

PICS alumnus is only Pohnpeian of 3000 participants in international NATO Cyber Live-Fire Exercise “Locked Shields”

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 23, 2023

Pohnpei—Pohnpei native-born graduate of Pohnpei Islands Central School, and alumnus of the Pohnpei Upward Bound program, Augusto (Gus) Sarino was recently a participating member in the NATO Cyber Live-Fire exercise, “Locked Shields”. He says that though in the Information Technology (IT) realm, and especially the professional ethical hackers’ realm, there were other Micronesian participants from Guam and Saipan, he was the only one with an FSM, and specifically, Pohnpeian heritage.

Information Systems Security Management from Saint Leo University. Although he started with the U.S. Armed Forces in the Army, he retired from the Navy after 20 years of service in June of 2010. He is a veteran of both Gulf Wars and also served in Afghanistan. While in the service, he was decorated with a Navy Commendation Medal and both a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. His IT certifications are, Sec+, CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker), Certified Network Forensic Analyst, Certified Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI), eLearning security Certified Professional Penetration Tester (eCPPT), Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP).

Sarino is originally from Ipwitek, Madolenihmw. He graduated cum laude with an MBA with a concentration in

Sarino is currently employed by the Defense Information System Agency (DISA), the premier cyber, cloud, and

Network operators for Department of Defense Agencies. His current role there is Information Systems Security Officer for the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). He is responsible for ensuring that PKI infrastructure is secured from threats of compromise both from within and from the outside. He said that some of the critical agencies his team is responsible for are the White House, the Pentagon, and all of the military branches of the U.S. Armed Services.

“The annual exercise, organized by the NATO CCDCOE (North Atlantic Treaty Alliance Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence) since 2010, enables cyber security experts to enhance their skills in defending national IT systems and critical



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Australians in FSM commemorate ANZAC Day in Kangaroo Court dawn ceremony

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 25, 2023

Pohnpei, FSM—“Today, we do not glorify war. Today, we hope for peace. Lest we forget our commitment to peace,” said Lt. Commander Nigel Williams during his opening words at the ANZAC Day Commemoration early this morning at the Kangaroo Court in Pohnpei which began at 5:30 AM.

The first commemorative event of Anzac Day is the Dawn Service at 4.30 AM. This is about the time men of the ANZAC approached the Gallipoli beach. However, the origin is the traditional ‘stand-to’, in which troops would be woken so that by the first rays of dawn they were in position and alert. The first official Dawn Service was held at Sydney’s Cenotaph in 1928. The simple ceremony was for veterans to assemble before dawn for a ‘stand-to’ and two minutes of silence.

Many communities follow the dawn service with a ‘traditional’ gunfire breakfast, and this morning’s commemoration was no exception. ‘Gunfire’ is a British tradition and was the



usual term for the early cup of tea served out to troops in the morning before going on first parade, whenever possible. In the War [WWI], recruits in training always had ‘Gun Fire’ supplied to them, the work before breakfast being found particularly trying. The morning gun in a garrison town suggested the name,

probably. The ‘gunfire breakfast’ seems to have evolved from the above, and comprises whatever is available at the time—it could be ‘coffee and

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Two men charged with the murder of Filipino migrant worker in Kosrae

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 25, 2023

Kosrae—Two men have been arrested and charged in Kosrae for the murder of Geovani Ogurida, a long-time migrant worker from the Philippines murdered in the early morning hours of April 6, 2023, in the home where he was staying in Srungansralu, Lelu Municipality.

According to the sworn affidavit of Detective Thomas Charley of the Kosrae Police Department, at around 10:00 on the morning of April 6, he, along with several other officers, responded to a call from Mrs. Sepe Obeth. Obeth had told the police that Ogurida had been tied up and was lying on the ground in his room. "Upon my arrival at the incident scene, the deceased subject was laying there motionless, facial – nose and mouth were tied up with pieces of clothes and I can hardly identify the deceased subject at the time," Charley's affidavit said.

After conducting an investigation and gathering facts on the matter, Kosrae Police Officers arrested Marcus Jr M. Nena of Tofol, Lelu Municipality. According to the affidavit, Nena voluntarily and in writing, waived his rights. On questioning, he confessed to the crime, and in his written confession also said that it was carried out by him and Defendant Kiosi Hadley.

On April 8, prosecutors of Kosrae's Office of the Attorney General filed charges, accusing the two men of a total of seven criminal charges. The first of the charges was for criminal trespass for allegedly entering Ogurida's residence at approximately 1:40 in the morning. The second was for aggravated assault for allegedly beating the victim with a dangerous weapon. The third charge was for voluntary manslaughter for "taking the life of another human being, namely Geovani Ogurida, by tying up his legs and covering up his mouth and nose and beating, hitting, and kicking him..." causing his death. The fourth charge was for murder which involves "malice aforethought" or premeditation in the killing. The fifth charge was for burglary. They were also charged with burglary for allegedly stealing Ogurida's personal property with the intent to convert it to one's personal use. The final charge was assault and battery.

Nena and Hadley are presumed innocent unless the prosecution proves in court beyond a shadow of a doubt that they committed the crimes of which they are accused.

Mr. Luciano Abraham heads the Department of Land

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

April 13, 2023

Peilapalap, Pohnpei—Mr. Luciano D. Abraham was sworn in by Pohnpei State Supreme Court Associate Judge Robert Nakasone in the Governor's conference room as Mrs. Nanette A. Hallens, Director Abraham's daughter, held the Bible.

After the oath of administration, Director Abraham delivered remarks conveying his appreciation to Governor Oliver, Acting Governor Ioanis, Speaker Yamaguchi, and the 10th Pohnpei Legislature for the nomination and confirmation as Director. He also thanked the Acting Director of Land, Wallet Elias, and the Department of Land employees for their work. Director Abraham underscored the importance of land in Pohnpeian culture while acknowledging the backlog of work that still exists. He presented a solution that includes computerizing land records for efficiency and to ensure they are not lost in a fire as court records were in 2019. Director Abraham also spoke of the work ethic he expects from his employees, calling attention to the importance of training and pledged to do his best as Director. He closed by sharing that he went to Genesis Hospital for a health check-up to ensure that he can meet the demands of his position as Director and received a positive response.

Speaker Marvin T. Yamaguchi presented a certificate of appointment to Director Abraham after being sworn in and IsoNahnken of Madolenihmw, Administrator of the Office of Transportation and Administration, John Adolph presented congratulatory remarks on behalf of the Acting Governor.

The brief ceremony was well attended by family members and employees from the Department of Land. Pwoud Lepen Palikir, Mr. Wilbur Walter, attended along with Senators from the 10th Pohnpei Legislature including Senator Mitaro Simina who delivered the opening prayer, Senator Ricky Carl, Senator Dahker Daniel, and Senator Wilfred Edmund.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:**

May 10, 2023

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

Monday, May 8, 2023

Not a clam “bake” but a clam smoke in Madolenihmw

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 14, 2023

Madolenihmw, Pohnpei—This morning the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP Micronesia) sponsored a demonstration of clam smoking for local interested local residents and farmers of Madolenihmw. The demonstration was part of a Pacific American Fund of USAID-funded project for capacity building and food security, specifically involving the sustainable raising, propagation, and potential commercial use of giant clams.

Once giant clams were abundant in Pohnpei’s waters, but for a variety of reasons, including overharvesting, the population significantly declined, not quite to the point of extinction, but very close to it. MERIP, in partnership with USAID, has been working to change that.

MERIP contracted Dr. Kevin L. Rhodes, MarAlliance Coastal Fisheries

Coordinator of Pacific Marine Science and Conservation to give the demonstration. More than 50 people crowded under the shelter at the MERIP facilities in Madolenihmw as Dr. Rhodes explained the process.

Dr. Rhodes explained that before smoking, the clams need to be boiled in order to fully cook them before the smoking process. Though he did not use any for the demonstration, he explained about various marinades that could be used, saying also that particular marinades or even preparation processes could be revised according to taste.

He said that though clams could be prepared solely by smoking, his experimentation on that process left an undesirable, tough and dry end product. Unlike tough cuts of beef like brisket and ribs that benefit from long, slow smoking at low heat in order to break down the tough fibers, he found that clams merely dried out.

Rhodes used a rudimentary but effective home-built “smoker” for his demonstration and explained how to build one. It consisted of a locally sourced barrel that had not been used for petroleum products and that had been thoroughly cleaned. He had the bottom of the barrel cut out as the platform for charcoal briquets and soaked hardwood. Though he used a variety of imported hardwoods such as cherry, apple, and hickory, local hardwood can also be used, providing a variety of tastes. Woods like Mahogany, mangrove woods, ironwood, and any citrus trees such as limes, or oranges can also be used to great effect and are locally available.

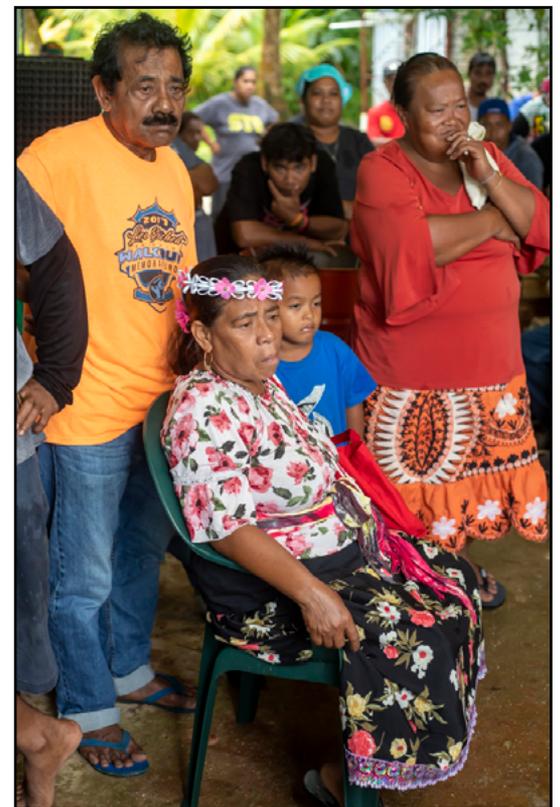
In the low middle of the smoker, he had used the former top of the barrel as a diffuser for the smoke. In it, he had drilled holes to allow the smoke to rise to the smoking platform, a cooking screen where the meat is placed to smoke. The diffuser was supported by two pieces of rebar inserted through drilled holes. At the bottom of the barrel, he had cut an

access panel into the side of the barrel to allow for air circulation. He adjusted the circulation on a rudimentary level by blocking the vent with concrete blocks. After the flame is lit on the cut-out bottom of the barrel and smoke has begun to rise from the cut-out bottom of the barrel, the barrel was lifted to cover the charcoal platform and allowed to smoke for a bit longer.

Bamboo skewers were used for the clam pieces before smoking to ensure that they didn’t fall through the cooking grate.

After approximately 12 minutes of smoking, Dr. Rhodes passed the skewers around for tasting. For the most part, the reaction to the taste test was positive, though one attendee immediately opined that they were overcooked. Dr. Rhodes reminded them that experimentation and adaptation to suit individual tastes were part of the goal of the demonstration.

#PacificAmericanFund #USAID #USAIDPacificIslands



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...“Locked Shields”

Continued from front page

infrastructure under real-time attacks,” the CCDCOE press release on the event says. “The focus is on realistic scenarios, cutting-edge technologies, and simulating the entire complexity of a massive cyber incident, including strategic decision-making, legal and communication aspects.”

The exercise, which took place in Tallinn, Estonia from May 11-21, is a Red Team vs. Blue Team exercise. Blue teams are formed by the 38 member nations of CCDCOE, a total of 24 teams and 3000 participants. Last year’s exercise saw the Finnish team ranked as the most effective of the teams. This year, the joint Sweden-Iceland team took that honor, followed by a joint Estonia-USA team and the Polish team.

Though the event was based in Estonia, Sarino and the U.S. members of the Estonia-USA participated physically from the Army band facility in Morgantown, West Virginia. The United States team Sarino was a part of did not place in the top three.

Sarino did not say what this year’s scenario was, but as an example, during the 2022 event, the scenario was the fictional island country of Berylia, located in the Northern Atlantic Ocean. The fictional country is experiencing a deteriorating security situation as there have been a number of coordinated cyberattacks against Berylian military and civilian IT systems. These attacks have caused severe disruptions to the operation of government and military networks, communications, water purification systems, and electric power grids, leading to public unrest and protests.

This was Sarino’s first time to participate in “Locked Shields”. He served as the Linux Team leader, meaning that his team dealt with issues involving the Linux operating system. He said that his was a Tier 2 team, meaning that when the four members of the Tier 1 team faced an issue it could not resolve, the matter was sent to Tier 2 to try to mitigate them. If his team could not mitigate the issue, it would be escalated to Tier 3.

“My role was to make sure we can baseline the assets, then run a hardening script to make sure our assets are hardened before the red team (acting as the Nation-state actors) exploits our environment,” Sarino said.

“Not to brag, but my team did an awesome



job,” he said. “I had some very smart team members that when I instructed them to come up with bash scripts or python scripts to close out the vulnerability in the Linux systems, they were able to execute plans

according to our TTPs (tactics, techniques, and procedures) the executions were on point. Unfortunately, the U.S. Blue Team (BT22) did not make the top 3 winners.”

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Experts meet with Governor Oliver

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

April 6, 2023

Peilapalap, Pohnpei—Governor Oliver received Mr. Rodger Gardner USAID Country Coordinator, Micronesia who introduced experts from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who are on the island to look at Pohnpei State water systems.



by Ms. Jamerson was the replacement of the water tank in Dolonier, Nett.

Mr. Gardner introduced Ms. Angela Sandoval from the US EPA Region 9, based in Guam, who works in the FSM, RMI, and Palau with local governments to identify possible environmental hazards that need to be removed in addition to providing technical expertise for compact projects involving water and sanitation. Mr. Barry Pollack, a retired U.S. EPA employee is assisting Ms. Sandoval in providing consulting services and assisting governments to resolve environmental issues.

Also accompanying Ms. Sandoval and Mr. Pollack was Ms. Susan Jamerson, who works with the U.S. EPA as a contractor. She explained to Governor Oliver that she is assisting Pohnpei State along with Ms. Sandoval and Mr. Pollack, specifically Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) to identify funding sources for water system projects. One priority water project mentioned

The team of experts expressed their appreciation for working with PUC and Pohnpei’s EPA on water systems, plans, challenges, and funding solutions. They noted that Mr. Leeronson Hairens from PUC was very helpful in helping them understand Pohnpei’s water system plans and challenges. On behalf of the Pohnpei State Government, Governor Oliver thanked Mr. Gardner, the team of experts from EPA, and the U.S. Government for their support to PUC and EPA on water and environmental issues in Pohnpei and looked forward to further updates and outcomes of projects.

Also joining Governor Oliver was Environmental Protection Agency Executive Officer, Mr. Francisco Celestine, Overseas Development Coordinator, Ms. Shirley Ann Ligoir, and PUC Water Manager Leeronson Hairens.

Micronesia Conservation Trust celebrates USAID award through launch of, “Building Community and Ecosystem Resilience through Gender-focused, Nature-based Solutions” project

Micronesia Conservation Trust

March 28, 2023

Pohnpei—On March 28, 2023, The U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires, Alissa Bibb, presented a US\$957,465 award from the USAID Pacific American Fund, to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). The grant will support targeted local women groups’ active participation in nature-based conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap.

FSM Congress member-elect, Dr. Merlynn Abello-Alfonso honored MCT and invitees with her presence at the launch event, delivering her keynote remarks, along with the President of Pohnpei Women’s Council, Mrs. Emy Musrasrik-Carl, who expressed her strong support for the project. Notable participants from various government offices, NGOs, high-ranking traditional leaders, and representatives of the women’s groups that will be part of the project, attended the event as well.

Supported by the Pacific American Fund, the Micronesia Conservation Trust is working with long-time partners, The Nature Conservancy and Rare on implementing the project, “Building Community and Ecosystem Resilience

through Gender-focused Nature-based Solutions”.

Through this PAF grant, the local women’s groups will come together to learn, network, and hold discussions on implementing nature-based solutions to adapt to climate change and improve their communities’ livelihoods.

Throughout the two year-project period, MCT, TNC, and Rare will work closely not only with the local women’s groups, but also with the community leaders and members.

With TNC’s exceptional track record of conservation success in Micronesia and Rare’s long experience in applying behavioral science to community-

based conservation, this USAID Pacific American Fund project will build on the NBS workshop series project piloted in Yap, FSM in 2020. The grant will allow partners to scale the project to the states of Chuuk and Pohnpei, while strengthening and deepening the capacity of local women’s groups and community members in Yap.



Local NGO creates video project to empower women of the FSM

Micronesian Productions

April 21, 2023

Pohnpei, FSM - Micronesian Productions, a local NGO located in Pohnpei, has recently completed a project entitled, "FSM Courageous Women". This project, funded by the Government of Canada through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), was created with plans to encourage women and girls throughout the FSM to strive to achieve greatness regardless of their background by highlighting the stories of courageous women in FSM and using them as

examples of how to overcome the challenges that gender has given women in the FSM in the past.

Micronesian Productions traveled throughout the 4 FSM States and interviewed 6 women from each state. These women were selected by a committee of their peers who were thinking of women with empowering stories or backgrounds- women who were not necessarily fully educated or who came from wealthy families, but rather, women who had various struggles or hardships. The stories highlight women who, no matter the

circumstances, strived to make better lives for themselves and their families.

Each of the 24 women have their own 5-6 minute video to tell their story. Micronesian Productions began releasing the women's videos starting on March 8th 2023, in honor of International Women's Day, and will continue to release them throughout the month of April.

The videos are available on both Facebook and Micronesian Productions' YouTube pages. [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/MicroProduxn/videos)

[MicroProduxn/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@micronesiaproductions2780/videos)

<https://www.youtube.com/@micronesiaproductions2780/videos>

In addition to the videos, an e-book with their stories and pictures was created and is available in the link below. If you're not on Facebook or Youtube, or want to download a copy of these videos, they're all available on Google Drive through the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1edpq0-7WeJkms7961sEQ8FJG3AgHGwiE?usp=sharing_eil_se dm&ts=6445ac99





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30th Founding Day Highlights



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PERSONNEL AUDIT

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Request for Proposal

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President's Office

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Date Issued: April 7, 2023

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To be considered, all proposals are to be submitted in full electronically by the DEADLINE to the HR Director at rencelly@comfsm.edu.fm

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Forum Deputy Secretary gives address at FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security

April 18, 2023

Suva, Fiji—Excellencies, Senior Officials, Heads of CROP Agencies and Colleagues.

Bula Vinaka to you all, welcome to your Secretariat and thank you all for availing yourselves to attend the first meeting of the FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security for 2023.

Last year, our Leaders endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The 2050 Strategy provides the overarching blueprint to advance Pacific regionalism for the next three decades, articulating the region's long-term vision, values, and key thematic areas and strategic pathways.

2023 is a critical year for the Forum family as we continue works to unpack the 2050 Strategy and identify the types of changes we want to get the region to where we want to be in 2050.

This week, in particular, is important to these efforts as we have a number of subcommittee meetings and workshops convened in person as we work towards the development of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you Chair and Members of this Subcommittee for playing an active role in the development of the Implementation Plan. Your efforts, particularly in the

Peace and Security thematic area, are critical and I encourage you to continue to be engaged as a subcommittee throughout the process.

That being said, I want to bring us back to the reason we are here today.

We now live in a highly complex world whereby layers of uncertainty are stacking up and interacting to unsettle our lives in unprecedented ways.

For our region, climate change is our gravest concern and we continue to observe on an annual basis how this affects our region.

- Vanuatu is still in a state of emergency after two Category 4 cyclones and two earthquakes battered the island nation in March.
- In February, New Zealand declared a state of emergency after Cyclone Gabrielle battered the country earlier this year, this is only the third time that the country had declared a state of emergency. Cyclone Gabrielle is the most significant weather event New Zealand has seen this century, the severity and the damage observed, not experienced in a generation.
- In June last year, Kiribati also declared a state of emergency after the discovery of high salinity levels in monitoring wells and very low rainfall causing severe drought within the country.

While the region is currently recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, its impact continues to significantly affect the region, in particular its disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities.

Geopolitical competition continues to significantly complicate our relationships as members and partners of the Forum family.

On the global stage, the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues to affect the cost of living around the world, and within the Forum region.

Having said that, this is not the first time that our Pacific peoples have faced environmental disruptions, diseases and wars.

In fact, our Pacific history is one of resilience containing some of the world's most vulnerable countries to the human and economic devastation of natural and man-made emergencies.

There is so much to learn from, from our collective journey over the last fifty years, to shape how we take on the future that lies ahead of us.

At the Leaders' meeting in July 2022, Forum Leaders "noted that the region continues to be a highly contested sphere of interest, in a wider geopolitical setting with external powers seeking to assert their own interests. In the current

strategic context, Leaders recognised the importance of remaining unified as a Forum family to address common challenges and to capitalise on key opportunities".

In February, we officially welcomed back Kiribati to the Forum family. This reflects the value Members place on unity and regional solidarity as a foundation for how we are going to traverse the uncertain complex future we face.

The manner in which the global and regional community came together to respond to COVID-19 is an extraordinary achievement. Vaccines were produced in record times based on revolutionary technology; and in the region, the opening of a pathway to strengthen regional and national preparedness and response efforts was unprecedented.

At the same time, the pandemic is also a painful reminder of how breakdowns in trust and communication can constrain our progress in addressing the issues we face today.

While the clouds on the horizon may sometimes appear dark, I am positive that if we continue to collectively work as one united region, that we can build a better future for our Pacific peoples.

I note that you have a full agenda before you.

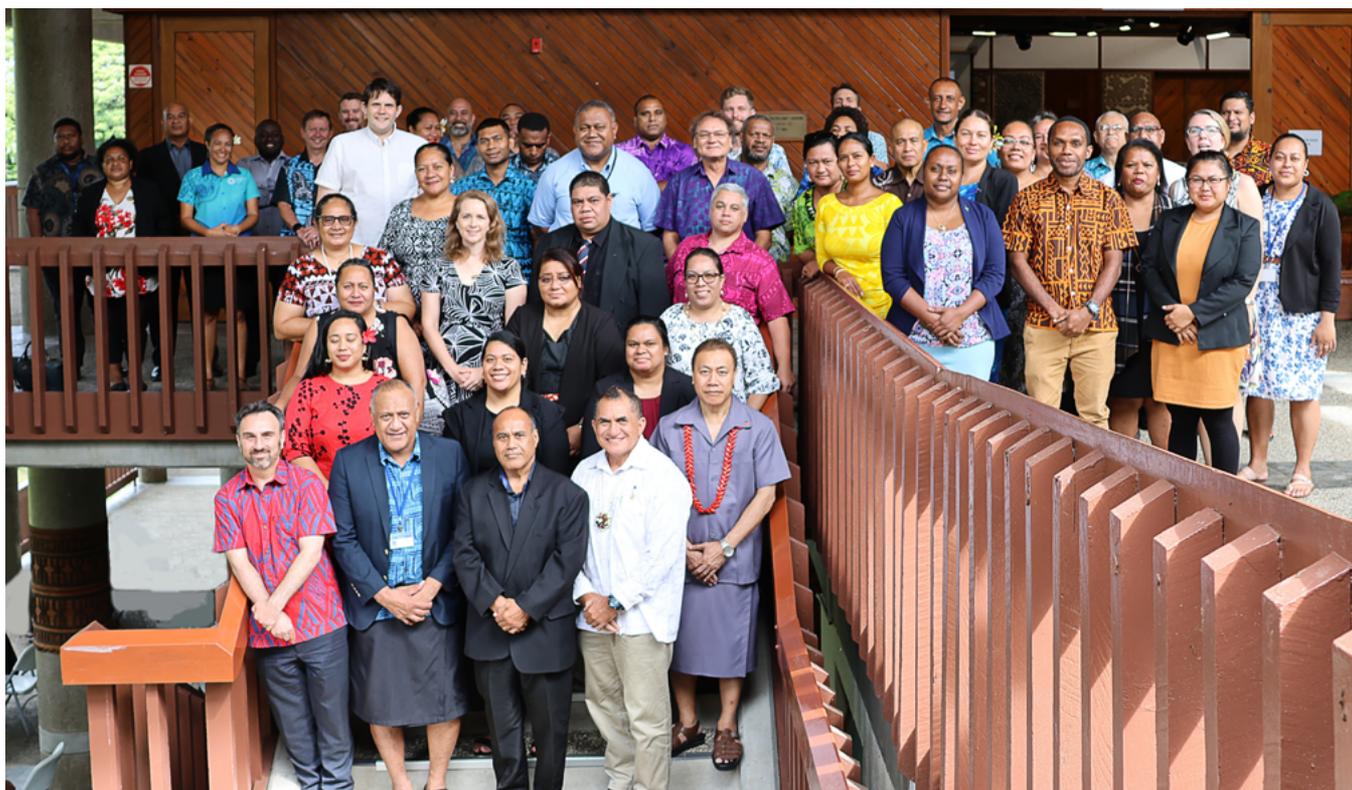
I encourage your full participation and contribution to the issues before you all today to ensure that Members continue to drive and lead our collective security efforts.

I also appreciate ongoing efforts to bring all regional security agencies together to share with you their work at this meeting. It ensures that our priorities are aligned and further places emphasis on regional solidarity as our way forward.

With the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent as our North star, and ongoing efforts to address our collective security issues, I have no doubt that we are heading in the right direction to ensuring that we have a peaceful, safe and secure region.

I wish you all well in your deliberations today.

Vinaka vakalevu and thank you all very much



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...ANZAC

Continued from front page

rum' or 'stew, sausage and bread', or even 'bacon and eggs' (which is served by the War Memorial for their 'gunfire breakfast' on Anzac Day).

"It is a day when we remember our fallen in war, beginning with those who fell on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915," Lt. Cmdr Williams said. "At around 4:30 AM on 25th of April, 1915, soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, the first ANZACs landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula. By the end of that first day, over 16,000 men had surged ashore. More than 2,000 were dead or injured. These men did not set out to be immortalized. But their conduct on that day—and over subsequent months—has made them immortal."

"Today, as we honor the sacrifice of the first ANZACs, we also acknowledge those who have followed, through World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan; on UN Peace Keeping Missions, and on other operations. These people have offered themselves in the service of their nation, and in the service of peace and justice," Williams' explanation continued.

"It is also a day, when in sitting in this garden, we remember the cost of war and commit ourselves to striving for peace. In our democracy we respect others' opinions. We compromise, we collaborate, we mend fences, we build partnerships, and we move ahead. Today we honor those who served in order that we might enjoy the fruits of democracy. These people have offered themselves in the service of the Nation and in the service of peace and justice."

After welcoming remarks, Mr. Sean Ryan gave a traditional New Zealand. Commander Peter Steward of the FSM National Police gave the prayer of remembrances.

Chris "Johnny" O'Keefe, who previously served while on active duty as technical adviser as part of Australia's Maritime Security Advisers team in Pohnpei for several years, gave the commemorative address. Mr. O'Keefe is now the Deputy Sustainment Manager for the Pacific Patrol Boat Group of the Australian Government. He said that this year's commemoration in Pohnpei was his seventh to have participated in at the Kangaroo Court in Pohnpei.



"I would like to speak about how conflicts have affected the Federated States of Micronesia, Micronesians, and World War 2. It wasn't their war, but it turned their lives upside down just the same. Wars have a way of doing that to people," O'Keefe said, summarizing some of the words of Father Frances Hezel, noted Micronesian Sociologist and Historian. "...Hundreds of Micronesians lost their lives in the war, not just as victims of bullets and bombs, but because of the effects of beriberi and dysentery and malnutrition. The loss of life was tragic.

"Perhaps it was their indomitable spirit and faith that allowed Micronesians to survive the miseries of the last year and a half of the war. It might have also been their irrepressible sense of humor: the women who toiled in the fields sang of themselves as frogs hopping around, and the men joked about how they tricked the military guards while stealing food. At the end of it all, the islanders' eyes turned skyward for signs that the period of suffering was over. Even those who had not been told of the surrender could sense the war had ended by the unconcern among the Japanese troops when American planes overhead."

Mr. O'Keefe then read the names of some of the FSM's fallen veterans: Army Sergeant Skipper Soram, September 22, 2004; Army Staff Sergeant Steven G.



Bavow, February 4, 2005; Army Private First-Class Henry Paul, September 26, 2006; Army Sergeant Youvert Loney, September 5, 2009; Army Specialist Eric M. Finniginam, May 1, 2010; and Army Staff Sergeant Jerome Firtamag, February 24, 2011

Commemorative wreaths were then laid at the foot of the Australian and New Zealand flag poles. Australian Ambassador Jo Cowley laid the first on behalf of the people of Australia. On behalf of the US Veterans of Pohnpei association, Ms. Laine Lane laid the next wreath. On behalf of the people of New Zealand, Mr. Andrew Haigh placed the next wreath. FSM Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Kandhi Elieisar laid the next wreath on behalf of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia. LCDR Nigel Williams OAM CSM laid the final wreath on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy.

The gathered crowd rose in silence for a playing of The Last Post, followed by the Australian Anthem.

As is the tradition at so many ANZAC Day commemorations, the formal ceremony was followed by a "gunfire breakfast".



Executive Director of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission pays courtesy call on Governor Oliver

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

April 11, 2023

Peilapalap, Pohnpei—The Executive Director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, also known as the Tuna Commission, Mrs. Rhea Moss-Christian paid a courtesy call on Governor Reed B. Oliver. The visit was the first official meeting between Governor Oliver and Executive Director Moss-Christian since she took over the helm of the Tuna Commission in March of 2023.

Rhea Moss-Christian is the first female Executive Director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and was also the first woman to chair the Pacific Tuna Commission, a body that brings together all the big fishing nations from Europe, Asia, and North America with developing Pacific nations. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission is a regional fisheries management organization, with its Secretariat



based in Pohnpei, responsible for the world's largest tuna fishery, accounting for approximately 60 percent of the global tuna catch.

During their brief meeting, Executive Director Moss-Christian thanked Governor Oliver and the Pohnpei State

Government for their support and assistance over the years and pledged to continue to be good neighbors. They discussed areas of mutual interest and concern, concluding with Governor Oliver on behalf of the Pohnpei State Government, expressing his gratitude for the courtesy call, and reaffirming

assistance and support for the Tuna Commission.

Joining Executive Director Moss-Christian were Finance and Facilities Manager Aaron Nighswander and Executive Assistant Arlene Takesey.



World expert on tuna reproductive biology conducts training workshop for PICRC researchers

Palau International Coral Reef Center

On the week of March 27th, Dr. Kurt Schaefer, a recently retired tuna reproductive biologist, who spent 44 years as a Senior Scientist with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, led a histology training workshop for the researchers at the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC). The aim of the training was to equip the researchers with skills to carry out an investigation looking at the reproductive dynamics of tuna within the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS).



The training focused on the assessment of tuna reproduction which included experimental design, sample collection and processing as well as the characterization of tuna reproductive states using histology. Dr. Schaefer also discussed with PICRC researchers what was required to move forwards with this project, including the collection of the required ovarian tissues to assess spawning of yellowfin and big-eyed tunas within the PNMS.



PICRC would like to thank Dr. Schaefer, a world expert in tuna reproductive biology, for contributing his time and expertise to this training. The researchers will utilize this training to further their work on tuna reproduction in the PNMS.



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Pacific Community (SPC) team assists with establishment of National Human Rights Institution

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

April 19, 2023

Peilapalap, Pohnpei—Governor Oliver received officials from the Pacific Community (SPC), who are in Pohnpei to engage with Government leaders, civil society, and community stakeholders to help establish a national human rights institution.

Mr. Ahmed Shahid, Capacity Development Manager, Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, and Ms. Neomai Maravuakula, Team Leader for Governance and Institutional Strengthening, Human Rights and Social Development Division, Pacific Community (SPC) related that the FSM National Government invited SPC in 2017 to assist with establishing a national human rights institution. A visit and report were completed in 2019, but the pandemic caused some delays. The officials are now in Pohnpei and the other four states in the FSM to re-engage with stakeholders and offer support and guidance to establish a national human rights institution.

Governor Oliver welcomed the officials to Pohnpei and expressed his support for their work. He asked the officials to work closely with the Pohnpei State Attorney General, Belsipa Mikehl-Isom, who was present, to ensure that Pohnpei’s unique needs and concerns are considered with the establishment of a national human rights institution.

Also present during the meeting was the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Mr. Patrick Carl, Assistant Attorney General Monaliza Abello-Pangelinan the Chief of Primary Health Care, Norleen Deorio, Overseas Development Assistance Coordinator Shirley-Ann Ligohr and Mr. George Isom, SPC FSM Country Focal Officer (based in Pohnpei).



U.S. Embassy Kolonia “Flips the Switch” on new solar system to celebrate Earth Day

U.S. Embassy Kolonia

April 24, 2023

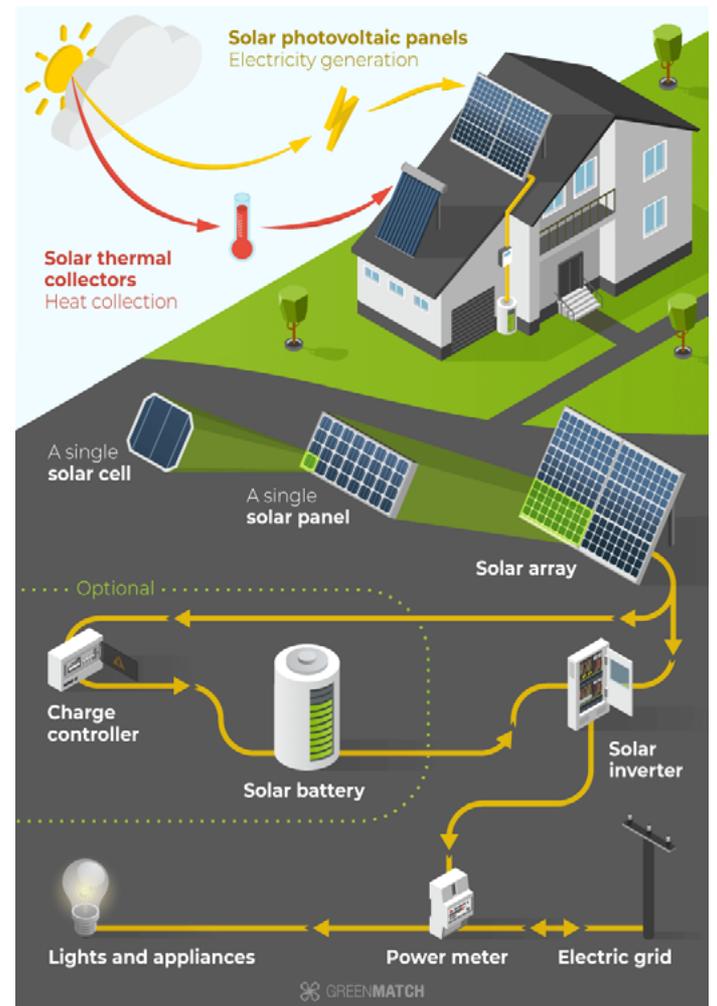
The U.S. Embassy announces the implementation of its first Solar and Battery Storage System. The state-of-the-art system (see diagram) consists of 616 solar photovoltaic panels and a battery collection system. Once final adjustments are made, it will become a NET ZERO system, meaning no energy is required from the local power grid for Embassy operations, thereby eliminating use of fossil fuels going forward.

The 21-Megawatt Hour (MWh) system is provided with funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO), in partnership with the Department of State’s Greening Diplomacy Initiative. It was designed and built by Colorado based RME Electric Corporation.

Management Officer Jeff Seely added: “The United States Embassy Kolonia has been undergoing a series of Embassy greening initiatives. In this fiscal year, we replaced 289 interior fixtures and all exterior lights with energy saving LED lighting for significant wattage reduction and energy savings. The solar panels on the roof of our main building also reflect light energy, lowering the internal temperature and need for cooling.”

Said Chargé d'affaires Mark Moody: “The U.S. Government understands the urgent need to reduce fossil fuel usage worldwide. The Biden-Harris Administration has set a goal for a net-zero emissions building portfolio by 2045, and we are happy to honor Earth Day efforts worldwide by becoming one of the first NET ZERO U.S. Embassies. Being a great partner to the people of the FSM means being a green partner.”

The Embassy system will produce enough solar energy each month to offset 17,760 kg of CO2, the equivalent of planting 300 trees each month.



Australia welcomes to FSM a Pacific Women Lead gender team for FSM Gender Country Plan



Australian Embassy in the FSM

April 24, 2023

FSM—Australia is developing a new FSM Gender Country Plan to guide its investments and those of partners in women’s safety, health, economic empowerment and leadership over the next five years.

Last week, Australian Ambassador Jo Cowley welcomed to the FSM a Pacific Women Lead gender team which will be developing the FSM plan.

Pacific Women Lead (PWL) is Australia’s regional portfolio of investments to advance gender equality in the Pacific. It is the next phase of a long-running regional program which has been supporting the FSM since 2012.

PWL is valued at AUD\$170 million over 5 years (2021-2026), across the Pacific. It is one of the largest global commitments to gender equality. PWL is focused on i) women’s leadership; ii) women’s rights, including health, safety; and economic empowerment; and iii) increasing the effectiveness of regional gender equality efforts.

Australia is working closely with the Pacific Community, SPC, Suva, which will be a key implementer of the program. A PWL Enabling Service (PWLES) will also provide further technical expertise and experience.

The PWL team includes Tara Chetty, SPC Pacific Women Lead Manager; Joanne Kunatuba, PWLES Team Leader; and Anna Cowley, PWLES Gender and Development Specialist. They will be accompanied by Augustine Sue from the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs, Lululeen Santos from SPC Micronesia Regional Office, and Kenye Rikin from the Australian Embassy. It is undertaking scoping discussions with government and community organisations in Pohnpei, Kosrae and Chuuk, and virtually with Yap.

The Embassy would like to thank stakeholders for their support at our welcome lunch on 20 April, including: Acting Secretary for FSM Dept. Health & Services Hon. Stuard Penias, Senator-elect Dr. Merlyn Abello-Alfonso, Chief of Staff to the FSM President Jane Chigiyal, President of the Pohnpei Women Council Luhkpein Emeliana Musrasrik-Carl and, and representing the Mayor of Madolenihmw, John Rensile.



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SCGC Oliver Henry returns to Guam after strengthening partnerships in Oceania during mission to combat illegal fishing in Pacific

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

April 17, 2023

Santa Rita, Guam—The crew of USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) returned to Guam on April 9, 2023, following a 30-day expeditionary patrol in support of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency's Operation 365 and Operation Rematau to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the Pacific.

Among the significant elements of this expeditionary patrol:

- Patrolled 5,250 nautical miles over 30 days
- Dedicated 23 days on scene within exclusive economic zones of the partner nations of the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, with four days in the high seas pocket between FSM and Papua New Guinea, east of Palau, and one day within the high seas off the west side of Palau
- Completed nine boardings on foreign-flagged fishing vessels under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, with 12 potential violations discovered
- Completed five bilateral boardings on foreign-flagged fishing vessels under the authority of the embarked Palauan shiprider in Palau's domestic fishing zone; no violations discovered
- Executed four port visits in Yap, FSM, and Koror, Palau, exercising a hub and spoke model of operations with three of four port visits to Koror, allowing for increased time spent on the mission in the region rather than on transits to and from a patrol area
- Completed six shoreside engagements, including hosting 80 students from Palau schools, conducting a damage control subject matter exchange with the crew of the PSS Kedam, and visiting Satawal, FSM
- Completed one underway engagement, conducting a passenger exchange and joint sail with the crew of the FSM-based FSS Tosiwo Nakayama (P901)

"The return on investment for our partners and the nation through the use of the Fast Response Cutters and the U.S. Coast Guard in this region is undeniable, and we hear that demand signal loud and clear," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "We are continuing to adapt how we conduct these longer

patrols, far from home, with a platform originally designed for U.S. mainland near-coastal operations of a week to 10 days at sea. Basing out of a partner's port for multiple legs, rather than island hopping over a longer distance, gives us more time with fewer transit days in these harder-to-reach locations, more time spent building relationships in country, and better support and recovery for our crews."

A major highlight of the patrol was the engagement on the FSM island of Satawal. Home to about 500 inhabitants, the community hosted its first Pwo – Master Navigator Indoctrination Ceremony since 2007. The Oliver Henry crew, by invitation, held a dialogue and observed local customs with the Piailug family and other elders. A small team of the commanding officer, an engineer, an electronics technician, and a hospital corpsman joined local chiefs to discuss regional topics and challenges in such a remote and austere location.

In 1976, Pius Mau Piailug, a master navigator from Satawal, Yap State, Micronesia, navigated the famous traditional sailing canoe Hōkūle'a on its first voyage without navigation instruments in over 600 years on the ancestral Polynesian sea route from Hawai'i to Tahiti. Subsequently, he taught Hawaiians and other Polynesians the art of navigating guided only by the signs of land, stars, birds, and patterns of waves. He passed away in 2010. The Oliver Henry team spent time with his surviving family. The gathering included master navigators from Hawaii, Saipan, and FSM. Only a handful of master navigators are alive today.

In support of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency's Operation 365 and Operation Rematau, which nests under the U.S. Coast Guard's Operation Blue Pacific, the crew patrolled through the seas off Palau, conducting bilateral shiprider boardings. They subsequently patrolled the high seas pocket south of the Federated States of Micronesia, discovering a dozen discrepancies and potential violations in the use of vessel monitoring systems, required markings, exemption permits to transship fish, and logging of catch under the requirements set forth by the Western and Central



Pacific Fishing Commission.

"It's a good feeling for the boarding team to know we're making an impact by documenting these potential violations and educating fishing crews on the requirements," said Lt. Freddy Hofschneider, commanding officer of Oliver Henry. "On every vessel, the crews met us with respect, positive interest, and a desire to correct deficiencies. Several captains told us this was their first boarding by the U.S. Coast Guard."

The crews of Oliver Henry and the Tosiwo Nakayama conducted a joint patrol near Yap State in support of Operation 365, part of the FFA's ongoing regional monitoring control and surveillance operations to counter IUU fishing in the Pacific. OP365 requires the concerted and consistent effort of all 17 Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency member nations and the four members of the Pacific Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group countries, Australia, France, New Zealand, and the United States, to be successful.

"The crew enjoyed conducting a professional exchange, including navigation and seamanship training during a close-quarters formation steaming with our colleagues aboard the FSS Tosiwo Nakayama before they pulled into Yap," said Hofschneider. "In Palau, we were glad to exchange best practices for damage control with our friends at the Division of Maritime Security ahead of their next underway period."

In Palau, the Oliver Henry crew hosted over 80 students from Emmaus-Bethania High School and the Palau Community College for tours and demonstrations at the port. This visit followed presentations on the U.S. Coast Guard and IUU fishing by the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Compact of Free Association liaison officer and maritime advisor. The

following day members of the Oliver Henry engineering department worked through damage control drill administration and planning with personnel from the PSS Kedam. The Forces Micronesia team, joined by operations specialists from the Joint Rescue Sub-Center in Guam, subsequently conducted search and rescue training.

"U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia and our cutter crews are dedicated to serving our partners by providing valuable requested training and resources to meet their needs. The SAR training came at the request of Palau following a recent high-profile search and rescue case," said Simmons. "Again, we appreciate the efforts of the U.S. embassies and our Australian Pacific Maritime Security Program partners to make these shared multilateral operations possible to increase regional security and prosperity."

Operation Rematau is how U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam supports the overarching Coast Guard endeavor Operation Blue Pacific to promote security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity in Oceania. Rematau means people of the deep sea, and the effort reaffirms the position shared by the Pacific Island Forum leaders that securing the future requires long-term vision and a carefully considered regional strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The operation reinforces the U.S. commitment to working together to advance Pacific regionalism based on the Blue Pacific narrative. It supports U.S. national security objectives while bolstering maritime governance and security.

The Oliver Henry is the 40th 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter named for Oliver T. Henry, Jr., an enlisted African American Coast Guard member first to break the color barrier of a then-segregated Service.

It homeports in Guam, working with U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, which comprises nearly 300 personnel to provide a significant portion of the U.S. Coast Guard's enduring regional presence in Oceania.

Concern from Pacific leaders over nuclear submarine agreement

Pacific Islands News Association

April 18, 2023

There's growing concern from Pacific leaders over a nuclear submarine agreement between Australia, the UK and U.S to counter China's growing presence in the region.

Several island nations feel like there's a lack of consultation on geopolitical deals in their own region. Professor Steven Ratuva from Canterbury University says AUKUS Is being seen as an "Anglo Fear Alliance" and the Pacific has been left out of it.

"There has been a fear it's going to escalate the geopolitical tension in the Pacific and it's not something they need at this time when they need to focus on climate security," he says.

Former Pacific Islands Forum secretary general Dame Meg Taylor has added her voice to the dissent saying there has been a "serious lack of consultation" within the region which is caught between the superpowers.

One of the big issues is that Australia was signatory in 1985 to the Treaty of Rarotonga, the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. Ratuva says it's been doing its best to ensure it's not seen as undermining the treaty when in fact the spirit of the treaty has been.

"What Australia is trying to do recently is get buy in from Pacific leaders using its leverage, its power, its aid, its diplomacy as a way of clearing the ground for its submarines to operate freely in the Pacific," he says.

Ratuva says the U.S has a bigger geopolitical strategic interest in global domination while Australia has a monkey see, monkey do kind of foreign policy and "whatever America does, it does – it sees itself as a deputy sheriff of some kind".

Now New Zealand is considering joining as a non-nuclear partner of AUKUS, which will include sharing advanced military technologies such as artificial intelligence, and it's ringing alarm bells.

Ratuva believes New Zealand needs to be extremely careful as being aligned with AUKUS when it has a historical reputation for independent foreign policy will affect its relationship with island countries many of whom have close ties with China.



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

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 **Country Focal Officer (PWL WEE)** will support the host country government and relevant ministries to meet its national, regional, and international gender equality commitments, specific to Women's Economic Empowerment, through the provision of advisory services, technical assistance, networking, coordination, and capacity-building under the remit of the HRSD Pacific Women Lead programme.

The key responsibilities of the role include the following:

1. Country planning and implementation

2. Technical assistance and advice
3. Training and capacity-building
4. Networking and partnership
5. Monitoring, evaluation and learning

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

Qualifications

- Tertiary qualification in public policy, law, human rights, gender, youth, culture, social science, community development, international relations, development studies or similar field.

Essential experience and skills

- At least five years' experience in Pacific Island country/territory working to in human rights, gender equality and social inclusion, youth for development or culture for development (in government and/or civil society).
- Strategic planning experience and in-depth understanding of country cultures, context, challenges and opportunities.
- Knowledge of legislative reform process and policy development.
- Experience in community development, non-formal adult education and/or community outreach.
- Experience in financial management, budgeting and acquittals.
- Computer literacy in Microsoft Office suite.
- Driver's license.

Remuneration – the Country Focal Officer (PWL WEE) is a Band 4 position in SPC's 2023 salary scale, with a starting taxable salary range of USD 21,164–26,454 per year, plus local staff benefits.

- Pohnpei-based position
- Join the principal development organisation in the region

The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Country Focal Officer (PWL WEE) within in its Human Rights and Social Development Division. This position will be located in Pohnpei, FSM.

Benefits – SPC provides medical and life insurance for eligible employees and their eligible dependents. Employees are entitled to 25 days of annual leave. Provident Fund and/or Social Security will be according to FSM's local legislation.

Closing date:

7 May 2023 – 11:00 pm Pohnpei time

Job Reference:

SH000305

Applicants can 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

Please answer all of the screening questions, if you do not answer these questions your application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed at shortlisting stage.

Screening questions:

1. Briefly summarise how your skills and experience meet the key selection criteria, detailed in the job description.
2. One of your key roles is brokering partnerships with government and stakeholders in civil society organisations to advance national Women's Economic Empowerment priorities. Explain how you would go about doing this.
3. What does Women's Economic Empowerment mean to you and for women in FSM?

Coral colonies that can withstand the heat do so at no apparent cost, finds new study

Palau International Coral Reef Center

there were any negative side-effects of being more heat tolerant.

New research undertaken at the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) has examined the tradeoffs that coral colonies make to be more heat tolerant.

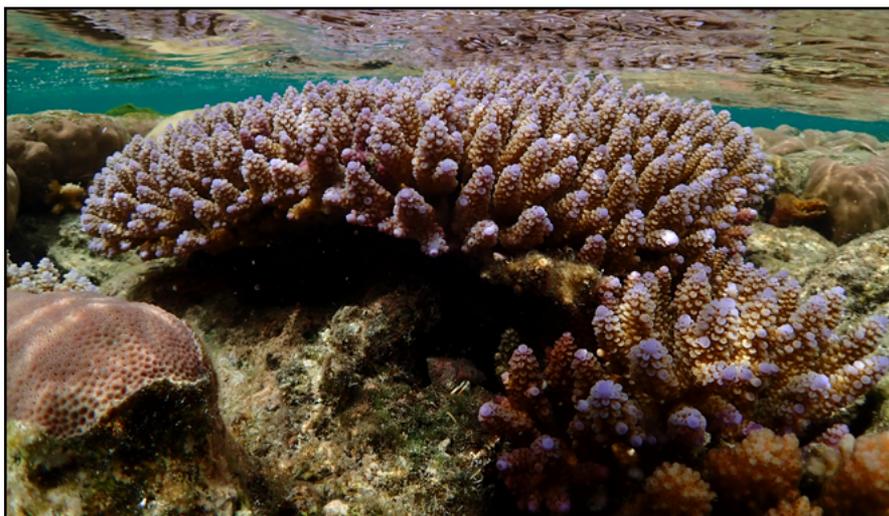
The group found remarkable variability in heat tolerance within the population. Some withstood the marine heatwave and were relatively unscathed, while others started bleaching almost immediately. Surprisingly, the group found no trade-offs between heat tolerance and fecundity or growth. In fact, faster growing corals were actually able to withstand higher levels of heat stress.

A warmer ocean will undoubtedly impact marine animals in numerous ways. Many species will need to migrate or adapt to survive. For corals, adaptation is the only choice, but this might come at its own cost. Scientists from Newcastle University, PICRC, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and several other universities in Australia and the UK have taken a close look at a species of reef-building coral to see if colonies that are more heat tolerant pay for it in other ways. Their results, published in *Communications Biology*, were somewhat surprising.

“Natural selection for coral heat tolerance may not necessarily have knock-on implications for colony growth or fecundity,” stated Mr. Lachs. “Ultimately though, to secure a future for coral reefs, the major challenge is still the reduction of carbon emissions to limit ocean warming.”

“We are happy that PICRC has the facilities and capability to host and participate in this important research, which contributes to better understanding of heat tolerance and how it might be used for coral restoration,” said co-author and former PICRC CEO, Dr. Yimnang Golbuu.

“Coral colonies that are particularly heat tolerate should fare better in a warmer world, however, increased heat tolerance may have side effects,” said first author, Mr. Liam Lachs, a PhD student at Newcastle University, who regularly works with PICRC. “The coral might not grow as fast or might produce less eggs, which require significant energy to produce.”



If the temperature gets too high for coral, they release their symbiotic algae, which are necessary for their survival. The algae are what gives coral their color so when they're released, the coral turns white (known as bleaching). This is becoming increasingly common as global ocean temperatures rise. Mr. Lachs and the team of scientists used the tanks at PICRC to expose fragments from 70 colonies of the reef-building coral *Acropora digitifera* to a long-term (5-week) marine heatwave. They recorded the day at which these coral fragments bleached or died. They also looked at coral colony growth over three years and the amount of spawning (called fecundity) to see if



Opinion Editorial

FSM is a good friend of China

President Panuelo's grandiloquent letter leveling China as causing political warfare and espionage in the FSM caught everyone by surprise and may have ruffled some feathers in the Pacific's diplomatic community of nations. Lambasting China in the world media is not diplomatically healthy nor is it productive, considering FSM's desire to be in synchronicity with all nations. FSM can gain substantially more benefits from China if it focuses on the positive side of its relationship. Constructive dialogue and persuasive diplomatic engagement is the ancient way the Micronesians settle any differences and mend any broken fences.

Chinese Confucian philosophy of moral exemplars, self cultivation and ethical ideals are very much similar to Micronesian ancient teachings of morality and peaceful engagement with all people. Hence, to chastise another country openly without verifiable evidence is contrary to Micronesia culture and our accepted norm of settling any misunderstanding or perceived conflicts.

Since 1978, under Deng Xiaping, China's policy has been, peaceful co-existence with all nations and upheld a non-alignment foreign policy. Moreover, China has been contributing to UN Peace Keeping Forces, donated over billions worth of infrastructures worldwide and its trading activities has contributed billions into many poor countries. China still leads the world with its green energy and electric vehicles that FSM can benefit from.

China's \$3 Trillion currency reserve is the biggest in the world and economic might is reaching the four corners of the globe helping many impoverished nations out of misery, including the FSM with some of the biggest public projects. Why change to a lower income country.

This is the era of the Chinese. Soon, its economic growth will overtake the USA. So if FSM wants economic improvement, it needs to maintain its diplomatic relations with China. Switching to Taiwan is a short term gamble. If President Panuelo believes that China will invade it in 2027, then why is FSM switching to the target.

I strongly urge FSM to stick with the one China policy and uphold proper diplomatic decorum that his has with China today. It ask FSM to refrain from any bombastic media tirade in the international forum that only makes FSM lose respect and trust as an undependable global partner.

China is not going away ever. It is a bona fide citizen of the world and an esteemed member of FSM's diplomatic circle. It is wise for FSM to keep the policy of being friends to all nations and honor the existing diplomatic relations with China.

Michael Henry

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9	Computers; handheld computers; memory boards; computer hardware; integrated circuits; integrated circuit memories; integrated circuit chips; chip-sets; semiconductor processors; semiconductor processor chips; semiconductor chips; microprocessors; printed circuit boards; electronic circuit boards; computer motherboards; computer memories; computer operating systems; micro-controllers; data processors; central processing units; semiconductor memory devices; software programmable microprocessors; digital and optical microprocessors; digital and optical data and signal processors; video circuit boards; audio circuit boards; audio-video circuit boards; video graphic accelerators; multimedia accelerators; video processors; video processor circuit boards; processor die packaging and casings; cards, discs, tapes, wires, records, microchips and electronic circuits, all for the recordal and transmission of data; modems; apparatus and instruments, all for processing, storage, retrieval, transmission, display, input, output, compressing, decompressing, modifying, broadcasting and printout of data; computer input and output devices; work stations; data memories; storage devices; security systems for computer hardware and software; set electronic chips; components for computers and printed circuits; voice accelerators; voice, data, image and video accelerators; memory systems for computers; cables and adapters; computer terminals and printers for use therewith; video display units; telecommunications apparatus and instruments; cameras; computer hardware for computing; computer hardware for computing via a global and local network; computer hardware for cloud-computing; computer hardware for low-latency and high bandwidth computing; computer hardware for use in providing a secure computing environment; computer networking hardware; computer communication servers; computer hardware for use in providing a secure cloud computing network; computer software for computing; computer software for cloud computing; computer software for computing via a global and local network; computer software for low-latency and high bandwidth computing; computer memory hardware; computer software for providing a secure computing network; computer software for use in providing a secure cloud computing network; computer operating system software; computer system extensions, tools and utilities in the field of application software for connecting personal computers, networks, telecommunications apparatus and global computer network applications; computer hardware and software for enhancing and providing real-time transfer, transmission, reception, processing and digitizing of data; computer network adapters; computer network controllers; computer network interface devices; computer network hubs, switches, and routers; microcontrollers for internet of things (IoT) enabled devices; downloadable computer software for connecting, operating, and managing internet of things (IoT) enabled devices; downloadable computer software for connecting, operating, and managing mobile internet of things (IoT) enabled mobile devices; computer hardware and software for the development, maintenance, and use of local and wide area computer networks; computer hardware and software for the development, maintenance, and use of interactive audio-video computer conference systems; computer hardware and software for the receipt, display, and use of broadcast video, audio, and digital data signals;		electronic control devices for the interface and control of computers and global computer and telecommunications networks with television and cable broadcasts and equipment; routers; hubs; servers; switches; apparatus for testing and programming integrated circuits; peripheral memory apparatus and devices; semiconductor devices; computer hardware and software for creating, facilitating, and managing remote access to and communication with local area networks (lans), virtual private networks (vpn), wide area networks (wans) and global computer networks; router, switch, hub and server operating software; computer software tools for the facilitation of third party software applications; computer hardware and software for wireless network communications; downloadable electronic publications in the area of electronics, semiconductors and integrated electronic apparatus and devices, computers, telecommunications, entertainment, telephony, and wired and wireless telecommunications; computer hardware for use in machine vision, machine learning, deep learning, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, learning algorithms and data analysis; Computer software for machine learning, data query, and data analysis; computer software for cognitive computing, deep learning, artificial intelligence; computer software platform for cognitive computing; computer software for graphical representation of data; pattern recognition computer software; computer software for data mining; computer vision software for acquiring, processing, analyzing and understanding digital images and extracting visual data; computer software development kits; computer software development kits for computer vision, machine learning, deep learning, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, learning algorithms, and data analysis; downloadable and recorded vision software that uses artificial intelligence to see and interpret data, connect with hardware and store, manage and process data in the cloud; computer hardware and software for recording, processing, receiving, reproducing, transmitting, modifying, compressing, decompressing, broadcasting, merging and enhancing sound, images, graphics, and data; algorithm software programs for the operation and control of computers; computer hardware and software for enhancing and providing real-time transfer, transmission, reception, processing and digitizing of audio and video graphics information; downloadable and recorded computer software for the collection, compilation, processing, transmission and dissemination of Global Positioning System (GPS) data for use in fixed, mobile and handheld devices; electronic database featuring roadway, geographic, map, public transit lines information, public transit line information, public transit route information, public transit timetables and schedules and other public transit information recorded on computer media; navigation software for calculating and displaying routes; public transit navigation system featuring interactive digital map displays, interactive instructions and user generated information; interactive social computer software for the retrieval and display of public transit, navigation, geographic, map and travel information; interactive social computer software to enable the transmission of public transit information, mapping, navigation, traffic, routes and point-of-interest information to

Class	Goods
	telecommunication networks, cellular phones, navigation devices and other mobile and hand-held devices; interactive social computer software that enables the exchange of information among users; computers and computer operated systems for autonomous driving, driver-assisted, connected vehicles, unmanned aerial devices, and drones; computer hardware and software platforms featuring interactive displays, control systems, and control devices, warning systems, connectivity, onboard computers, and GPS for vehicles, connected vehicles, autonomous, and driverless vehicles; multi camera systems for use in vehicles; GPS navigation and guidance, GPS location tracking, GPS map-displaying and route-calculating device, video-recording, and wireless communication network devices for data or image transmission for vehicles; computer software applications for digital virtual agents, predictive systems, machine learning, cognitive process automation, pattern recognition, character recognition, visual computing applications, knowledge virtualisation, robotics, drones, and unmanned vehicles; computer software and hardware applications for automatic vehicle driving control; computer software and hardware applications for automatic vehicle driving control, autonomous control, navigation, assisted driving of vehicles, and self-driving of vehicles; Vehicle tracking devices comprised of computer software and computer hardware, sensors, transmitters, receivers and global positioning satellite receivers, all for use in connection with vehicle tracking and vehicle monitoring.
42	Providing temporary use of on-line non-downloadable software for machine learning, data mining, data query, and data analysis; providing temporary use of on-line non-downloadable software for cognitive computing, deep learning, artificial intelligence; providing temporary use of non-downloadable software for data query and data analysis; providing temporary use of non-downloadable software for cognitive computing, deep learning, artificial intelligence; searching and retrieving information on computer networks for others; computer services, namely, providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software, software application programming interface (API), and software widget for machine learning, data mining, data query, and data analysis; providing online non-downloadable computer vision software for acquiring, processing, analyzing and understanding digital images and extracting visual data; providing online non-downloadable computer software development kits; providing online non-downloadable computer software development kits for computer vision, machine learning, deep learning, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, learning algorithms, and data analysis; providing online non-downloadable vision software that uses artificial intelligence to see and interpret data, connect with hardware and store, manage and process data in the cloud; software as a service (SAAS) services featuring software for use in providing cloud-computing capabilities and information technology (IT) services, computing, and cloud computing; software as a service (SAAS) services featuring software for use in computing via a global and local network; software as a services (SAAS) services feature software development platform for use in connecting applications to enterprise systems and devices; software consulting and providing information on software as service; software as a service (SAAS) services featuring software for use in providing low-latency and high bandwidth computing; computer software services for providing computing capabilities for application developers and content providers; cloud computing featuring software for use in providing low-latency and high bandwidth computing, information technology (IT) services, and computing via a global and local network; computer software services for providing cloud

Class	Goods
	computing capabilities for application developers and content providers; services for enabling applications to be deployed across an online network; services for providing analytics, caching, computation and traffic routing; services for providing a secure and trusted computing network; providing computer hardware and software consulting services in the field developing a cloud based environment with integration of applications across various platforms and connected devices; computer services, namely, creating computer network-based indexes of information, websites, and resources; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for connecting, operating, and managing networked devices in the internet of things (IoT); providing online non-downloadable computer software for connecting, operating, and managing networked devices in the internet of things (IoT); software as a service (SAAS); consulting services in the field of computers and wireless computing; computer network management services, namely, monitoring of network systems for technical purposes; hosting of digital content on the internet; computer network monitoring services, namely, providing information on the operation of computer networks; customization of web software, and computer user interface design for others; Development, design, and consulting services for computers; designing and developing standards for others in the design and implementation of computer software, computer hardware and telecommunications equipment; providing customers and technicians with information relating to computer project management; providing online software as a service for the collection, compilation, processing, transmission and dissemination of Global Positioning System (GPS) data; providing online non-downloadable software featuring roadway, geographic, map, public transit lines information, public transit line information, public transit route information, public transit timetables and schedules and other public transit information; providing online non-downloadable navigation software for calculating and displaying routes and sharing public transit navigation system, map and travel information; Providing online non-downloadable computer software to enable the sharing of public transit information, mapping, navigation, traffic, routes and point-of-interest information; interactive social computer software that enables the exchange of information among users; providing online software as a service for automatic vehicle driving control, autonomous control, navigation, assisted driving of vehicles, and self-driving of vehicles.

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US Department of Veteran's Affairs Officers help FSM vets file for VA claims



US Embassy to the FSM

April 24, 2023

Pohnpei--A team from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), Manila Regional Benefit Office, visited Pohnpei State, Federated State of Micronesia from April 16 to 20, 2023. All veterans and their families living in the State of Pohnpei were eligible to attend their workshop, held April 18-19. The USDVA Manila team assisted 36 veterans, most of them

first time filers for VA benefits claims. Veterans who attended this event were able to update their information and follow up on their claims, while others were able to add dependents to their VA benefits, including receiving answers to their questions on recent PACT Act benefit claims eligibility. The USDVA Manila team plans to visit FSM again in the next 6 months.

Leaders champion sustainability at UOG conference

University of Guam

Over 400 attendees from different parts of the Micronesia region, internationally, and on the island gathered for the opening of the University of Guam 2023 Conference on Island Sustainability on April 12 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Leaders from the government, private, and university sectors discussed various efforts to further develop sustainable communities. The conference is themed "Rediscover the Depths of Our Island Abundance." The conference continues through April 15.

Guam's efforts to become sustainable, including producing more food locally and developing a sustainable workforce, have grown tremendously, said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, co-chair of the conference.

"We want to make sure that our children and our children's children have an island and a place to live that is of great quality, that our waters are clean, that our air is clean that our economy is strong, and that we're providing services to our families and so forth so that's the whole bottom line," the governor said.

"At the end of the day, we will have – and we already do have – an improved quality of life and environment that we can give to our children as their inheritance, moving forward with their lives," the governor added.

UOG President Thomas W. Krise, who co-chairs the conference, said the conference provides a unique opportunity for leaders from across the region to engage in continuing dialogue and share best practices in sustainability.

Krise hosted the Presidential Summit on Island Sustainability, a landmark event held on April 12 that brought together leaders from universities and colleges in Palau, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Jeju Island.

Krise talked about "a sense of island wisdom, island connectedness, and island consciousness" that will help the islands in the Micronesia region connect with each other toward becoming more sustainable.



University of Guam President Thomas W. Krise speaks at the press conference launching the 2023 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on April 11, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. The conference officially opened on April 12. Looking on, from left: Dr. Nicole Yamase, the first Micronesian and Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench; and Dr. Austin Shelton, Director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant programs

"With the increasing urgency of climate change and other global challenges, university leaders play a crucial role in shaping policy and implementing practical solutions," Krise said.

Director Austin Shelton of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant programs said the conference will uncover new perspectives.

"We've inherited our land from our ancestors, and we are doing what we can today. We are really just borrowing it from our children. So that is the partnership that we are talking about and the actions that we have developed as part of Guam Green Growth, we have tracked and monitored them, and we have a lot to show for the future," Shelton said.

Maria Eugenia Leon Guerrero, Chairwoman of the Island Sustainability Community Advisory Board discussed the advisory board's role in a press conference on April 11.

"Our goal as the Community Advisory Board is to bring perspectives from all of the islands and industry leaders to contribute to the solution and vision of sustainability for our island and also take the insights that we learn from this community and bring it back to our industries and apply it there," said Maria Leon Guerrero.

This year's keynote speakers are Henk Rogers, an environmental advocate and founder of the Blue Planet Alliance, and Julian Aguon, an international human rights lawyer and founder of Blue Ocean Law.

Check out the conference schedule here: uog.edu/cis2023/

Rotary Club of Pohnpei and UNICEF partner on the Period Project

Rotary Club of Pohnpei

April 19, 2023

On Friday, April 14, 2023, the Rotary Club of Pohnpei, in partnership with UNICEF Pacific with the help of COM volunteers, distributed nearly 500 sets of reusable menstrual pads (with 500 more sets on the way for a total of 1000 sets) to Pohnpei's three public high schools in furtherance of their Period Project, a project aimed to improve the issues surrounding menstrual health. The project is partly a response to a survey performed in Micronesia that found that 101 women of the 288 surveyed responded that they missed school because of their lack of access to period products.

The full day of distributions and presentations completed Rotary Club of

Pohnpei and UNICEF's goals to provide one set (6 reusable pads in a set) to every enrolled female in the high school to help improve student attendance and to help female students receive equal access to education. In addition, the organizations aimed to improve menstrual hygiene management, and increase public knowledge and awareness on menstruation cleanliness, and sanitary habits. Presentations were made to Madolenihmw High School, Nanpei Memorial High School, and PICS High School to both girls and boys alike. The presentations and distributions were well attended and well received.

Female students in any of the public high schools in need of hygiene products are encouraged to see their school counselor or nurse for a set.



Key research findings aim to raise the quality of Pacific education

Pacific Community

17 April 2023

Suva, Fiji – To raise the quality of education in the region, the Conference of Pacific Education Ministers (CPEM) discussed and endorsed key findings of two Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) research studies and their benefits for the Pacific Island countries.

Education Ministers from around the Pacific gathered for the three-day conference in Auckland, New Zealand in March, to discuss the progress, achievements, and ways forward on pertinent matters affecting education in the region.

The Pacific Community's (SPC) Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) presented the PacREF's Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) report at the conference. Apart from the MEL updates, the report also highlighted key findings of research focussing on Early Childhood Education (ECE) and factors affecting cohort survival rates in Pacific schools.

"PacREF has provided the opportunity for Pacific nations to amplify the voice of the region in a way that has 'allowed donor discussions to happen in a Pacific way and thereby, bringing the global agenda to the Pacific and, in turn, the Pacific to the global agenda,'" said PacREF's MEL Implementation Adviser, Seci Waqabaca.

The two research studies were conducted by EQAP in collaboration with member countries and with support from the Australian Council for Educational Research. EQAP also leads the qualitative aspect of the monitoring, evaluation and learning component of the 12-year framework.

The research focused on mapping the links between Early Childhood Education participation with the outcomes of the

Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) and the underlying factors contributing to cohort survival rates, drop-out rates and re-entry rates in specific Pacific countries and contexts. Despite the numerous challenges faced during PacREF's implementation, the milestone achieved through the completion of the two research studies is a testament to the unwavering effort to realise the intended outputs set out by the framework.

The Chair of the Conference and New Zealand's Education Minister, Honourable Jan Tinetti stated that "we have heard from diverse voices, sharing nuanced needs and solutions on how

we, collectively, can empower education for all Pacific peoples".

She added that key decisions made during the conference were prioritising and preserving Pacific languages and cultures, responsive and evidence-based training programmes to best prepare teachers and school leaders, inclusive curricula, recognising the need to elevate technical and vocational education and training pathways and skills development and increase investment in early childhood education.

Hon. Tinetti encouraged the regional Education Ministers to reflect on these research findings. "From the advice we have received from those on the front line, our Pacific educationalists, civil society and development partners, I can say we're working better than expected, but we also know more needs to be done".

The education leaders in the region are now working with implementing agencies to develop a strategy for regional collaboration based on the research findings.

The Pacific Community (SPC) and Aotearoa New Zealand sign bold new deal to boost climate action across the Pacific

Pacific Community

24 April 2023

Noumea, New Caledonia – The Pacific Community (SPC) and Aotearoa New Zealand have signed a bold new deal to boost climate action across the Pacific.

Announcing the new partnership that will underpin the Pacific Community's (SPC) Climate Change Flagship programme, New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Carmel Sepuloni said, "In the face of the escalating impacts of climate change on our region, it's vital we team up to accelerate action and build resilience in one the world's most vulnerable areas. This is why Aotearoa New Zealand is committing NZ\$30 million to SPC's Climate Change Flagship programme to expand and intensify its climate work for our Blue Pacific Continent."

SPC's Climate Change Flagship programme will bolster the efforts of Pacific Island countries and territories to enhance their sustainable climate action efforts. The Flagship programme adopts an evidence-based decision-making approach, pooled services, and the capability to help these nations achieve their low-carbon and climate-resilient sustainable development objectives. "The Climate Change Flagship programme will unlock and leverage greater access to climate finance for Pacific countries and territories. It will also provide pooled capability

and improved data to support climate action," said Coral Pasisi, Director of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability at SPC.

Speaking at a celebratory event held in Tonga on behalf of Director General Dr Stuart Minchin, the Regional Director for Polynesia, Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago, said, "By bringing together scientific knowledge from various disciplines, strategic planning, and innovative financing, SPC's Climate Change Flagship programme will bolster resilience and prosperity for Pacific communities facing the most severe consequences of a rapidly changing climate. New Zealand's commitment to SPC's Climate Change Flagship programme will enable our members to confront this challenge head-on."

This support for the Pacific Community's (SPC) Climate Change Flagship programmes is testament to the enduring partnership between New Zealand and SPC, and the 76-year history of working together for the betterment of Pacific people and the Blue Pacific Continent. Today, New Zealand is one of SPC's most impactful donors supporting Pacific priorities through innovation, science, and development effectiveness.



Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago, Regional Director Polynesia of the Pacific Community, thanks New Zealand for their significant investment in SPC's Flagship Climate Change Programme

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UOG, GovGuam partner with Blue Planet Alliance, discuss sustainability efforts

University of Guam

A heart attack gave tech entrepreneur Henk Rogers, founder of Blue Planet Alliance, a life reset.

He decided to use the fortune he made, in part, out of developing video games, and acquiring the rights to then-obscure Tetris, toward efforts to reverse climate change.

Rogers said he began strongly advocating against the use of carbon-based fuels particularly because of predictions that humans are “going to kill all the coral in the world by the end of the century.”

Rogers shared his life story and advocacy as the keynote speaker on Thursday at the 2023 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Addressing climate change and biodiversity loss will be the defining ecological, political and humanitarian challenge of our time, according to the recent article “Integrating biogeography and behavioral ecology to address biodiversity loss,” published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS), one of the world’s most cited and comprehensive multidisciplinary scientific journals. The article discussed how multiple sectors can work together to “modulate extinction risk.”

Based in Hawaii and New York, Rogers pushed for the adoption of Hawaii’s mandate for 100% renewable energy by 2045. Using coal and fossil fuel oil for power generation drives the high cost of living in Hawaii and low wages, Rogers said.

At the conference, Rogers, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, UOG President Thomas W. Krise, Director Austin Shelton of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and other dignitaries signed up to form partnerships with Blue Planet Alliance.

The partnership with Government of Guam officials reinforced the island’s commitment to achieving its 100 percent renewable energy mandate by 2045, joining other island states and nations, such as Hawaii, Tonga, and Tuvalu,

in signing the Blue Planet Climate Agreement to solidify their dedication to this cause.

Krise also signed a Memorandum of Understanding which officially made the University of Guam a member of the Blue Planet Alliance.

According to Rogers, codifying renewal energy goals through legislation is part of alliance-building, and ensures continuity of the commitment. He’s a proponent of starting initiatives from the islands and then expanding toward the nation and internationally.

Guam has a public law that sets a renewable energy goal of 100 percent by 2045. Senator Amanda Shelton and then-Senator Clynt Ridgell drafted the bill that became public law.

“Thank you so much that you have already done this for Guam,” Rogers said.

Shelton said the signing of the agreement is the start of an important partnership to fortify the island against the devastating impacts of climate change.

“This agreement not only highlights the importance of collaboration between sectors, but also emphasizes our responsibility to preserve the beauty and resilience of our island. Let us continue to work together in implementing sustainable solutions and championing climate action for Guam and our region,” he said.

Local initiatives Speaker Therese Terlaje and Guam Delegate James Moylan also spoke at the conference on Wednesday.

Terlaje highlighted the various legislative measures that protect the environment and promote sustainability. These measures include legislation that supports the modernization of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the promotion of recycling, and Zero Waste initiatives, among others.

Addressing the conference participants, she said, “I look forward, with great excitement to the continuing collaboration of the Guam Legislature with all of you in this room, our neighbors throughout the region, to build paths to sustainability and to reclaiming

our cultural practices, and localizing solutions.”

Moylan recalled the abundance of island resources while growing up in Guam.

“We need to start building a sustainable future for ourselves and our island and these conferences are important to do just that,” he said.

The conference is themed “Rediscover the Depths of Our Island Abundance.” The conference wraps up with a youth summit on Saturday, April 15.

For more information, go to <https://www.uog.edu/cis2023/connect-with-us>

