental health, wellbeing and prioritising safety at work involve decisions that people make for themselves and for those they work with to get and stay both physically and mentally fit, and to ensure safety in the workplace. As a way to promote these ideas, SPC marked World Day for Safety and Health through a range of activities, including:

- A Safety walk

- The Launch of the “Selfcare Journal”
- The Launch of the “3 min Pacific break” videos
- An Exhibition of artworks (paintings, poems, comics, and e-cards).
- Several Wellbeing booths (e.g., sports/physical activity, arts, and music therapy)

Dr Paula Vivili, SPC’s Deputy Director-General (Science and Capability) in Suva highlighted the connection between mental and physical health, “Looking after our mental health, wellbeing, and prioritising safety at work is vital for our organisation. We are committed to supporting our staff. The observance of this day is our way of keeping a check of our mental health and wellbeing but taking serious steps in ensuring that Occupational safety and health (OHS) risks are reduced in the workplace, and we are moving towards building a strong, safe, and healthy work culture”. The events, products and activities of the World Day for Safety and Health at work were made possible with the support of the European Union (EU), and was organised by the One SPC team.

FSM repatriation flights scheduled for May 9th & 23rd in Kosrae, May 11th & 30th for Chuuk, May 14th & 25th for Pohnpei, and May 11th for Yap

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The COVID-19 Task Force of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has announced the intended dates for regularly scheduled repatriation flights for the month of May, 2022.

For the State of Yap, it is the intention of the FSM and Yap State Task Forces to implement a repatriation flight from the U.S. Territory of Guam to Yap on May 11th.

For the State of Chuuk, it is the intention of the FSM and Chuuk State Task Forces to implement repatriation flights from Guam to Chuuk on May 11th and May 30th.

For the State of Pohnpei, it is the intention of the FSM and Pohnpei State Task Forces to implement repatriation flights from Guam to Pohnpei on May 14th and May 25th.

For the State of Kosrae, it is the intention of the FSM and Kosrae State Task Forces to implement repatriation flights from Guam to Kosrae on May 9th and May 23rd.

As of May 1st, 2022, the FSM's communities remain COVID-19 free. There is one case of COVID-19 in Pohnpei State, which was identified and isolated during the recent repatriation flight. There are five cases of COVID-19 in Kosrae State, which were similarly identified and isolated during its recent repatriation flight. It remains the intention of His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, to open the Nation's borders during the month of August, 2022, with returning persons to only require evidence of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and testing negative against it.

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and extremely effective at preventing severe disease and death. There are enough vaccines in the FSM for every citizen and resident. President Panuelo received his second booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on April 29th, 2022.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints- Islands Open House

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

May 9, 2022

We invite all to come tour the Yigo Guam Temple, newly built by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A Public Open House is currently underway with tours for all the public to participate.

An 'Islands Open House' throughout the Micronesia Islands and the Republic of Palau was hosted May 6th & 7th in Koror Topside, Palau; Colonia, Yap; Mwan, Chuuk; Panasang, Pohnpei; and Lelu, Kosrae with Chalan Kiya, Saipan being hosted this coming Fri. May 13th.

Saipan's 'Islands Open House' is Friday, May 13th from 6-8 pm.

The Guam Public Open House Continues through May 14, 2022, with times as follows:

Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m.-12 noon and 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon and 4:00-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Tour Reservations can be made here: [templeopenhouse.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/templeopenhouse)

Location: Corner of Marine Corps Drive and Milalak Drive Yigo, Guam 96929

Everyone is welcome to make a reservation for the Open House. Please invite others to do the same.

Photo gallery of the Yigo Guam Temple facts link. Temple video short link: <https://youtu.be/UZST5WBFmXo>

The Yigo Guam Temple opened their doors for local media and prominent officials Monday, May 2nd following a 10 a.m. News Conference with remarks from Elder John C. Pingree, a prominent leader of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Remarks were also given by Yigo Mayor Anthony P. Sanchez, followed by Ching Batimana, a multigenerational member of the Church. Elder John C. Pingree, Temple Assistant Executive Director; Elder James R. Rasband, First Counselor in the Asia North Presidency; and Elder John A. McCune, Second Counselor in the Asia North Area Presidency, were available for interviews following the media event.

That afternoon, prominent church leaders hosted temple tours for government leaders in small groups. Tuesday, interfaith leaders, and business leaders took their turn on tours. Among our honored guests were Governor Lou Leon

Guerrero, Lt Governor Joshua Tenorio, Senator V. Anthony Ada, Senator Telo Taitague, Senator James C. Moylan, and Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muna Barnes to name a few. Chris Taylor, Leonard Iriarte, Pramila Sullivan, and Benny Ng were among a variety of interfaith members that joined us for tours. Michelle Perez and Phyllis Leon Guerero with DISID, and Christine Baletto with DOCOMO joined the tours as well as many other business leaders.

The Yigo Guam Temple was announced October 7th, 2018, by Church president Russell M. Nelson with the groundbreaking on May 4, 2019. This is the 172nd temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to be built. It is the first temple in Guam and will serve 9,600 members of the Church in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Palau, and the islands of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The temple's entry, with tower above facing east, catches the morning rays of sunshine on the Moleanos, a Portuguese limestone which blends nicely with the beige stucco to give an aesthetic beauty. This temple adds another historic event to Guam's already extensive list.

The Temple architecture and design is inspired by the culture of Guam. The temple retains the essence of local vernacular with hints of proportions derived from the ancient latte stones found in the area. A latte is comprised of two stones—the shaft stone, called the "haligi," and the rounded capstone called the "tasa." Remnants of these latte stones come from the Chamorro culture, which was spread across Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

One highlight was an interfaith guest, Leonard Iriarte, who spoke of the Yigo Temple site as holy ground relating to his ancestors. He shared with us his Chamorro prayer which can be viewed below:

Chamorro Prayer chant by Leonard: <https://youtu.be/SO6HmntqBrg>

The temple will be dedicated on Sunday, May 22, 2022, in three sessions, 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. by Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, at which time it will be open to faithful members of the Church of Jesus Christ to participate in sacred ceremonies, such as eternal marriages, and proxy baptisms on behalf of deceased ancestors denied the opportunity of baptism while living. This beautifully constructed temple is dedicated to being the house of the Lord which makes it different than

the regular church meetinghouses. All are invited to attend the local meetinghouses of the Church of Jesus Christ Sundays.

We hope you will share in our excitement of having this beautiful structure in Guam and allow us to host a tour for you. Come feel of the peace and sacredness this temple offers.

"Every activity, every lesson, all we do in the Church, point to the Lord and His holy house." ~ President Russell M. Nelson.

"The Temple will be a beacon of light and of goodness; a way to shine light on God and His Son". ~ Elder John C. Pingree

"This Temple being placed here in Guam truly means a lot, not just to the members of the church, but to the people in general, because it's just shown now another sign of faith" ~ Tony Ada, Senator in the 36 Guam legislature

"This is a beautiful place here for our congregation of Guam and Micronesia, those that I call the blue continent and are here to worship to believe and to come together for our Heavenly Father for unity, for peace, and to love one another". ~ Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muna Barnes.

"I love the concept of the Temple that is all about family, the great thing I appreciate about that is because that is what our island of Guam is, too". ~ Senator James C. Moylan

"I had some very good inspirational and very good spiritual feelings especially when we went to the celestial room". ~ Governor Lou Leon Guerrero

"I'm very grateful that there is a Temple here for the members that have been here. This community started since after WWII, and I know that they have been waiting and waiting; to see them have access to this Temple here in Guam and Micronesia, I think is very special." Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio

"My visit also to the Temple helped give me a greater understanding about your faith". ~ Lt Governor Joshua Tenorio

"The feeling here, it is so good, I would say it is beyond words". ~ Buddhist Benny Ng

"I grew up always seeing this temple property as sacred land" "I'm looking at this wonderful Temple here now and it feels to me like this sacred house of God will watch over this place, I believe that." Leonard Iriarte, Chamorro Host Culture

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.