

# Yap team takes first place at historic first ever FSM National Futsal Championship

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 15, 2023

**Pohnpei, FSM**—What began as a simple query from a then 17-year-old descendant of Kosrae living in Gainesville, Georgia has ultimately rekindled an FSM football (soccer) movement to be recognized by the FIFA, the sport's governing body. Kenny Aldana simply wanted to know if there was a team that he could play for in the FSM and wrote to anyone he could think of in the FSM that might be involved in the sport. Receiving no replies did not stop Aldana and he wrote to Paul Watson of Great Britain who coached the now non-existent FSM national football team in 2009 and 2010. Two years later Watson wrote a book entitled "Up Pohnpei" detailing his



experiences as coach of a team that had never participated in any international football competitions. Aldana's query captured Watson's imagination and he started putting together the details to hold an FSM-wide football competition.

Ultimately, those preparations led to last week's first ever Futsal championship, an indoor version of football that instead of 11 men per side has only five per side and is played indoors on a basketball court. That week long tournament is the first small step in the long and arduous procedure of being recognized by the Asian Football Confederation or the Oceania Football Confederation. If that can be accomplished, and the FSM leadership has tried and failed before due to lapsed application deadlines and other factors, the next step in the parade



[Click on above photo for short highlights video](#)

could be recognition by FIFA. "But it's going to take a lot of work," Watson said

[Click here for continuation on page 4](#)

# Fabian Nimea and Yoslyn Sigras will be Chuuk and Kosrae's new FSM senators Constitutional referendum results uncertifiable due to Chuuk election process errors

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 18, 2023

**FSM**—On July 10, 2023, Ausen T. Lambert, Director of the National Election Office partially certified the results of the July 4, 2023 special election. On that date, Chuuk and Kosrae voters needed to elect from a list of nine candidates each, the person who would fill the seats vacated when Congress elected Chuuk's at-large representative Wesley Simina to be the President of the FSM, and Kosrae's at-large representative, Aren Palik to be the FSM's Vice President. FSM-wide, voters went to the polls to decide on the fates of nine proposed amendments to the FSM's Constitution as proposed by the elected

members of the FSM's Constitutional Convention.

The National Election Office was able to certify the results of the elections for the two At-Large Senators the people of Chuuk and Kosrae elected but, due to some announced irregularities in Chuuk's election, could not yet certify the final results of the proposed Constitutional amendments. The Office did, however, announce the percentages of the votes in each of the FSM States that reported results on those votes which excluded any results from the State of Chuuk.

According to Lambert's July 10 announcement, Chuuk elected Fabian Nimea to be their at-large representative

with a vote of 3,576. Kosrae elected Yoslyn Sigras to be their representative with a vote of 697.

The FSM Constitution has often been described as not being "built for speed", meaning that passing amendments to that document was purposely designed with an abundance of caution to be certain that proposed amendments truly reflect the wishes of FSM's voters. The current legal standard to pass an amendment to the Constitution requires that 75 percent of FSM voters in 75 percent of its states votes to pass it. That standard may change if the elections show that voters are shown to have chosen to pass an amendment that lowers the threshold, but for this election, that standard is in place.

Because Chuuk has not yet reported its results on the referendum, and Pohnpei's vote did on the "threshold" issue did not meet the 75 percent standard, as of press time, the determination as to whether that amendment has passed or not has not been officially settled.

Kosrae's voters elected to adopt all nine of the proposed constitutional amendments by a significant margin. It was the only State of the four FSM States whose voters chose to pass each amendment. Also, by a large margin, Pohnpei State's voters passed seven of the amendments excluding only the amendments on "threshold" and the legal right for a health

[Click here for continuation on page 15](#)

# Marines come to FSM for the first time for Task Force Koa Moana



*Left: U.S. Marines with Task Force Koa Moana 23 execute a motivational run with cadets of the Chuuk State Police Academy on Weno, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, July 7, 2023. Task Force Koa Moana 23, composed of U.S. Marines and Sailors from I Marine Expeditionary Force, deployed to the Indo-Pacific to strengthen relationships with Pacific Island partners through bilateral and multilateral security cooperation and community engagements.*



*photos taken by Lance Cpl. Trent A. Henry*

*Right: U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Andrew Bailey, a bulk fuel specialist with Task Force Koa Moana 23, obtains measurements of a roof during a structure quality observation visit at Southern Namoneas High School on Fefen, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia*

## U.S. Embassy Kolonia

July 17, 2023

**FSM** - Task Force Koa Moana 23, comprised of U.S. Marines and Sailors from I Marine Expeditionary Force, have deployed to the Indo-Pacific. Now in its fifth year, the Task Force's goal is to strengthen relationships with Pacific Island partners through a bilateral and multilateral security cooperation exercise.

The Marines began arriving in late June, and began their work across the FSM. They've run the Chuuk State police through a series of training exercises, teaching Chuuk law enforcement recruits the basics in military drill, martial arts, and first aid care. Marines have also made improvements to the Mwan Elementary School in Chuuk, where they cleared debris around the building and strengthened the roof through the installation of steel panels.

In Kosrae, Marines are working each day to make infrastructure enhancements to the state hospital. So far, they've replaced a main support beam in the building and done significant work on replacing the roof panels there as well.

Marines repaired a communication tower in Pohnpei, restoring long range signal to the rest of FSM. They reinforced the infrastructure to the tower to prevent any future damage to the site.



*U.S. Marines with Task Force Koa Moana 23 present and distribute Meals Ready-to-Eat to Chuukese children during a structure quality observation visit at Southern Namoneas High School on Fefen, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, July 10, 2023.*

Every Sunday Marines throw on their gloves and hit the field for an afternoon of softball in Pohnpei. They play with the locals at the Spanish Wall field at 3:00 P.M. They encourage anyone in the area who is interested to come out and play with them.

Task Force Koa Moana is a Hawai'ian phrase meaning "ocean warrior," the task force will remain here in the FSM through September.



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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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of working hours on:**

**Monday, July 31, 2023**

# FSM Infrastructure Conference focuses on strategic development planning

*FSM Information Services*

27th June 2023

**Tofol, Kosrae, FSM**—The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) kicked off its highly anticipated Infrastructure Conference on Tuesday, with all four states of the Federation actively participating in the event. The conference, aimed at enhancing clarity on end-user requirements and fostering an improved consultative process for infrastructure development in FSM, was set to be a platform for open discussions and innovative approaches to pressing challenges.

The conference's first day saw a series of insightful sessions, starting with a warm welcome to all attendees. The Vice President brought greetings on behalf of the President, emphasizing the importance of inclusive infrastructure development and ensuring No Island is left behind. Representatives from each state also shared their expectations and hope for the next 20 years of infrastructure development in the FSM.

The focus shifted to strategic development planning, where stakeholders shared valuable insights and best practices in

mapping out FSM's future infrastructure initiatives. With a clear emphasis on sustainable growth and long-term prosperity, the participants engaged in productive discussions on various aspects of infrastructure planning.

A significant highlight of the day was the ground-breaking ceremony for the much-anticipated Kosrae Hospital. Scheduled at 4.30 pm, the event marked a major milestone in FSM's healthcare infrastructure and showcased the collective determination of the nation to deliver improved services to its citizens after fourteen (14) years of waiting. Following the ceremony, delegates reconvened at the Kosrae Gym for a welcome dinner, fostering camaraderie and networking among industry leaders.

As the conference progressed, FSM looked forward to harnessing the expertise and insights shared by all stakeholders to shape a robust and resilient infrastructure framework that addresses the diverse needs of its people. The FSM Infrastructure Conference had set a promising tone for the subsequent days, as stakeholders actively collaborated to shape the future of infrastructure development in FSM.



# FSM Infrastructure Conference explores Compact II implementation and program progress

*FSM Information Services*

28th June 2023

**Tofol, Kosrae, FSM**—The second day of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Infrastructure Conference witnessed further progress in the nation's infrastructure development endeavors. With active participation from all four states, the conference continued to foster a safe space for open discussions on the implementation progress of various programs.

Day two featured engaging sessions that delved into Compact II implementation and the progress made in other critical programs, including those supported by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, among others. Participants shared valuable insights and experiences, highlighting both successes and challenges faced during the implementation phase.

Another crucial area of focus was sectoral development and constraints. Discussions centered on identifying

key barriers and exploring innovative approaches to overcome them, ensuring sustained progress and development across different sectors. Participants actively contributed to this dialogue, sharing their expertise and proposing strategic solutions to address sector-specific challenges.

Representatives from each state's Project Management Office (PMO) provided updates on the financial status and progress of projects in their respective states. Challenges faced in upscaling infrastructure development, such as technology, contractors, human resources, upskilling, and financing, were openly discussed.

Following a short break, Session 5 delved into the implementation status of infrastructure projects supported by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Updates were provided on programs such as the Maritime Investment Program, Road Rehabilitation Program, East Micronesia Cable and Fiber to the Home Program,

Sustainable Energy Development Assistance Program, CPUC Water and Sanitation Project, and some aspects of the AIP (FAA).

The afternoon session, Session 6, highlighted key sectoral issues and constraints. Participants engaged in discussions on climate-resilient road strategies, port strategic plans, water and energy development, and health and education infrastructure.

These conversations highlighted the importance of incorporating climate change considerations, master planning, funding sources, and coordination in developing sector-specific infrastructure. As the conference progressed, FSM remained committed to building strong partnerships and leveraging international support to overcome infrastructure challenges and achieve sustainable development.



## ...Futsal

Continued from front page

over breakfast in Pohnpei.

A team from each of the FSM's States competed in last week's tournament. The Yap team took the trophy home as first place winners. They were followed by Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk. Each of the State teams competed in one game per day beginning on July 8 at the Pohnpei State Gymnasium near the Pohnpei Island Central School campus. The crowd of spectators on the first day was a bit disheartening with a just a small group, most of them wondering what Futsal would look like but as the tournament progressed, more and more people came to watch the players compete in the "new to the FSM" sport and the crowd on the evening of the finals was enthusiastic verging on raucous as they chanted, danced, sang, and simply cheered for the players and their favorite team.

On the first day of the tournament, Pohnpei faced Chuuk winning that game by 7 goals in a score of 10 to 3. During the second game, Kosrae defeated Yap with a score of 7 to 2. On the second day Yap faced Pohnpei with a score of 6 to one in favor of the strong and experienced Yap team. Chuuk earned five goals to Kosrae's four in the second game. On July 10 Kosrae beat Pohnpei 10 to 7, and Yap beat Chuuk 11 to 8. July 12 was the day of the semi-finals. On that day Kosrae took Chuuk down with a score of 9 to 2. Yap also beat Pohnpei with 10 goals for Yap and 5 for Pohnpei. The games cemented the position of Yap and Kosrae to play for the top two spots. The championship games were held on July 14. In the game for third and fourth place, Pohnpei had 12 goals as compared to Chuuk's 5. Yap was able to do a victory run after the close game between Yap and Kosrae. Both teams fought hard and Yap took home the trophy with a score of 9 to 7.

The tournament MVP was Maphrick Ruweday of Yap. The Golden Glover (best goalkeeper award) went to Nick Santiago of Kosrae, and the Best Young Player was Yobi Laurdine of Kosrae.

Watson said that Yap would naturally be a strong team because Yap has an ongoing football league and has the best facilities for practicing football with its large gymnasium in the Colonia area.

He said that fund raising was definitely a necessity for the just concluded Futsal tournament. There currently is no budget to develop football as a national sport but he hopes that the success of the tournament



Photos by Matthew Conrad, Bill Jaynes, and Micronesia Productions

will change some legislators' minds. With the exception of an approximate \$2000 appropriation from the Yap State Legislature, the money for travel for State teams was raised by the sales of State football jerseys. Watson was being interviewed during a hugely popular football radio program in the UK and offered FSM based football jerseys for sale to help raise funds. He said that the international response was enormous with over 850 orders coming in for the brightly colored shirts designed and worn by each of the FSM State teams. Orders came from all over the world; from Japan, the Dominican Republic, the United States, Australia, Israel, Qatar and many other places. A group in Italy went so far as to form a Chuuk Fan Club of Italy, and a member of the wildly popular FC Cincinnati soccer team wore a jersey from Pohnpei during a televised event. The rebirthed Federated States of Micronesia Football Association raised over \$15,000 through the sales of the jerseys and the company that made the jerseys allowed them to keep the profit from the jerseys' sales which was used to pay for the flights of team members and coaches to Pohnpei for the tournament.

But this story isn't a Paul Watson story though his enthusiasm played a key role in it. It is an FSM story. The FSM has reformed its Football Association with Brian Southwick as its President. Other officers of the Association are Secretary General - Vasantha Senarathgoda; Vice-President - Chris Diau; Vice-President - Curtis Graham; Treasurer - Albert Carlot; Officers Sean Southwick, Rude Pongliyab, Kenneth Aldana, Darsy Augustine; and Legal Counsel and Officer Quintina Letawerpiy.

Together they hope to remove the FSM's name from the list of only six countries, worldwide who have not yet achieved FIFA recognition. FSM, Palau, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Monaco, and Vatican City are the only sovereign countries to not have a team recognized by the international football authority.

There are many reasons why the FSM has not been able to develop soccer as a national sport. They include a small and widely disparate population, a heavy diaspora of FSM residents, and lack of soccer pitches not prone to flooding. Watson says that Futsal is a perfect solution to the problem of establishing a national football team. Not only is it played indoors which solves the problem of pitch flooding outdoors but it is played with fewer team members per side.

Very few national football teams have been able to successfully get off the ground without attracting major sponsors and Watson



hopes that some of the bigger sponsors will get wind of FSM's efforts and want to get on board. He and the FSM Football Association are going to work on that.

Meanwhile, the FSM has held its first ever national FUTSAL tournament with great success that is just the first step in the sports' FSM development and prosperity.

Organizers sent a long list of people it wanted to thank for their assistance in the tournament. Each one contributed on many levels and are deserving of recognition. Organizers, with the caveat that every supporter is important and if any names are left from the list, it is a matter of human oversight and not any sign of lack of gratitude, wanted to thank:

Alex Gilfiley, Director of the Department of Youth and Civic Affairs; The Honorable Charles Chieng, Governor of the State of Yap; John Mafel, Senator, Yap State Legislature; FSM Government; Pohnpei State government; Honorable Governor Chuuk State; Chuuk Sports & Recreation Office; SHIP-HOOPS; Isolutions; Senator Timothy Ruda; Senator Danny Mersai; Senator Dr. Merlynn Abello Alfonso for presenting the awards and as a sponsor; Chief Pohnpei State Social Affairs, Mr. Norieka Lekka; Pohnpei State Sports Director Mr. Ramsie Joab, Sponsors FSM NOC; Mr. Jim Tobin; Caroline Fisheries Corporation; Rotary Club of Pohnpei; Bank of FSM; Dr. Nick Santiago; Mr. Larson Nena; Mr. Darsy Augustine; Mr. Albert Carlot; COM-FSM Staff members Mr. Loatis Seneres, Mr. Jerry Booth and Mr. Juan Paulo Santos; Micronesia Productions Media Director, Nigel Jaynes; and Pohnpei Senator Walter for housing the Chuuk team.

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# “Red, White, Blue, and Green”, the U.S shares its celebration of independence in the FSM

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 6, 2023

**Pohnpei**—“July 4th, the birthday of the United States, is a time to come together with family and friends to celebrate and reflect on our history, values, and the importance of our democracy, and it’s great to celebrate here as our relationship with the FSM is based on shared values,” said United States Chargé d’Affaires Alissa Bibb of the United States Embassy to the FSM. “We both value democracy, freedom, human rights, and rule of law, and share a desire for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.”

She gave her remarks at the celebration of the 247th Anniversary of the signing

of the Declaration of Independence which marked the beginning of a long history for the British colonies as the United States of America came to be with that proud declaration. “The work continues unabated on our democracy. As President Biden has noted, we always have been a forward-looking nation, one still striving toward a more perfect union. Three years from now - July 4, 2026 - will be the 250th anniversary of the United States’ independence,” Bibb said.

The gathering was held at Mangrove Bay Bar and Grill on July 6 rather than the traditional celebration on July 4 in accommodation of the FSM’s special election and referendum on Constitutional amendments which was held in the FSM on July 4. The theme

for the gathering was Red, White, Blue, and Green. The Red, White, and Blue are the colors of the United States flag. The “green” of the theme referred to a focus on clean energy and food security. Pursuant to that theme, the Embassy asked three local groups to have booths displaying their work on food security in the FSM. The College of Micronesia’s Center for Entrepreneurship displayed and sold some of its vegetables that it has been growing in its hydroponic gardens. MERIP, the Madolenihmw based NGO that specializes in aquaculture education displayed some of the sea grown products that it is exporting and had materials on clam cultivation and other projects it is currently working on for food security. Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School displayed its handicrafts made from reclaimed and

recycled items and also gave samples of excellent cooking from local products.

“The U.S. government, through USAID and other partners, is supporting a number of projects related to food security and sustainability, including a closed-loop agriculture and livestock project in Madolenihmw, eco-resilient and high-value fishery projects in Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei, and a women and farming project in Kosrae,” Bibb said. “Promoting food sustainability and variety is not only good for our health, but for the health of our climate and ecosystems.”

The Chargé d’Affaires announced that in terms of clean energy, the U.S.

[Click here for continuation on page 10](#)





# College of Micronesia-FSM

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**FSM-FMI** is located on the island of Yap, occupying the facilities built in the late 1960's for the Loran Station operated by the United States Coast Guard. The Institute is situated some six miles north of the capital, Colonia. There are three majors offered at FSM-FMI: Navigation, Marine Engineering and Fishing Technology. Currently, these fields of studies or programs normally run for two years, and anyone completing one of them is awarded an Advanced Certificate of Achievement in each of them, and an industry Certificate of Competency as Master of vessels of not over 200 gross tonnage (or Class 5 Master) for a Navigation major; or a Certificate of Competency as Marine Engineer of vessels of not over 500 kilowatts total propulsion power (or Class 5 Marine Engineer) for a Marine Engineering major. These programs, particularly Navigation and Marine Engineering, are offered in accordance with the standards and requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW Convention). The STCW Convention is the international treaty which prescribes the minimum qualifications for seafarers worldwide and, by becoming a Party to the treaty (on October 14, 1998), the FSM has indicated its intention to provide training and maintain the qualifications of FSM seafarers in accordance with the standards and requirements prescribed in the Convention. (Detailed information regarding admission requirements, program, and courses for FSM-FMI is located in separate publication.)

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## FSM Infrastructure Conference prioritizes maintenance and cross-cutting issues

*FSM Information Services*

29th June 2023

**Tofol, Kosrae, FSM**—The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Infrastructure Conference entered its third day, with sessions dedicated to addressing critical aspects of infrastructure maintenance and cross-cutting issues. The conference, attended by representatives from all four states, continues to facilitate open dialogue and foster collaboration among stakeholders.

The Expanded Maintenance Program took center stage on day three, with participants focusing on strategies to enhance the maintenance and upkeep of existing infrastructure assets. Valuable insights were shared on implementing comprehensive maintenance programs that ensure the longevity and functionality of vital infrastructure systems.

Furthermore, the discussions expanded to address the broader infrastructure

ecosystem, aiming to identify and overcome capacity constraints that hinder effective development. Participants examined cross-cutting issues such as climate change, gender equity, and environmental and social safeguards, recognizing their significance in shaping resilient infrastructure systems.

Additionally, attention was directed toward the infrastructure requirements of the outer islands, with participants discussing tailored approaches to cater to the unique challenges and opportunities presented by these regions.

In Session 8, stakeholders explored the importance of establishing an enabling environment and addressing capacity constraints. Presentations on preparing an FSM Building Code, capacity development programs for contractors, proposal for a material testing laboratory, and human resources capacity assessment underscored the significance of regulations, skill development, and infrastructure support for sustainable

development.

Throughout the day, participants actively engaged in discussions, sharing best practices, and identifying strategies to improve infrastructure resilience and address constraints faced in FSM.

As the conference progresses, FSM remains committed to fostering a collaborative environment, where stakeholders actively work together to address maintenance concerns, cross-cutting issues, and the infrastructure needs of all its citizens.



## FSM Infrastructure Conference concludes with Compact III focus and closing remarks

*FSM Information Services*

June 29, 2023

**Tofol, Kosrae, FSM**—The highly productive Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Infrastructure Conference drew to a close, concluding four days of insightful discussions and collaborative efforts to advance infrastructure development nationwide. Attended by representatives from all four states, the conference brought together stakeholders to strategize on the implementation of Compact III and other critical initiatives.

The final day of the conference began with session eleven, which explored the details and implications of Compact III—an essential agreement that will shape the future of FSM's infrastructure development. Participants engaged in constructive dialogue, analyzing the action plan outlined by the DTIC to move the implementation of Compact III forward.

Following that, the group focused on fine-tuning the action plan and addressing any remaining concerns to ensure a comprehensive and robust framework for implementation. Stakeholders actively contributed their expertise and insights to refine the plan, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to the nation's infrastructure vision.

The conference's last session served as a wrap-up, providing



an opportunity for participants to reflect on the achievements and outcomes of the event. Closing remarks were delivered, expressing gratitude to all attendees for their valuable contributions and reaffirming FSM's dedication to building a sustainable and resilient infrastructure ecosystem.

The FSM Infrastructure Conference concluded on a high note, showcasing FSM's commitment to inclusive and sustainable infrastructure development. The insights gained, and the action plan formulated during the conference will serve as a roadmap for future progress, ensuring a prosperous future for all FSM citizens. The Action Plan involved eleven (11) resolutions, one for each session stemming from two critical resolutions from the State and National Leaders Conference.

# Kosraean Marine returns home during Koa Moana 23

*1st Marine Logistics Group  
Story by Staff Sgt. Courtney White*

**July 9, 2023**

Nestled 370 miles north of the equator between Hawaii and Guam is the “Jewel of Micronesia.” Kosrae, formerly known as Strong Island, is the easternmost of the Caroline Islands in the Federated States of Micronesia. The volcanic island is largely unspoiled and surrounded by coral reefs teeming with fish. Homing nearly 6,600 people on its 42 square miles, Kosrae has become a travel destination for hikers, surfers and scuba divers. This year, Kosrae is also a destination for U.S. Marines and Sailors with Task Force Koa Moana 23 including Private First Class Alexiander Sigrah, a Kosrae native.

“I am excited to be able to go back home and fix a lot of stuff that I’ve always wanted to be involved in helping with,” said Sigrah, an automotive maintenance technician and liaison for Koa Moana. “I hope we can make strong relationships with the people back home.”

Task Force Koa Moana deployed to the Indo-Pacific to strengthen relationships with Pacific Island partners through bilateral and multilateral security cooperation and community engagements.

“It is not every day that you see Marines walking around,” said Sigrah. “We have



the ability to fix the hospital and the police shooting range. Small things like that mean a lot to all the people back home. Repairs are a big thing, but they can’t because its financially hard.”

According to Lt. Col. Robert J. Hillery, the task force commanding officer, Marines like Sigrah allow for a better connection between Marines and the Micronesian population.

“PFC Sigrah can assist in communication, coordination, and collaboration, which in turn, helps us build and maintain a mutually beneficial relationship,” said Hillery. “His presence also shows his community his dedication to both the Corps and his hometown.”

Sigrah enlisted into the United States

Marine Corps in 2022 and was promoted to his current rank while deployed to Kosrae with the task force.

“Joining was appealing to me because people who used to be in the service back home, veterans, are looked up on and respected,” said Sigrah. “I wanted to earn respect too. Now, I am a Kosrae descendent and a Kosrae Marine. That is pretty rare.”

According to Sigrah, he is thrilled to be a liaison for his community and the Corps.

“I want to introduce the Marines to our lifestyle over there and how people work with one another,” said Sigrah. “A similar thing about the Marine Corps and Kosrae is people are very close to one another and help out each other. That’s what I like best about the Marine Corps so far.”

## Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Philippines and Non-Resident Ambassador-designate to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau pays courtesy call on Governor Oliver

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

**July 5, 2023**

**Peilapalap, Pohnpei**—Governor Oliver received H.E. Ms Michèle BOCCOZ, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Philippines and Non-Resident Ambassador-designate to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau. This is the first visit to FSM for Ambassador BOCCOZ.

Ambassador Boccoz is based in Manila, Republic of the Philippines. She has been trained as a Diplomat, joining the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February 1991. Her most recent posting was as the Assistant Director-

General and Special Envoy of the Director-General at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Governor Oliver conveyed his appreciation and honor to receive H.E. Michèle Boccoz to Peilapalap and welcome her to Pohnpei. Ambassador Boccoz explained that France considers itself a Pacific nation with New Caledonia and French Polynesia. She noted that the Pacific region is “where the world is changing” and both her and Governor Oliver agreed they share the same concerns with regards to conservation and climate change.

Ambassador Boccoz also shared upcoming opportunities to connect online and learn the French Language and looked forward to working with Pohnpei State through the FSM National Government in areas like Agriculture, Fisheries and Energy.



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which is used in connection with the following goods:

Full line of cosmetics and toiletries, namely, skin cleanser; skin moisturizers; skin creams; facial soap, facial soap for acne, facial moisture lotion; non-medicated face and skin cleansers and moisturizers; spot treatments, namely, skin cleanser; facial wash.

Medicated skin cleanser; medicated facial and body wash, and medicated facial and body scrub; medicated nose strips for the treatment of blackheads, medicated acne patches, acne treatment preparations, medicated astringents, medicated skin moisturizers.

Kenvue Inc. claims all rights in respect to the above trademark and will take all necessary legal steps against any person, firm or corporation counterfeiting, imitating, violating or otherwise infringing its rights in the Federated States of Micronesia.

#### MUNRO LEYS

Lawyers & Notaries Public  
Pacific House, Butt Street, PO  
Box 149, Suva, Fiji  
Email: [trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj](mailto:trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj)  
[www.munroleyslaw.com](http://www.munroleyslaw.com)

MUNRO LEYS

# Independence Day

Continued from page 6

Embassy became the U.S. government's second net-zero facility this spring after it completed the installation of a solar power system at the embassy.

"...Military activities range from U.S. Navy Seabees conducting civil engineering and planning projects, U.S. Marine Corps' Koa Moana exercise, law enforcement capacity building trainings, resumption of approximately \$38 Million dollars' worth of equipment deliveries, U.S. Coast Guard Cutters patrolling the FSM EEZ through our shiprider and expanded ship agreements, surveys for significant military construction projects to improve seaports and airports, and many more.

"On disaster response, I'm pleased

to provide you an update on our reconstruction program in response to Typhoon Wutip and its devastating impact on the outer islands and Chuuk Lagoon. With FEMA funding, USAID is on track to complete its relief and reconstruction program now totaling \$37 million for this disaster event by the end of this year. USAID and our implementing partner IOM are working hard to meet this deadline and complete the reconstruction of 246 destroyed and damaged homes, as well as public infrastructure.

"Just since January 1st, the Department of the Interior has awarded close to \$100M in grant funds for priority infrastructure projects. This includes funding for dispensaries in Chuuk, elementary schools and healthcare facilities in Pohnpei, water and wastewater treatment facilities in Yap,

and for the hospital in Kosrae," Bibb concluded.

As in previous US Independence Day celebrations, along with resident U.S. citizens, many dignitaries from the FSM government including President Wesley Simina, and Vice President Aren Palik attended as did resident heads of international organizations and the members of the Diplomatic Corps.

President Simina wished the people of the United States and its President Biden well on the country's 247th birthday and spoke of the long and deep friendship and partnership between the United States and the FSM. He praised US leadership under President Biden for bringing the issues to the front and center that concern the FSM and Pacific Island nations including the number one existential threat of climate change.

FSM's continuing friendship with US and reciprocal respect between the two nations.

The FSM also "heard the shot that was heard around the world," and the words of Patrick Henry spoken so long ago, "give me liberty or give me death." He said that the United States story was an inspiration for the FSM's own pursuit of self-determination and self-governance.

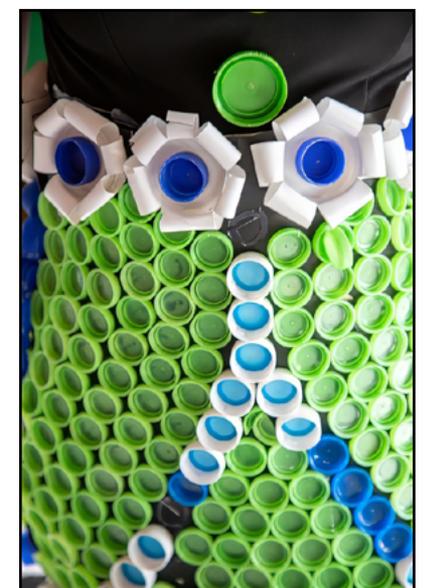
He said that he is looking forward to welcoming a new Ambassador from the United States to the FSM and that the FSM would continue to work together with the United States to build the FSM's human capacity, human rights and sustained independence.

Both Alissa Bibb and President Simina concluded their remarks with a toast to the health and prosperity of each of the nations and the continued relationship together.

The evening concluded with a buffet style meal.



He said that the enduring Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the United States is the mainstay of our relations, and he reaffirmed the



# 125 Micronesian students awarded Habel Tuition Scholarships

## Habele

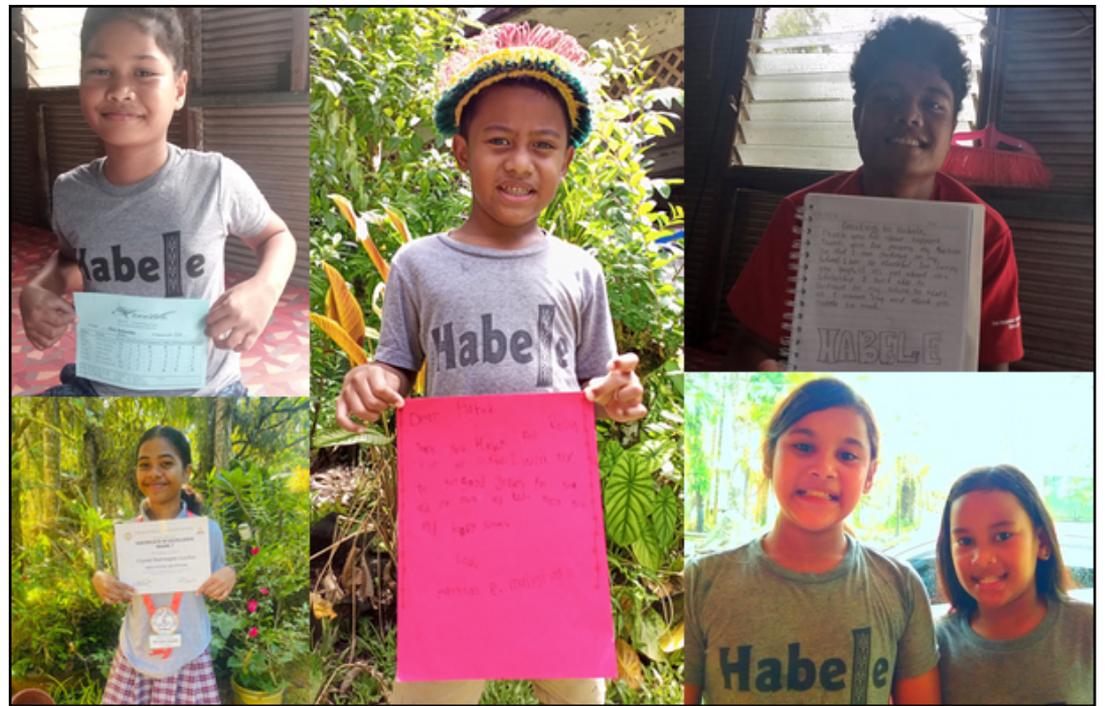
A US nonprofit, established by former Peace Corps Volunteers, is awarding tuition scholarships to 125 students across the Federated States of Micronesia. Funded entirely by the annual donations of individual Americans, the scholarships help cover tuition costs at independent elementary and high schools within the FSM.

Habele's tuition scholarships ensure bright, hardworking students have access to the best elementary and secondary education possible. Based on need and merit, each Habele tuition scholarship is set at a level that maintains family ownership in student achievement while lightening the financial burden.

The scholarships cover between 50 and 75 percent of tuition and fees. Students must maintain and report high levels of academic achievement every term, applying each year for continued support.

Since 2006, more than 230 students in Micronesia have benefited from the program, which started with a single student seventeen years ago.

Of the 125 Habele Scholars for 2023-24, roughly 60 percent are female; two thirds are in elementary school, and three-in-five are from neighboring islands. Among the incumbents the average student is entering their third year as a scholarship recipient. Of the 56 students awarded scholarship last year, 52 were awarded renewals for 2023-24, one migrated to the US, two graduated high school and departed for higher education, and only one failed to report or reapply.



"Everyone -parents, teachers, and community members- want young people who are prepared to meet the challenges of the future" explained Neil Mellen, Habel's Founder. "These targeted scholarships provide support to engaged families who are making sacrifices to provide educational opportunities for their children. Habel wants to help ensure these ambitious hardworking students are prepared to sustain and improve quality of life for their islands."





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\*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY: Void where prohibited. Legal residents of the Federated States of Micronesia who are 18 or older. Begins June 26, 2023 at 12:00 A.M. PONT and ends on July 23, 2023 at 11:59 P.M. PONT. To enter, and for Official Rules, odds, and prize details, visit <https://bankofguam.com/promotions/summer-of-2023-visa-debit-fsm-sweepstakes-rules>. Sponsor: Bank of Guam.



# Veterinary Clinic July 19-24, 2023

Dr Joseph and two nurses from Wise Owl Animal Hospital in Guam, plan to hold a veterinary clinic in Pohnpei July 19 to 24, 2023. conducting a spay and neuter clinic. The clinic will be open at the New Tokyo Medical College.



## Why Spay and Neuter?

- o Reduce spraying and marking
- o Reduce roaming
- o Reduce aggression
- o Lower risk of cancers
- o Decrease over population
- o Increase lifespan up to 3-5 years

To be able to provide this subsidized service we need your donations of money, frequent flyer miles or offers to help at the clinic with washing and preparing animal bedding.

Where: New Tokyo Medical College  
For an appointment:  
Email: lisabarrow96941@gmail.com Or  
kidioangoahng@gmail.com  
Phone: 921 4928



## Pohnpei Governor conveys Pohnpei priorities to Pohnpei representative of FSM Congress

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

July 10, 2023

**Kolonia, Pohnpei**—Governor Oliver and members of his cabinet met with Congresswoman Merlynn Abello-Alphonso and Floor Leader Quincy Lawrence of the 23rd FSM Congress.

Pohnpei State priorities were shared with the Senators including Sea transportation, health, education, infrastructure, gross revenue tax and the

recent special election that included the proposed constitutional amendment.

Governor Oliver expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the chance to cooperate, collaborate and coordinate Pohnpei State priorities with the Senators. Floor Leader Lawrence, thanked Governor Oliver for the chance to meet and discuss priorities and along with Congresswoman Abello-Alphonso look forward to continuing cooperation with Pohnpei State Government.



## Red Cross and U.S. Marines to host Blood Donor Registration Drive on Sunday, July 23 at Spanish Wall Field

*U.S. Embassy Kolonia*

July 17th, 2023

**Pohnpei, Micronesia** – The U.S. Marine Corps, Micronesia Red Cross Society, and the local fire department are working together to save lives by hosting a blood donor registration drive. About one hundred U.S. Marines are here for Operation Koa Moana, a summer-long community service and infrastructure enhancement effort throughout the FSM.

On Sunday, July 23rd all three groups will combine forces to host a registration drive from 4:00-6:00 P.M. at the Spanish Wall field. This drive will not ask for volunteers to donate blood. Instead, they are registering residents of Pohnpei by a quick and easy blood type test to grow the number of registered donors on the island. These donors will be called upon when a donation is needed. More

registered donors mean more lives could be saved.

“Pohnpei does not have the capability to store blood for future use,” say Dr. Michael Poppe, U.S. Navy, Task Force Koa Moana. The Red Cross is contacted with a request for the specific blood type and must directly call members of the community to come donate blood. Right now, there are many more requests for blood than there are donors.”

To show how the health and safety of the local community is a top priority, the U.S. Marines, Red Cross volunteers, and local firefighters will also be registering as blood donors themselves. They encourage everyone to join them and support this cause. You could save a life.

For more information about this event, please contact 1stLt Arthur Deal, USMC at [arthur.deal@usmc.mil](mailto:arthur.deal@usmc.mil).

RFP 23-5477



### INVITATION TO BID REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SERVICES

**Project Title:** Consultancy Services – FSM Adaptation Measure Prioritisation Framework.

**Location:** Home based with travel to Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

**Date of issue:** 28/06/2023

**Deadline for seeking Clarification:** 14/07/2023

**Closing Date:** 30/07/2023

The Pacific Community (SPC) invites interested bidders to submit a proposal for the procurement of Preferred Service Provider for Consultancy Services for the FSM Adaptation Measure Prioritisation Framework.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) and other related documents can be downloaded from the SPC website at <http://www.spc.int/Procurement>.

Direct link: <https://spc.int/procurement/tenders/consultancy-services-fsm-adaptation-measure-prioritisation-framework>

For any additional information or clarification on the RFP process, please send your request by e-mail to [procurement@spc.int](mailto:procurement@spc.int).

All proposals must be submitted in two separate emails (one Technical Proposal and one Financial Proposal) no later than 30/07/2023 by 11.45 PM Pohnpei Time.

### TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that our client, **Unilumin Group Co., Ltd.** of BUILDING A, 112 YONGFU ROAD, QIAOTOU COMMUNITY, FUYONG TOWN, BAOAN DISTRICT, SHENZHEN, CHINA is the sole owner and sole proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia of the following trade mark:

## Unilumin

in respect of the following goods:

**Class 9:** Data processing apparatus; computer software for controlling the operation of audio and video devices; computer software platforms, recorded or downloadable; LED monitors; video display units; Light-emitting electronic pointers; Digital signs; Neon signs; virtual reality headsets; Combination video players and recorders; Projection apparatus; Audiovisual teaching apparatus; Video screens; led drivers; LED outdoor advertising displays; Light-emitting diodes (LED) screens; Playing devices for sound and image carriers; Automatic advertising machines; Touch screens; Light-emitting diodes[LED], including all the goods in this class.

**Class 11:** Lamps; Germicidal lamps for purifying air; Light-emitting diodes[LED] lighting apparatus; Air sterilisers; Disinfectant apparatus; LED luminaires; light-emitting diode [LED] landscape lights; Arc lamps; light-emitting diode [LED] for cars; Stage light fixtures; Lights for vehicles; Lighting apparatus and installations; Luminous tubes for lighting; Luminous house numbers; LED safety lamps; Organic light-emitting diode (OLED) lighting installations; lighting installations; Drying apparatus and installations; Heating apparatus; Heating installations, including all the goods in this class.

Any inquiry relative thereto may be referred to ourselves being the agent of the trade mark proprietor:

MUNRO LEYS  
Pacific House, Butt Street, Box 149 Suva, Fiji  
Phone +679 331 4188  
Fax +679 330 2672

# ...Election

*Continued from front page*

environment. Yap State voters also passed seven amendments but did not pass the revenue sharing amendment and the Land Case jurisdiction amendment.

Though the referendum showed that the three reporting States, the constitutional standard for passage of any amendment, had passed five of the amendments only two of the States had ratified the remaining four which is not enough to exclude Chuuk's missing results from any certification of the end effect of the vote. The five amendments that have met the standards are Dual Citizenship, Eligibility for Congress, Independent Prosecutor, Presidential veto override standards, and Revenue Distribution.

On July 10, 2023 four petitioners, two of whom are Chuuk voters and two of who are also members of the Constitutional Convention filed a civil action against Chuuk's Acting National Election Commissioner and Ausen T. Lambert, the National Director for the elections. The suit asked the court to issue a "Writ of Mandamus" which is a court order requiring a public official to do his or her job. They also asked for a Temporary Injunction on certification of the election.

In the summary of the facts of the case in its July 11, 2023 ruling on the matter the Supreme Court said that there were 112 polling places for Chuuk and that all but five had reported their results for the at-large seats, however, only 27 had reported their referendum results to the acting Chuuk National Election Commissioner. The rest either counted and tabulated their referendum results and placed the tabulations in their locked boxes or placed the uncounted referendum ballots along with the counted special election ballots in their locked boxes and sent them to the election office in Weno, Chuuk. Five polling places did not report their results for the at-large seat and those boxes also have not arrived in Weno. Sixteen of the ballot boxes at the time of the July 11 ruling had not yet arrived in Weno though their results had been reported.

Seventy of the ballot boxes, at the time of the July 11 ruling had arrived in Weno where the boxes, each with

a lock both inside and outside of the boxes were locked in the office of the Acting Election Commissioner. Those boxes contain either uncounted and unreported referendum ballots or counted but unreported referendum ballots. The Chuuk Commissioner was awaiting direction from the FSM Election Director who had on July 10 certified the results of the at large election to see if one or more of the losing candidates would contest the certification or ask for a recount before opening the boxes.

The Court initially ordered the Election Commissioner in Chuuk to start the counting and tabulating of the uncounted referendum ballots on Tuesday, July 11, "or as soon as possible". An amendment to that ruling made it mandatory that the tabulating must begin by 10 AM on July 14. To eliminate any concerns about the integrity of the special election if boxes are opened before there are any election challenges the Court required that the boxes should only be opened and counted in the presence of poll watchers of the five highest vote-getting special election candidates.

The Court also ordered the Election Commissioner in Chuuk to prepare an inventory of all ballot boxes that had not yet been received, whose custody they are in, whether they are in transit and the expected arrival date. It also ordered the Director to request National Police security for the Chuuk election office until the results are certified.

The Court also barred the Director of the National Election Office from certifying any of the results of the referendum vote until Chuuk's results are counted, tabulated, and the results properly reported.

At press time, none of those results were yet available from the FSM National Election Office.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
 FSM National Government  
 Capitol Street, P.O. Box PS 70  
 Palikir, Pohnpei 96941  
 Federated States of Micronesia  
 Tel: (692) 320-2619/2872/2643. E-mail: health@fsmhealth.fm. Fax: (691) 320-5263

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Background:

The Federated State of Micronesia (FSM) is one of the countries that have pledged to bring gender parity to its population through its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) & Convention of the Rights of Children (CRC) in 2004 and the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration in 2012 which resulted in its endorsement of its first National Gender Policy in 2018 and just recently, in 2022; endorsed its Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls and Action Plans at the state level. There are 50,000 women and girls in the FSM. Although, the provisions of the constitutions of the country both at national and state levels do not discriminate against the female population, there are still huge gender gaps between men and women.

Despite the FSM Government's commitments to address the prevailing gender equality issues, the progress in meeting the gender commitments have been slow. One of the major constraints is lack of resources and capacities within the national gender machinery greatly inhibiting its ability to promote protect and fulfill the rights of women and girls.

### Goals:

Improved gender equality outcomes through gender mainstreaming in national and sectoral plans and improved access by the women and girls to income generation, clean water and sanitation projects resulting in Women's Economic Empowerment, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

### Objective:

The FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs (DHSA) through its India funded Strengthening the FSM's Gender Machinery project is soliciting proposal from interested groups, individuals or businesses to provide services to the outer-island women groups or individuals. The FSM DHSA Secretary's aims to address women economic empowerment through the income generation component of this project by creating an environment of income generation targeting underserved communities particularly women in the outer-islands.

Proposals should include CV's, copy of educational credentials and two reference letters for individuals; and for groups and businesses, it should include valid businesses licenses, charters and copies/prove of tax payment.

### A. Required Qualifications

#### Individuals:

- Curriculum vitae
- Copies of educational credentials
- Two letters of references

#### Groups and Businesses:

- Valid business licenses
- Copy Charters
- Prove of tax payment

Please submit your proposals to the following address and emails:

FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs  
 P.O. Box PS70  
 Palikir, Pohnpei 96941  
 Federated States of Micronesia

Or email it to the following emails:

- [JCurley@fsmhelth.fm](mailto:JCurley@fsmhelth.fm);  
[john.curley@undp.org](mailto:john.curley@undp.org); or  
[takiko.ifamilik@undp.org](mailto:takiko.ifamilik@undp.org)

## UN agencies and Micronesian governments unite to accelerate SDGs through digital transformation

*UN Multi-Country Office Micronesia*

*July 12, 2023*

**Pohnpei, Micronesia,**—The governments of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati joined forces with the United Nations to announce the launch of a ground-breaking Joint Programme (JP) on accelerating SDG achievement through digital transformation to strengthen community resilience in Micronesia.



The Pacific SIDS face numerous unique challenges that impact inclusive socio-economic development in a rapidly changing global physical and technical landscape. Geographical isolation, limited resources, dis-economies of scale, and heightened vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change significantly impact their growth opportunities.

The Joint Programme provides a platform for synergies and collaborative action through pooling resources, expertise, and networks to explore solutions aimed at providing better access to digital services, fostering innovative and inclusive environments, spurring economic activities, and strengthening climate change resilience to improve the overall quality of life in the region. This is a unique opportunity for governments, the private sector, civil society partners, and UN organisations in the region.

"Through this Joint Programme, we are not only leveraging the potential of technology but also nurturing resilience and empowering communities in the Pacific," said Mr. Jaap van Hierden, UN Resident Coordinator Micronesia. "Together, we can harness the transformative power of technology, collaboration, and innovation to break barriers, create opportunities, bridge divides, and build a future where no one is left behind".

The Digitalization Programme brings together seven participating UN Organizations led by ITU, including FAO, ILO, UNOPS, UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNODC, under the overall leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator Multi-Country Office

Micronesia. Financed through a USD 3.8 million grant provided by the UN Joint SDG Fund, the Joint Programme supports digital transformation initiatives, solutions, and policy framework developments to digitally empower Small Island Developing States (SIDS) across the Pacific Islands.

Currently, the participating countries of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, and Kiribati are actively engaged in the development of a comprehensive digital transformation strategy. In-country consultations are being conducted to ensure the strategy's ownership and sustainability. This strategy will serve as a vital connector and launch pad for formulating or enhancing sector-specific digital transformation action plans, such as those focused on e-health, e-agriculture, and e-commerce. By adopting a holistic "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach, these countries aim to address key barriers to digital transformation collectively and guide their governments in leveraging digital technologies for inclusive socio-economic development and improved resilience in the face of unique challenges posed by their geographical locations and vulnerability to climate

change and natural disasters.

To realize this vision, the Digitalization Programme will identify one pilot innovative island/district across five participating countries in the region. These selected pilot locations will serve as models for leveraging digitalization to enhance service delivery and drive overall development. The UN agencies will collectively implement digital strategies and capacity-building interventions and facilitate policy reforms to sustain and institutionalize digital initiatives. This will lay the foundation for long-term impact and progress that will pave the way to accelerating the SDGs toward an inclusive, sustainable, and progressive future.

The UN Joint SDG Fund is funded through contributions from fourteen development partners, including the European Union, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Luxemburg, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. Their contribution plays a crucial role in advancing the goals of the Joint Programme and promoting sustainable development in the Pacific region.



## Chinese Motor Vessel SEA PEARL I successfully rescues two FSM fishermen in distress

*Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the FSM*

*July 18, 2023*

**FSM**—On July 13, 2023, when the Chinese Motor Vessel SEA PEARL I, owned by Shandong Zhonglu Oceanic Fisheries Co., Limited (Zhonglu Oceanic), was passing through the adjacent waters of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), it received an emergency message from the United States Coast Guard Sector Guam informing that two fishermen from the FSM were in distress near its route. SEA PEARL I immediately launched an emergency response, searched and successfully rescued the two fishermen, and provided them with food and fresh water supplies.

The two fishermen from the Nukuoro Atoll of the FSM went fishing in a skiff on July 10, but unfortunately their skiff had a mechanical fault and lost power, and they had to drift at sea waiting for rescue.

After SEA PEARL I rescued the two fishermen, Zhonglu Oceanic reported the rescue details to the Chinese Embassy in the FSM at once and got in touch with the FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA). With the joint efforts of both sides, SEA PEARL I safely transferred the two fishermen to the vicinity of the Nukuoro Atoll and escorted them to the safe place, successfully completing the rescue work.

The two rescued fishermen showed their heartfelt thanks to the crew of SEA PEARL I. On behalf of the FSM government and the Pohnpei State government, NORMA expressed sincere gratitude to China for rescuing the two FSM fishermen.

# Pohnpei Governor meets with RMI's Senator Michael Kabua

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

July 14, 2023

**Pohnpei--**Pohnpei State had the distinct honor of welcoming and hosting Iroijlapalap and Senator Michael Kabua from the Republic of the Marshall Islands during his visit to Pohnpei on his journey back home from Taipei, Taiwan. Governor Oliver extended a warm welcome to the distinguished visitor, emphasizing the significance of strong ties between Pohnpei and the Marshall Islands.

During his visit to Pohnpei, Iroijlapalap and Senator Michael Kabua met with the Vice Speaker of the 10th Pohnpei Legislature, Senator McGarry Miguel, Senator Shelten Neth, Senator Stevenson Joseph, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors for the Pohnpei Port Authority, Limanman Helgenberger and Marshallese citizens residing in Pohnpei and locals of Marshallese descent.

The visit of Iroijlapalap and Senator Michael Kabua to Pohnpei underscores the enduring friendship and cooperation between the peoples Pohnpei and the Marshall Islands. It is a testament of shared values, aspirations and commitment to regional collaboration in Micronesia.



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

*The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position National Officer, FSM EDA Program within its Micronesia Regional Office (MRO). This position will be 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 National Officer, FSM EDA Program** is part of the FSM EDA Program Coordination Unit (CU) which provides overall assistance to the program to ensure support to monitoring, evaluation and learning, reporting, communications and advocacy. The National Officer will report directly to the Program Coordinator.

The key responsibilities of the role include the following:

1. **Support to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning activities**
2. **Technical assistance and reporting**
3. **Support communication and advocacy**

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

## Qualifications

- Diploma in climate change, statistics, information management, communication, sustainable energy, business administration or a related field.

## Essential experience and skills

- At least 3 years experience in monitoring and evaluation or similar and demonstrated experience with complex program activities.
- Understanding of quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods and data analysis.
- Experience in using excel for entering, processing, cleaning and extracting data.
- Advanced computer skills in Microsoft Word Excel and other Statistics Tools.
- Proven track record of working with teams across sectors and sites and producing high quality results with minimum supervision.
- Experience with different social media platforms.
- Sound coordination, administrative, networking, and collaborative skills.
- Driver's license.
- Fluency in English (written and verbal).
- Excellent oral and written communications skills and demonstrated ability to articulate and communicate complex issues.

**Remuneration – the National Officer, FSM EDA Program** 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.

**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:** 6 August 2023 – 11:00 pm Pohnpei time

**Job Reference:** CR000047

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

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. List four key reasons why monitoring and evaluation is important.
2. What do you see as the most challenging in terms of monitoring and evaluation work and what skills do you bring to the role to make you a strong candidate?
3. What approaches or tools will you use to ensure the effective monitoring and evaluation of projects implemented by State Governments and Municipalities?

# Habele will spinoff Robo League, aims for full localization of funding and operations

*Habele*

Habele will spinoff Robo League, aims for full localization of funding and operations

High school-based robotics in Micronesia has always been student centered and student driven. Now Habele, the US nonprofit that initiated the Robo League, looks to make that local ownership official. The NGO is sunseting its role as steward of the Robo League after more than a decade.

Habele's introduced high school robotics to the FSM in 2012 when the charity initiated a two-school pilot project in Yap, funded entirely by private individual donations. From 2017 through 2023 the Robo League expanded across the all four FSM states through the generous support of an Insular Affairs technical assistance grant, growing into a scalable demonstration project, serving students at two dozen public and

private high schools throughout Micronesia.

The basic unit of the Robo League has been school-based clubs at the high schools. Students worked to design, build, test and refine simple robots capable of navigating obstacles and accomplishing tasks.

With training and benchmarks along the way, the students worked over the course of the school years toward multi-school, annual statewide robotics exhibitions. Schools' robots were pitted against one another in friendly competition. Habele provided equipment, in-person and online instructional opportunities, and facilitated organization of schools to make it possible. The real work was done by the eager and ambitious Micronesian high schoolers themselves.

This model, evolved and refined over a decade with state specific adaptations, was

educationally effective and economically efficient. Because students learned and mastered skills through hands-on problem solving themselves, the Robo League did not require costly spending on new buildings, the hiring or retraining of additional school staff, or a particularly large outlay on equipment and supplies.

With each passing year the role of the school staff, and more significantly the student themselves, in overseeing instructional and administrative aspects grew. Through a "peer-to-peer" model, experienced students and staff provided instruction and support to new league members. Robo League teams also represented the Micronesian nation in international robotics competitions in 2017 and 2022. A group of "robo ambassadors" even flew to the Marshall Islands in 2019 to introduce robotics to students on Kwajalein.

"A decade ago, we set about to see if Micronesian students could be excited and educated about Science Math Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in effective ways that didn't rely heavily on existing personnel, equipment and infrastructure," explained Neil Mellen, Habele's Founder

and Executive Director. "At the time I could not have imagined it would grow to involve two dozen schools across Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae States."

"If Micronesia's state and national leaders see value in what was done and learned, they may choose to sustain and further evolve the Robo League through localization of the funding and operation of the league. It would be exciting -to see this moved from practice to policy- but certainly that is their choice to make, not mine," continued Mellen. "Either way, I'm tremendously proud of what so many students and educators have accomplished over the last decade through the course of this endeavor."

Though winding down its role in the Robo League, Habele will continue to offer tuition scholarships to students attending private elementary and high schools in the FSM, donations to schools and libraries, direct monthly book deliveries to children under the age of five ("Young Island Readers"), and donations of tools to traditional carvers and weavers. Learn more at [www.habele.org](http://www.habele.org)



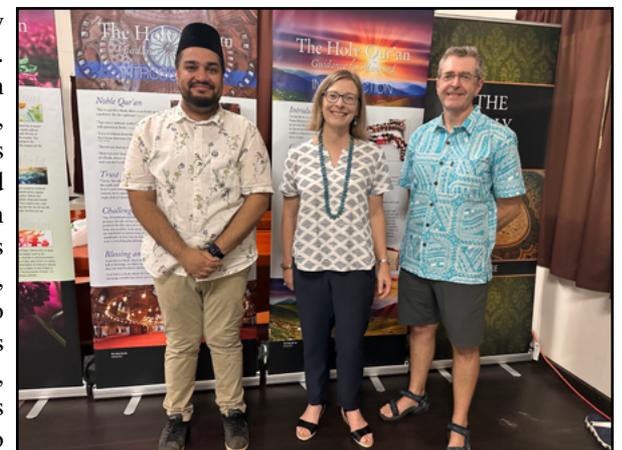
## The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community holds Coffee, Cake, and Islam Program

*Ahmadiyya Muslim Community FSM*

July 5, 2023

In an effort to promote religious dialogue and remove misconceptions, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community held a Coffee, Cake, and Islam event on June 24th. Held at the Muslim mosque in Kolonia, the event invited all to have a slice of cake, get a cup of coffee, and ask their pertinent questions about Islam in a friendly and accepting forum. With exhibitions on Islam, The Holy Qur'an, and oft asked matters like women's rights and Sharia law, the program was a success. Guests included her excellency, Madam ambassador Jo Cowley, representatives from the United Nations, and dozens of others around the island who participated in the event.

The event also included a book stall, VR station, and documentaries on Islam. The Community hopes to foster an environment of religious inclusivity, peace, and to foster peace amongst all faith groups on island.



## New Board of Directors for V6AH

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

July 5, 2023

*Pohnpei*--Congratulations to the recently sworn Board of Directors for Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation.

Governor Oliver swore in the following new Directors at the Governor's conference room on June 29, 2023:

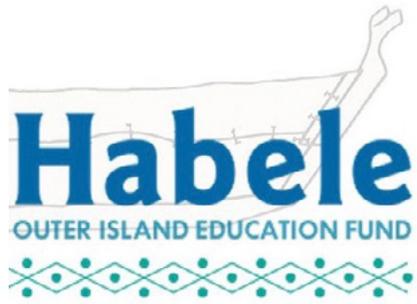
1. Steezia Aldis
2. Helper Samuel

3. Baron Mendiola
4. Jordan Torres

Both Governor Oliver and Speaker Yamaguchi delivered congratulatory remarks, noting the importance of the board and V6AH's responsibility to share information to the public.

Senator Stevick Edwin presented certificates of appointment to the new Directors.





# ROBO LEAGUE

2012-2023



# THANK YOU!

## MCT announces the signing of a Funded Activity Agreement

### Micronesia Conservation Trust

July 17, 2023

**Songdo, Republic of Korea** - The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is pleased to announce the signing of a Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) for the project titled "Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)." This project represents MCT's second partnership with GCF, following the ongoing "Climate Resilient Food Security for Farming Households across the Federated States of Micronesia," now in its second year of implementation.

The signing ceremony presided over by Henry Gonzales, Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund, marks a significant

milestone in our joint efforts to strengthen climate resilience in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The objective of this project is to reduce community vulnerability to climate change through the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation measures. The ceremony was attended by representatives of five other successful project proponents, along with Ambassador Albon Tregar Ishoda, the permanent representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Republic of Korea, who expressed gratitude to GCF and all contributors for making the grant possible. The event also saw the virtual participation of National Designated Authorities, MCT staff, and other partners.

William N Kostka, Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, expressed enthusiasm for the project, stating, "We are thrilled to embark on this significant endeavor to reduce community vulnerability to climate change in FSM, Palau, and RMI. The project's focus on ecosystem-based adaptation will not only enhance our resilience but also ensure the well-being and livelihoods of our communities. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Green Climate Fund Board and Secretariat for their dedication to helping us submit a workable grant. We also thank the iTAP for their due diligence that has made this project GCFable. We want to

express our gratitude to USAID for their financial support, which enabled us to engage the services of the Eco Ltd Group and the Nataij Group in developing the grant. We are also grateful to the NDA offices and other partners in the three countries who provided invaluable input to our process."

The EDA project is set to directly benefit a total of 34,200 individuals, with 16,758 females and 17,442 males as the primary beneficiaries. Additionally, there will be indirect beneficiaries, totaling 42,163 individuals, with 20,660 females and 21,503 males benefiting from the project's outcomes. The total project allocation amounts to USD 9,942,275, which will be allocated across three main components:

**Component 1:** This component focuses on empowering local entities to design, develop, prioritize, and deliver effective EbA solutions to climate impacts. It includes capacity assessments, capacity-building activities, and training to support eligible project proponents in accessing resources for tailored ecosystem-based projects aligned with community priorities.

**Component 2:** The project will establish Small Grant Facilities (SGFs) in each country to implement and support locally led EbA sub-projects. The SGFs will provide regular grants ranging from USD 10,000 to 50,000 for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), as well as large grants between USD 50,000 and 200,000. The selection of sub-projects will be based on local priorities and technical studies, ensuring that interventions are genuinely community-led.

**Component 3:** This component aims to establish a knowledge management and applied learning (KMAL) system to facilitate regional cooperation, replication of effective EbA actions, and the assessment of project impacts. The KMAL system will also contribute to the development of a sustainable financial strategy for each country. An innovative digital system will be introduced to enhance collaboration, data exchange, and information sharing among FSM, Palau, and RMI.

MCT is committed to the successful implementation of this project, leveraging the expertise and support of our partners. We will ensure that this new GCF project is aligned with our current GCF food security project and other relevant initiatives in the region. Our aim is to make a tangible difference in the lives of the people of Micronesia, building resilience and securing a sustainable future.



## UN launches campaign, calling for renewed global ambition and action for the Sustainable Development Goals

### Public mobilization comes ahead of critical halftime Summit in September at UN in New York

#### United Nations

5 July 2023

**New York** - The United Nations, today, is kicking off a communications campaign to rally for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the roadmap for people and planet adopted by world leaders in 2015. Ahead of a critical UN Summit in September, the campaign aims to amplify an urgent call for ambitious new action, showcase the Goals as the blueprint for sustainable progress globally, and galvanize the global public around this shared agenda for our common future.

At halftime toward the deadline of 2030, the promise of the SDGs is in peril. For the first time in decades, development progress is reversing under

the combined impacts of climate disasters, conflict, economic downturn and lingering COVID-19 effects.

The 2023 SDG Summit will gather world leaders at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 18-19 September to reaffirm their collective commitments to the Goals and the promise to leave no one behind. This Summit is a defining moment to urgently put the world back on track to achieving the SDGs.

Starting today, in a major digital activation across platforms and countries worldwide, the UN campaign aims to re-energize the conversation about the Goals.

"It is all hands-on board in rescuing our SDGs" said Jaap van Hierden, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Micronesia. "In supporting this ambition, the United Nations is working closely with the leaders and people in Micronesia in helping to accelerate development and Leave No One Behind. We do so in close collaboration with our Development Partners and other key stakeholders. Through our inclusive approach, that includes a five year Cooperation Framework for the Pacific and Country Implementation Plans for each of the five Micronesian countries, we hope to catch up in achieving our 2030 SDG targets".

Building off the color wheel brand of the SDGs, the campaign uses a dynamic new visual system for its messaging to build momentum, raise awareness

and mobilize accelerated action for the SDGs.

One core campaign component is the call to individual citizens to take action on the SDGs through the UN's ActNow initiative across all 17 Goals. From using public transportation, to fundraising for schools or speaking up for equality, the platform lists steps that everyone can take to accelerate progress on the SDGs and create better lives on a healthier planet for all.

A curated group of high-profile influencers, the Circle of Supporters, will galvanize their communities to take individual action on the SDGs and to impress upon decision-makers the urgency to act now.

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### ASOS

which is used upon or in connection with the following services:

**Class 09:** Computer software; application software; electronic publications; applications for smartphones and tablets; smart glasses; smart earbuds; sunglasses; spectacles; eyewear; smart watches; wristwatches; interactive computer software; electronic mail and messaging software; mobile phone cases; downloadable computer programmes; digital apparatus and instruments; mobile phone holders; headphones; electronic gift vouchers; encoded gift cards; parts and fittings for the aforesaid; but none of the aforesaid goods relating to cycling.

**Class 14:** Jewellery; precious stones; horological and chronometric instruments; watches; presentation boxes for watches; fashion jewellery; identification bracelets; precious metals and their alloys; trinkets [jewellery]; parts and fittings for the aforesaid; but none of the aforesaid goods relating to cycling.

**Class 25:** Clothing; footwear; headgear; belts; menswear; womenswear; childrenswear; sportswear; hosiery and undergarments; nightwear; outer garments; parts and fittings for the aforesaid; but none of the aforesaid goods relating to cycling.

**Class 35:** Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions; organisation, operation and supervision of loyalty schemes and incentive schemes; loyalty card services; retail and online retail services connected with the sale of cosmetics, hair lotions, make-up, nail care preparations, toiletries, candles, hand tools and implements [hand-operated], manicure sets, hair removing devices, computer software, application software, electronic publications, applications for smartphones and tablets, eyewear, digital apparatus and instruments, mobile phone holders, headphones, electronic gift vouchers, encoded gift cards, paper and cardboard, stationery, albums, plastic materials for packaging, trunks and travelling bags, bags, wallets and other carriers, belts, cushions, furniture, mirrors, picture frames, household or kitchen utensils and containers, combs and sponges, cosmetic utensils, hair brushes, textiles and substitutes for textiles, clothing, footwear, headgear, belts, menswear, womenswear, childrenswear, hosiery and undergarments, nightwear, outer garments, lace and embroidery, games and playthings, sporting articles and parts and fittings for the aforesaid; advertising and marketing services provided via social media; information, advisory and consultancy services relating to the aforesaid; but none of the aforesaid services relating to cycling.

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MUNRO LEYS

## Pohnpei Governor hosts FSM President Simina



*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

*July 11, 2023*

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### DESITIN

which is used in connection with the following goods:

Cosmetic preparations, creams, lotions and ointments for the skin and protection of the skin and body.

Medicated skin creams, lotions, and ointments.

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MUNRO LEYS

**Pohnpei--Nanpohnmal-** In a gesture of camaraderie and collaboration, Governor Oliver and First Lady Estle G. Oliver hosted an informal dinner in honor of President Wesley Simina and First Lady Ancelly Simina. The informal event brought together government officials including Speaker Yamaguchi and Senator Brian Etscheit from the 10th Pohnpei Legislature, cabinet members, friends and family.

The evening was filled with warmth, laughter and meaningful conversations reflecting the harmonious relationship between Governor Oliver and President Simina. In brief remarks delivered during the event, Governor Oliver highlighted the importance of unity and cooperation between the State and National Governments.

The Governor's Office extends sincere and heartfelt gratitude to President Wesley Simina and First Lady Ancelly for gracing the occasion and honoring us with their presence. Special thanks to the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation Choir.

TRADE MARK  
CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client, Intel Corporation, a company organized and existing under the laws of United States of America and with a principal place of business at 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052-8119, United States of America, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark in Micronesia:

**INTEL**

Which is used in connection with the following:

Class	Goods
9	Floppy disc drive apparatus; electronic security apparatus and surveillance apparatus, namely, computer hardware, computer chips and microprocessors optimized for electronic security surveillance; algorithm software programs for the operation and control of computers; computer operating system software; computer operating systems; computer system extensions, tools and utilities in the field of application software for connecting personal computers, networks, telecommunications apparatus and global computer network applications; computerized telecommunications and networking equipment consisting of operating system software, modems, cameras, headsets, microphones, cables and adaptors; computer game programs; computer racks, computer cabinets and computer holders; computer hardware and software for enhancing and providing real-time transfer, transmission, reception, processing and digitizing of audio and video graphics information; computer firmware, namely, computer operating system software, computer utility software and other computer software used to maintain and operate computer systems; computers; handheld computers; microcomputers; minicomputers; memory boards; personal digital assistants; cellular telephones; smart phones; portable and handheld electronic personal organizers; computer hardware; integrated circuits; integrated circuit memories; integrated circuit chips; computer chipsets; semiconductor processors; semiconductor processor chips; semiconductor chips; microprocessors; printed circuit boards; electronic circuit boards; computer motherboards and daughterboards; computer memories; computer operating systems; microcontrollers; data processors; central processing units; semiconductor memory devices, namely, semiconductor memories and semiconductor memory units; software programmable processors; digital and optical microprocessors; computer peripherals; video circuit boards; audio circuit boards; audio-video circuit boards; video graphic accelerators; multimedia accelerators; video processors; video processor boards; processor die packaging and casings; blank electronic chip cards, blank smart cards, electronic circuit cards, flash memory cards, graphics cards, magnetic cards, microchip cards, PCMCIA cards, sound cards, video capture cards, video display cards, all for the recordal and transmission of data; modems; computer hardware and software for processing, storage, retrieval, transmission, display, input, output, compressing, decompressing, modifying, broadcasting and printout of data; computer input and output devices, namely, computer mice, trackballs, computer mouse touchpads, keyboards, scanners and computer cameras; computer workstations comprising processors, central processing units, computer monitors, computer peripherals and computer printers; computer data memories; storage devices, namely, computer servers, jump drives and thumb drives; security systems for computer hardware and software, namely, firewalls, network access server hardware for creating and maintaining firewalls, virtual private network (VPN) computer hardware and computer server operating software for creating and maintaining firewalls, software for ensuring the security of computer networks, software for access control and security, and computer hardware and software for use in protecting computer networks from data theft or damage by unauthorized users; components for computers and printed circuits, namely, integrated circuit boards, printed circuit boards and electrical circuit boards; computer voice accelerator boards; computer voice, data, image and video accelerator boards; flash memory boards and flash memory cards; memory systems for computers primarily comprised of computer hard drives, back-up drives, DC and DVD drives, floppy disk drives, magnetic tape drives, optical disk drives, and memory cards; telecommunications equipment and computer networks, namely, processing and operating systems; headsets; computer mice; microphones; cables and adapters; computer terminals and printers for use therewith; video display units, namely, computer monitors, electric luminescent display panels, flat panel display screens, LCD displays and

LED displays; telecommunications apparatus and instruments, namely, computer routers, hubs, servers and switches; cameras; computer hardware and software for the transmission and receipt of facsimiles; 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; set-top boxes, electronic control devices for the interface and control of computers and global computer and telecommunications networks with television and cable broadcasts and equipment; computer peripheral memory apparatus and devices, namely computer peripherals; computer firmware, namely, computer operating systems software; fixed function computer servers; computer networking hardware; 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; computer network interface cards (NIC), routers, and adaptors; computer software and hardware for use in providing multiple user access to a global computer information network for searching, retrieving, transferring, manipulating and disseminating a wide range of information; computer software tools for the facilitation of third party software applications; computer hardware and software for wireless network communications; downloadable electronic publications, namely, newsletters, books, magazines, journals, brochures and white papers in the area of electronics, semiconductors and integrated electronic apparatus and devices, computers, telecommunications, entertainment, telephony, and wired and wireless telecommunications; prerecorded magnetic data carriers, electronic floppy discs and optical discs featuring instructional materials relating to computers; computer hardware and software used to collect, measure, record, process, transmit, receive, reproduce, modify, compress, decompress, broadcast, merge and/or enhance data and information related to the welfare and well being of individual patients; structural parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods; manuals sold as a unit with the aforementioned goods and electronic publications in the nature of manuals for the aforementioned goods downloadable from a global computer network.
---

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Any inquiry regarding said trademark may be referred to the attorneys for Intel Corporation as follows:

**Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.**  
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United States of America  
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## Deep-sea shark species seen in Palau's waters for the first time



*Palau International Coral Reef Center*

*July 13, 2023*

A Pacific sleeper shark has been seen in Palau's waters for the first time, thanks to a deep-sea camera system provided by National Geographic Society's Exploration Technology Lab. The shark, which was previously thought to live only as far south as Taiwan, was observed to the east of Babeldaob at 1288 meters depth during research undertaken by the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) and National Geographic Society in 2021. [Recently published in the Journal of Fish Biology](#), this finding extends the known range of this species well into the west Pacific and should guide future management.

Pacific sleeper sharks (*Somniosus pacificus*) are large deep-water sharks that live at depths of up to 2000m. Prior to this work, individuals were mainly seen from strandings or due to by-catch. Their range was thought to extend from Taiwan in the south to within the Arctic Circle in the north. This new observation in Palau, coupled with an observation in the Solomon Islands using the same technology (also reported in this research paper), extends their known range about 2000 nautical miles further south.

"A greater understanding of the range of this species, which is classed as 'Near Threatened' according to the IUCN Red List, will help guide future conservation action," stated first author, Dr. Louw Claassens, former Researcher/ Science Officer at PICRC. "These deep-sea camera systems have allowed us to gain a better understanding of what lives in Palau's deep ocean, which still remains very much a mystery!"

The deep-sea camera system, capable of descending to 6,000 meters, was deployed for a total of three hours in Palau. The individual in Palau's waters was seen after two hours and 17 minutes, and was in and out of view for the remainder of the time. The shark, later deemed to be an adult male, interacted with the camera and bait canister—bumping into the camera and moving it. The full video can be seen in the Palau Aquarium.

As well as being an exciting discovery in itself, it also highlights that other, so far unreported, animals also probably live in this area of ocean. A previous study reported that Palau's pelagic fauna is both diverse and rich with many different species of fishes found at thousands of meters of depth. Continued deep-sea exploration will allow for a better understanding of Palau's pelagic environment and the animals, like the Pacific sleeper shark, that inhabit it.

The research paper can be found at [picrc.org/work/journalarticles](http://picrc.org/work/journalarticles).



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#### JOHNSON'S

which is used in connection with the following goods:

Skin lotions and creams, shampoos and conditioners, hair detangling spray, soaps and body washes, baby oil, baby powder, cologne, baby wipes, bubble bath, cotton swabs, and nursing pads.

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The researchers would like to thank the Government of Palau for authorization to conduct research in Palau, as well as Oasis Palau for assisting with fieldwork in very rough weather. The lead author received funding from the National Geographic Society Exploration Technology Lab to conduct this research in Palau.

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#### NEUTROGENA

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Facial skincare products, namely, facial moisturizing cream, facial moisturizing gel, facial moisturizing lotion, facial cleanser, wipes impregnated with make-up removing preparations; wipes impregnated with cosmetic lotions, facial scrub, facial beauty strips; facial strips for acne care; nose strips for the treatment of blackheads, facial mask, facial astringent, facial treatment cream, facial treatment gel, facial treatment lotion, facial serum, eye treatment cream, eye treatment gel, eye treatment lotion, anti-aging cream, anti-aging gel, anti-aging lotion and treatment; body care products, namely body lotion, body cream, body wash; hand cream, hand lotion; foot cream, foot lotion; cosmetics, namely foundation, face makeup, liquid makeup, cosmetics, namely makeup, pressed powder, loose powder, corrective concealer, concealer, blush, bronzer, lipstick, lip gloss, mascara; hair care products, namely shampoo, conditioner, leave-in treatments; sunscreen; acne cleanser; acne moisturizers; sunscreen product; sunless tanning; facial cosmetic exfoliating pads.

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MUNRO LEYS

# UOG wins \$10M grant to advance the agriculture and natural resources workforce in Micronesia

University of Guam

Developing the next generation of agriculture, food, nutrition, and natural resources professionals in the Mariana and Micronesian islands is the focus of a new \$10 million grant awarded to the University of Guam College of Natural & Applied Sciences.

“This is a major grant for UOG and this region,” said Rachael Leon Guerrero, vice provost for research. “It’s the university’s second largest grant ever, following the (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) grant, and it’s the largest amount of funding that has ever come to UOG focused solely on undergraduate STEM and agriculture education.”

The grant project serves students at UOG, Northern Marianas College, and Guam Community College through a cooperative bachelor’s program with several larger U.S. universities. It is one of 33 grants awarded to minority-serving institutions by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s “From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program,” or NextGen — a \$262 million investment in higher education institutions through the Inflation Reduction Act.

With the islands of Micronesia being vulnerable to food shortages and environmental catastrophes brought on by climate change and invasive species, the project seeks to bolster the workforce with local professionals who can help combat these challenges.

### Cooperative course-sharing

In the NextGen cooperative bachelor’s program, students enrolled in agriculture and natural resource-focused programs at UOG, GCC, and NMC will be able to take in-depth, specialized courses in their subject areas from Utah State University, University of Florida, and University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The course sharing will be available this coming January, and students can either take the courses online or via a semester abroad.

“Our islands are in need of larger scale agricultural production to facilitate food security, wildlife biologists and land managers to control invasive species, and ecologists to restore our native species, to name a few critical areas,” said Dr. Lee S. Yudin, dean of the UOG College of Natural & Applied Sciences and project director on the grant. “This project combines the resources of multiple institutions to expose our students to these career possibilities and ensure they’re the best candidates to fill these jobs.”

### Internships, research experiences, and scholarships

Students will also benefit from high-impact learning experiences — such as internships, research programs, and study-abroad opportunities — with the partner universities and local government agencies. These hands-on experiences combined with the advanced courses will boost local graduates’ resumes, making them more competitive, particularly for federal jobs that are available locally.

Additionally, the program will provide scholarships to cover childcare, room and board, and tuition costs, which can prohibit residents from pursuing or finishing bachelor’s degrees in food, agriculture, nutrition, or human sciences or advancing in their related jobs.

The NextGen Cooperative Bachelor’s Degree Program has a five-year term ending May 31, 2028.

A webpage with more details will be launched this fall. Students and prospective students in Guam and the rest of Micronesia interested in studying food, agriculture, nutrition, natural resources, or child and family sciences can contact Dr. Rachel Jolley, co-project director, at jollyr@triton.uog.edu for more information about opportunities through the NextGen grant.



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### AVEENO

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Non-medicated skin care preparations, namely, skin and facial lotions and moisturizers, skin and facial cleansers, foaming bath preparations, facial masks, anti-wrinkle creams, body scrubs, body wash and body soap, skin cleansing wipes and pads, skin toners, oatmeal bath treatment preparations to soothe and relieve irritated skin, shave gels and creams, after-shave gel and aftershave lotions, lip balms, and sunscreen preparations; hair care preparations, namely, shampoos, dry shampoos, conditioners; Essential oils for aromatherapy use; aromatherapy products, namely, non-medicated skin creams, cleansers, powders, and bath products with essential oils for use in aromatherapy; incense; scented body lotions; air fragrance reed diffusers.

Medicated skin care products; anti-itch creams; vitamin and mineral supplements; aromatherapy oils for alleviating stress.

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### BAND-AID

which is used in connection with the following goods:

Wound dressings, namely adhesive bandages, gauze pads, gauze sponges, medical adhesive tape, wraps, and dressings for skin wounds; first aid kits; Isopropyl Alcohol; Antiseptic and antibacterial preparations for wound care; medical cleansers for healing wounds; hand sanitizing and disinfectant preparations.

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## United Nations adopts landmark agreement on marine biodiversity

*Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission*

*June 21, 2023*

**New York, USA-** Following almost two decades of negotiations, United Nations members adopted a landmark treaty on June 19 at the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Referred to as the “BBNJ Treaty” or “High Seas Treaty”, the international agreement brings together the international community under a legally-binding common governance framework

to sustainably manage marine genetic resources. The agreement will be opened for ratification from 20 September of this year.

The adoption of the BBNJ Treaty marks a significant step forward in the international community’s efforts to protect and conserve marine biodiversity in the global commons, which includes the high seas and the international seabed area regulated by the International Seabed Authority. WCPFC’s Finance and Administrative Manager, Mr. Aaron Nighswander, attended the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference in New York, reflecting the WCPFC’s commitment to sustainable management and conservation of marine resources. WCPFC’s participation at the

Conference underscored the importance of collective efforts to address the relevant governance frameworks required to promote responsible marine resource management in areas beyond national jurisdiction, or the high seas.

“The WCPFC Secretariat commends all stakeholders that participated in the negotiations that led to the adoption of the BBNJ Treaty,” said Rhea Moss-Christian, Executive Director of the WCPFC. “This achievement reflects our collective commitment to preserving the health and sustainability of our oceans for future generations.”

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## Tuna Compliance Network gathers in Tokyo after three years of online meetings

*Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission*

*June 30, 2023*

**Tokyo, Japan -** WCPFC’s Compliance Manager Dr Lara Manarangi-Trott, and Assistant Compliance Manager Eidge Sharp recently returned from a highly successful meeting of the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) in Tokyo from 27-30 June 2023.

This was the first in-person meeting of compliance managers from the five global tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (tRFMO) since 2019.

The five tRFMO Secretariats share similar compliance monitoring activities to support their respective members such as for transshipment and port state requirements. Several RFMO members also manage fishing vessels that are active in multiple tRFMO areas, underpinning the need to understand shared interests and streamlined reporting processes.

As obligations in each of the tRFMO’s continue to increase annually, the respective Secretariats must be adaptive and innovative in their approaches to managing processes that can be complex and that produce high volumes of information and the associated required analyses. The TCN discussions allowed the respective tRFMO fisheries compliance practitioners to share their experiences with effective monitoring and handling of member’s data, with a view to strengthening collaboration among the Secretariats and identifying options for best practice support mechanisms.

Among the meeting outcomes was a commitment by TCN



*Participants at the recent TCN meeting in Tokyo.*

participants to develop an addendum to a recent TCN report providing a comparison of tuna RFMO compliance assessment processes (available at Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) | IMCS ([imesnet.org](http://imesnet.org))). In addition, Dr. Manarangi-Trott completed her Chairmanship of the TCN in Tokyo and is succeeded by Jenny Cheatle of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The meeting was coordinated by the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and hosted by the Secretariat of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

For further information, please contact: [wcpfc@wcpfc.int](mailto:wcpfc@wcpfc.int)

## Forum Chair confirms IAEA mission to Rarotonga

Forum Secretary

July 6, 2023

**Rarotonga** – The Pacific Islands Forum Chair, Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown will receive a high-level mission from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) led by Director-General Rafael Grossi in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 10 – 11 July.

The IAEA delegation will present their report on the Safety Review of the ALPS-treated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

Prime Minister Brown met with the Pacific Island Forum's Troika and the Secretariat yesterday to discuss the forthcoming IAEA visit and the proposed way forward for Prime Minister Brown's further discussion with all Forum Leaders in the coming week.

"Recognising our strong collective Forum advocacy on this issue to date, and in the spirit of transparency and dialogue, I have invited my colleague Forum Leaders to attend the IAEA presentation through virtual means next week," said Prime Minister Brown.

Prime Minister Brown acknowledged the support and guidance of the Forum Troika who were represented by the Prime Minister of Tonga, the Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, and the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Fiji, the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua.

"As a collective, we have maintained from the beginning the importance of international consultation and keeping with international law. We have agreed on the need for decisions that are informed by independent and verifiable scientific assessments, particularly as they relate to the safety of any radioactive nuclear wastewater release into our shared ocean. We also respect the sovereignty of each Member on this complex issue," said the Forum Chair.

"We have continued to uphold our commitments under the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (the Rarotonga Treaty), including the prevention of nuclear contamination, whether by direct means or through transboundary impact," he added.

PM Brown acknowledged the effort by the IAEA to visit our Blue Pacific region in person to present their report findings. PM Brown confirmed that following the IAEA visit and in consultation with the Forum Troika, he would propose a way forward for Forum Leaders consideration that would be respectful of the views of all Members.

"As stewards of the Pacific Ocean, it is incumbent upon us to leave no stones unturned in our collective effort to leave behind for our future generations a healthy and resilient ocean."

The IAEA delegation will arrive in Rarotonga on Monday 10th July, departing on Tuesday 11th.

## PIF Permanent representative to WTO/UN presents credentials

Forum Secretary

06 July 2023

The PIF Geneva Office Permanent Representative Ambassador Mere Falemaka has this week completed the formalities of presenting her credentials as the Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the Pacific Islands Forum to the World Trade Organization and the United Nations in Geneva.

Ambassador Falemaka is no stranger to the Geneva environment. Reappointed in May 2023 to the role she previously held for nine years, she has been instrumental in the PIF Geneva Office's excellent working relationship with Forum missions

in Geneva, Brussels, and London.

PIF Secretary General Mr. Henry Puna in announcing Ambassador Falemaka's re appointment, said her considerable experience, technical skills and gravitas were needed to ascertain continuity for our regional positions in the ongoing negotiations in Geneva.

These include the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement ratification and implementation of the partial agreement, and in particular the conclusion of the remaining pillars of the Agreement ahead of the WTO MC13 in February 2024, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates"

## New report calls for reforms to enhance Green Climate Fund's impact in the Pacific

Forum Secretary

July 13, 2023

**PIF Suva**– A comprehensive report released ahead of the Thirty-sixth meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board this week, sheds new light on challenges faced by Pacific Island Countries (PICs) accessing global climate finance funds. Pacific nations have long been vocal on the challenges of accessing support from the global funding entity.

The report titled, titled "What GCF do we want in the Pacific? Practical recommendations for reform and capacity support," examines key issues hindering access to climate finance and proposes practical recommendations for reform.

"We need a flexible GCF that is more responsive to the needs of the Pacific. This paper proposes ways that the GCF can meet our needs for adequate, predictable and timely access to climate finance," said the Pacific Islands Forum's Director for Programmes and Initiatives, Zarak Khan.

He says the release of this report comes at a crucial time as the GCF prepares its new Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 and negotiates its second financial replenishment. The findings and recommendations presented in the report aim to contribute to the GCF's continuous improvement efforts, ensuring that climate finance is accessible, responsive, and impactful for the Pacific region.

"As one of the largest contributor to the GCF, the UK is listening carefully to PICs challenges, including GCF access issues in the region, and highlighting these, for action at the highest level," said the British High Commissioner to Fiji, Dr. Brian Jones. The report addresses critical areas such as accreditation and support, the Simplified Approval Process (SAP), portfolio and region-specific programming, project implementation and local currency financing, GCF literacy and engagement in the Pacific, capacity, and institutional capability, GCF guidance and policies, stability, and continuity within the GCF Secretariat, data limitations, and

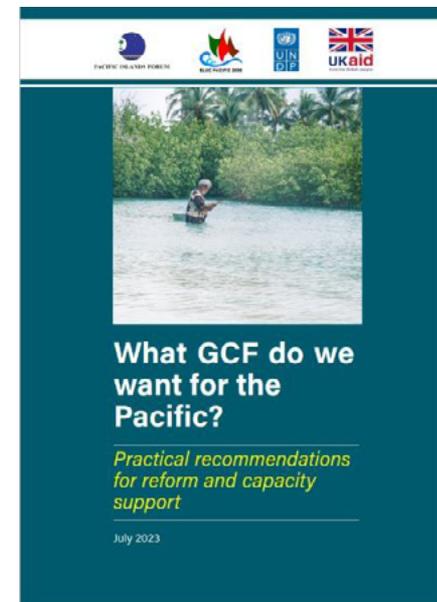
capacity building.

One of the major challenges identified in the report is the complex accreditation requirements imposed by the GCF, which create a cumbersome process for PICs. The time investment needed to understand GCF policies and requirements, coupled with high fees and the need to develop new policies, poses significant barriers for accessing climate finance. The report recommends streamlining the accreditation process and providing clearer guidance on utilizing existing policies to ease the burden on countries seeking accreditation.

The report emphasises the urgency of addressing the climate finance needs of the Pacific and recommends further research and investigations into GCF affairs across other regions. It calls on the GCF to fulfill its obligation of providing increased climate finance to meet the specific needs of the Pacific, enabling the region to tackle climate change and build resilience effectively.

This report is jointly developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), highlighting the urgent need for reforms to improve the GCF's effectiveness in addressing the climate crisis in the Pacific region.

Link to report: [GCF-Recommendation-paper.pdf \(forumsec.org\)](https://forumsec.org/GCF-Recommendation-paper.pdf)



## Ambassador of the French Republic cross-accredited to the FSM pays courtesy call on President Wesley W. Simina

*FSM Information Services*

*July 4, 2023*

**Palikir, Pohnpei**—On July 04, 2023, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, received Her Excellency Michèle Boccoz, non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic cross-accredited to the Federated States of Micronesia with residence in Manila, Philippines, for a courtesy call. The courtesy call marked as Ambassador Boccoz's first in-person courtesy call on the new administration as well as her first official visit to the Federated States of Micronesia since the opening-up of the Federated States of Micronesia's borders. The courtesy call was held in President Simina's office at the Seat of the Nation's Capital in Palikir, Pohnpei. Accompanying Ambassador Boccoz was Counselor of Cooperation and Cultural Action, Mr. Marc Piton.

During the courtesy call, President Simina and Ambassador Boccoz immediately exchanged pleasantries including sentiments of congratulations by Ambassador Boccoz to President Simina and Vice President Palik on the assumption of their esteemed posts of Presidency and Vice Presidency.

President Simina and Ambassador Boccoz also exchanged comments on issues of mutual interest, such as on Climate Change, Pacific Islands Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-related Sea-Level Rise, along with FSM's interest in establishing European Union office in the Federated States of Micronesia; the Post-Cotonou Agreement soon to be called Samoa Agreement, support for the Multi-Country Office in Pohnpei and FSM's diplomatic presence in Geneva, Switzerland.

President Simina also commented on the possibility from the French Government to provide French language trainings as part of the support needed to establish FSM's diplomatic presence in Switzerland. President Simina also commented on possible ways from the French Government to offer French language courses to be taught at the College of Micronesia, FSM, which he believed that it would not only benefit the students at the college but the Government officials as well.

On the same note, as France a post forum dialogue partner, Vice-President Palik supplemented on the discussions with Ambassador Boccoz that he had an official visit to Vanuatu in November 2022 and met with French Minister of State for Development, the Honorable Chrysoula Zacharopoulou

and discussed an issue regarding the funding allocations that African Caribbean Pacific States (ACP) provide to the region, particularly the Pacific community channeled through the Pacific Islands Forum. As such, Vice President Palik's issue of concern was the distribution portions of funding received by the Small Island Developing States are small. Therefore, Vice President Palik recommended that main donors such as France should look into the matter for solutions to equalized distribution of funding among the ACP member countries.

President Simina concluded by thanking the Ambassador for the visit and conveyed his wish for a cooperative working relationship during Ambassador's tenure.

Attending the courtesy call were Vice-President Aren B. Palik, Acting Secretary Brendy H. Carl, Chief of Staff Jane Chigiyal and staffs from the Office of the President and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Ambassador's program of visit includes meetings with Acting Secretary Brendy H. Carl of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Acting Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, Acting Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development and

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the Acting Director of the National Archives Cultural and Historical Preservation. She also paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Pohnpei State, the Honorable Reed B. Oliver, and President of the College of Micronesia, Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono.

## Latest in Ukraine: Zelensky asks for De Facto NATO Membership Guarantees at Vilnius

*VOA News*

*July 10, 2023*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said NATO must confirm Ukraine's de facto membership during NATO's two-day summit at Vilnius, Lithuania, Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The security reality here on NATO's eastern flank depends on Ukraine," Zelensky said in his nightly video

address. "When we applied to join NATO, we were frank: Ukraine is de facto already in the alliance. Our weapons are the weapons of the alliance. Our values are what the alliance believes in. ... Vilnius must confirm all this," he remarked.

NATO members remained divided Monday over Ukraine's potential membership in the military alliance between those in Eastern Europe and in the direct path of Russian

aggression backing Ukraine's entrance, and those such as the United States and Germany fearing that a NATO membership for Ukraine before the war ends would drag the whole alliance into the conflict against Russia and potentially spark a global war.

However, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he had put forward a package that included the removal of a key requirement to

Ukraine's entrance into the alliance: The Membership Action Plan (MAP) — a list of political, economic and military goals that other eastern European nations had to meet before joining the alliance.

U.S. President Joe Biden has said NATO has an open-door policy on countries requesting NATO membership.

# Manchin, Committee receive testimony on Compacts of Free Association

## *U.S. Department of the Interior*

To watch a video of Senator Manchin's opening remarks, please [click here](#). To watch a video of Senator Manchin's questioning, please [click here](#).

**July 13, 2023**

**Washington, DC** – Today, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing to receive testimony regarding the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023, a legislative proposal submitted by the Secretary of State and Secretary of the Interior. During the hearing, Chairman Joe Manchin (D-WV) discussed the importance of renewing the Compacts of Free Association to counter China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region and the ongoing Compact negotiations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

"To date, the United States has provided at least \$800 million in economic assistance to Palau, \$2 billion to the Marshall Islands, and \$4 billion to Micronesia—which has helped those countries invest in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and more. At the same time, the Compacts have underwritten America's sea lines of communication throughout the Indo-

Pacific while promoting regional security by granting the United States exclusive powers to control military access to the Freely Associated States. Congressional consideration of this legislative proposal comes as China is increasingly challenging the United States for regional influence. It is therefore vital to maintain our bilateral political, military and economic relationship with the Freely Associated States under the Compacts," said Chairman Manchin.

Chairman Manchin questioned Ambassador Joseph Y. Yun, Special Presidential Envoy for Compact Negotiations, about mandatory funding for Compact assistance.

"Ambassador Yun, you noted in your testimony that representatives of the Governments from each Freely Associated State signed a Memorandum of Understanding earlier this year. It is our understanding that, in doing so, the representatives accepted a good-faith topline offer of \$6.5 billion in direct economic assistance over 20 years. I also understand that the total Compact proposal includes funding for the U.S. Postal Service at \$634 million, bringing the total package to \$7.1 billion over the next 20 years. As you noted in

your testimony, it is important that we successfully renew the Compacts of Free Association "to avoid any lapse in U.S. assistance to these important partners." Why is the renewal of the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands important, and why is mandatory funding necessary?" asked Chairman Manchin.

"Mandatory funding is necessary so that these islands can plan their future. We've done it every time, in 1984 we did it, and we also did it in 2003. The only one we didn't do it for was Palau, as a result their agreement took 8 years to be passed by Congress and they could not plan a yearly budget," replied Ambassador Yun.

Chairman Manchin also asked about ongoing negotiations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

"We understand that negotiations with the Marshall Islands have yet to conclude. This is concerning because Congress faces a daunting deadline to complete our work on the Compacts before the end of the fiscal year. What is the plan for Compact negotiations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands?"

asked Chairman Manchin.

"To be completely frank with you, we have offered them (RMI) \$2.3 billion over the next 20 years, and that memorandum was signed some months ago. So, it does puzzle me as well why it has become not acceptable. The reason they state is because the nuclear issues have not been resolved yet. I'd like to point out two aspects of nuclear issues. One is, as you rightly mentioned, our legal responsibility for nuclear liability has been met, and they have agreed to that. We've always felt that there were additional needs. Which is why, within the \$2.3 billion that we offered, \$700 million was set aside to put into the trust fund. And that \$700 million could be used for development, education, environment, issues of nuclear [legacy in the four] Atolls, as well as other Atolls. From the beginning, the RMI government has insisted that they would like to have a bigger role in setting up their priorities, which is why we put that aside for them to decide how they want to apportion, with obviously some oversight from the United States," said Ambassador Yun.

To watch the hearing in full, please [click here](#).

## Yap Games 2023 results

### *Yap Media*

**July 11, 2023**

**Yap, FSM** – Friday, July 7, 2023 was the starting day for Yap Games 2023.

After the Opening Ceremony, the Nimgil basketball team went against team UFAY. Team Nimgil won the game with a score of 74 and Team UFAY scored 30. After the first basketball game, Team Rull and Team OI-14 challenged. Team Rull won, scoring 57 points and OI – 14 scored 35 points.

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, there were a total of three basketball games and two volleyball games that were scheduled to take place.

The first basketball game that took place on that day was between Team OI-15 and Team Fanif. Team OI-15 scored 51 points and Team Fanif made 66 points. Team Fanif was the victor of the first game. The next two teams who competed against each other were Team Weloy and Team OI-12. Team Weloy made 41 points and Team OI-12 made 79. Team OI-12 was the winner. The last basketball game that took place on Saturday was between the State Team and Team Nimgil. The State Team won with a score of 74 and Team Nimgil with 70.

As for the volleyball games, the State Team won three straight sets against the Tomil Volleyball Team.

The Gagil Volleyball Team and OI-12 Team did not compete that day and their game has been postponed until further notice.

On Sunday, July 9, 2023 the qualification rounds for the Swimming Competition were completed for all four swimming styles; the freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly.

Finals will be on Saturday at 10:00 am at the Public Library/Community Center.

For the Women's Volleyball Game, Team Weloy won three straight sets against Team UFAY.

As for the Men's Volleyball Games, for the first game, Team OI-13 won two sets while Team UFAY won three sets and the game. Playing after them was the State Team against Team UFAY. The State Team won three straight sets.

The final sport game that was played on Sunday was the basketball.

For the first game, Team Rull played against Team OI-13. Team OI-13 won the game with a score of 48 and Team Rull with 39. Next was Team Fanif vs. Team Tomil. Team Fanif won the game with a score of 62 and Team Tomil with 44.

## PICRC releases PNMS Science and Monitoring Strategy

*Palau International Coral Reef Center*

*July 7, 2023*

Continuing with their commitment to the mandate entrusted to them through the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) legal framework, the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) has released the Science and Monitoring Strategy 2024-2034 for the PNMS. This document outlines the next ten years of research priorities in the area, and will guide the pursuit of science at the national level, which is arguably unprecedented in the field of Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas (LSMPAs).

This strategy was formed after significant discussions with both local

experts, including those from the government, NGOs, and fishermen, and international experts from Stanford University, NOAA, the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and many other institutions.

“The strategy is unique in that we engaged extensively with the broader research and management community from across the world. This planning effort included discussions with highly respected and renowned institutions and experts in LSMPAs,” stated King Sam, PNMS Program Manager. “After 10 years, we will have developed a science and monitoring program for the PNMS, like the one we already have for coastal areas. We’ll be doing the type of

research needed to answer the important questions for Palauans, and for the world.”

Formed around five overarching research questions, the strategy highlights the importance of understanding the species, habitats, and unique features in the PNMS, determining the role the PNMS will play for both climate change adaptation and future food security, and assessing the social, cultural, economic, and political implications of the PNMS. It also acknowledges that the PNMS can serve as a case study for what the long-term ecological monitoring of a pelagic large-scale MPA looks like.

“Science plays a critical role in decision making in our increasingly

complex pursuit of sustainable ocean management,” stated Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment. “This strategy demonstrates Palau’s commitment to deploying the best available science to address our collective ocean challenges within the PNMS and beyond.”

Important work lies ahead in securing the resources, partnerships and opportunities needed to implement this strategy, which will involve working with government agencies, funding bodies, scientists, and community stakeholders. The strategy can be viewed at [picrc.org](http://picrc.org). To request a copy via email, contact [outreach@picrc.org](mailto:outreach@picrc.org).

## WWF-Pacific Unveils Revitalised Strategic Plan to Tackle Pressing Challenges in the Pacific

*World Wide Fund for Nature in the Pacific*

*11 July 2023*

**Suva, Fiji** – The office of the World Wide Fund for Nature in the Pacific (WWF-Pacific) is proud to announce the launch of its revitalized 2025 Strategic Plan, as the Pacific region faces unprecedented challenges from climate change and biodiversity loss.

This forward-thinking roadmap positions the organization, with 28 years of experience in the region, at the forefront of addressing these critical issues and fostering a sustainable future for the Pacific and its communities – towards a People and Nature Positive Pacific.

Recognising the vital role of communities as partners, the WWF-Pacific 2025 Strategic Plan places a strong emphasis on supporting and engaging with communities in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea (PNG). By valuing and integrating traditional knowledge and practices, WWF-Pacific aims to deepen the understanding of the intricate connections between people and nature. This approach links bottom-up conservation models to global policy, creating a harmonious and effective approach to conservation and sustainable development.

The Pacific region, renowned for its unparalleled biodiversity and cultural heritage, faces mounting threats that demand urgent action. Rising sea levels, coral reef degradation, and the intensifying impacts of climate change pose significant risks to both the environment and the well-being of Pacific island nations and its

peoples.

The updated 2025 Strategic Plan unites diverse thematic areas to create a sustainable future for the Pacific. It strives to protect critical habitats, ensure food security, and safeguard vulnerable species by supporting the 30x30 target, promoting sustainable fisheries and blue foods, and conserving marine species. Additionally, the plan commits to reducing deforestation, advocating for Pacific policy leadership, mainstreaming Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), and promoting a sustainable blue economy that underpins its efforts to drive policy change, foster inclusivity, and enable investments that benefit both people and nature in the region.

The updated and robust Strategic Plan emphasizes the urgency of the situation and charts a path towards a People and Nature Positive Pacific. By leveraging partnerships, policy advocacy, engaging communities, and implementing innovative conservation approaches, WWF-Pacific aims to safeguard the Pacific’s unique ecosystems while ensuring the sustainable development and prosperity of its people.

Climate resilience is a strong emphasis of the plan, recognising it as the single greatest threat to the Pacific and everything we do is a response to the impacts from climate change. By integrating Environment Social Safety Framework (ESSF) and GEDSI principles, WWF-Pacific aims to build climate resilience, enhance adaptive capacities, and promote sustainable practices that empower all members of communities and

safeguard their livelihoods.

The integration of ESSF and GEDSI principles ensures that conservation initiatives not only protect and restore the Pacific’s unique ecosystems but also consider the needs and aspirations of local communities, particularly those who are traditionally marginalised or vulnerable, including women, youth, and people with disabilities. By engaging with diverse stakeholders, promoting social inclusivity, and addressing gender disparities, WWF-Pacific aims to create meaningful and lasting change.

“The Pacific region holds tremendous potential to lead on key policy issues that impact our planet’s future”, Director of WWF-Pacific, Mark Drew.

“From Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) to 30x30 target, a moratorium on deep-sea mining, reducing plastic pollution, and the upcoming COP31, WWF-Pacific is committed to driving these critical discussions in partnership with Pacific Island Countries.”

“We also recognize the importance of community leadership and the inclusive engagement of marginalised groups, advancing an equity and rights-based approach to conservation. By connecting sustainable value chains, indigenous and community enterprises, and fostering sustainable finance and impact investment, we can unlock new opportunities for positive change.”

“We are thrilled to present our revitalized Strategic Plan, which positions WWF-Pacific as a catalyst for change in

the Pacific region”, said Drew.

He added, “This plan underscores our commitment – together possible - to working hand in hand with our communities, civil society, the global WWF network, Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies and governments in the Pacific, to address the pressing challenges facing the Pacific and chart a course towards a sustainable future. The only way we will get to a People and Nature Positive Pacific is if we journey together.”

The launch took place through two successful online events that accommodated two different time zones. The events brought together partners from various countries, including Australia, Austria, United States of America, Sweden, Hong Kong, Thailand, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Looking forward, WWF-Pacific has its eyes set on 2030, a crucial deadline for the planet and by when a lot of conservation and climate action is needed. There is growing support for protecting and conserving at least 30% of our planet by 2030 to halt biodiversity loss and the degradation of important ecosystem services. The organization is dedicated to moving towards a People and Nature Positive Pacific - where people are more empowered, climate resilient and prosperous and where nature is thriving and visibly and measurably recovering.

A copy of the updated WWF-Pacific 2025 Strategic Plan can be downloaded from our website, [HERE](#).