

FSM celebrates continued FSM unity and smooth transition of public servants at FSM Joint Inauguration

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 26, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei—If, as it has often been said, rain is a blessing on events in Pohnpei, the Joint Inauguration of the FSM President, Vice President, and the 23rd FSM Congress was blessed in buckets full. But the rain did not dampen either solemnity or the celebratory joy of the event. As visitors and guests arrived, the singers of the group from Satowan, Chuuk entertained with boisterous song.

Contrary to what has been published in international media, the event was not a swearing in ceremony as is

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Congress credentials committee withholds report that would set in motion the seating of Chuuk and Kosrae representatives

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 28, 2023

FSM—Neither Fabian Nimea of Chuuk nor Yoslyn Sigrah of Kosrae was seated as part of Congress before the Joint Inauguration on Wednesday, July 26. The inauguration went on with the Master of Ceremonies introducing each member of Congress, the President and the Vice President, and no mention was made of the two apparent top vote getters in the July 4, 2023 election. The

Congress Credentials Committee had not yet reported out on the acceptance of either candidates' credentials and so they were not yet seated.

According to a legal staff member, Congress' reading of the July 11 ruling by the FSM Supreme Court barring National Election Office Ausen T. Lambert from certifying the results of the amendments to the FSM Constitution made the whole certification void. Without that certification, Congress felt that it could not seat the announced winners until

after all of the various challenges were resolved.

Lambert says that his certification of the winners of the election was legal and that the ruling only barred him from certifying the results of the national referendum.

There have been several challenges to the July 4 election process. In Chuuk, the ballot boxes for the Northwest region still have not arrived in Weno for counting. Further, one of the candidates

has filed an appeal of Lambert's ruling denying a recount of ballots at the FSM Supreme Court.

In Yap, Attorney Salomon Saimon filed a civil action on behalf of his clients regarding the reported percentage of affirmative votes on the Constitutional amendment that would require a change in revenue sharing of fishing revenues. The case charges that Yap's Election

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Retired Marine, Pohnpeian native continues to serve

*1st Marine Logistics Group
Story by 1st Lt. Arthur Deal*

July 25, 2023

Pohnpei-- After 20 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps, Gunnery Sgt. Omar Hadley knew it was time to come home. Following the end of his last tour in 2018, the retired personnel administrative chief returned to his home island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. After a year of working an office job for the Penieu town government, he knew working behind a desk for his second act in life wasn't for him.

"I've always had a passion for cooking," said Hadley. "I've always enjoyed cooking for others."

The passion grew into a small business. Hadley would post online, offering to deliver whatever cuisine he was whipping up in his kitchen for a small fee. As more orders started flooding in, Hadley decided it was time take the next step.

"In the back of my head I always thought about opening my own restaurant," said Hadley.

In 2020, Hadley opened "The Shak", a restaurant featuring recipes



Photo by 1st Lt. Arthur Deal 1st Marine Logistics Group

Hadley picked up from his travels around the world with the Marine Corps.

"Every deployment I went on, I tried different cuisines," said Hadley. "So, I try to throw in everything from everywhere I've been."

But as fate would have it, the Marine Corps soon came knocking on his kitchen door with one more job for him.

When Task Force Koa Moana 23 decided it would send Marines to the shores of Micronesia for the first time, they knew they needed help keeping those Marines fed.

The Marine Corps awarded Hadley a contract with the mission to feed Marines three meals a day during their time in Pohnpei. Hadley accepted the challenge, shut down his restaurant for three months and suddenly found himself surrounded by Marines once again.

"I miss the comradery. I miss deployments," said Hadley. "I love the Marine Corps. They are my brothers and sisters. I wanted Marines to enjoy the island while they are here."

Marines and Sailors with the Pohnpei detachment of Koa Moana have kept busy so far this summer. They have made repairs to long range radio towers, provided guidance for how to make the landing strip at the airport safer and offered training classes for local medical staff. Having a chef who knows their needs has helped the Marines thrive.

"Gunnery Sergeant Hadley has been an integral part of our life support, liaising with local leaders and providing insight on which activities would have the most impact," said Lt. Col. Robert Hillery, commanding officer for Task Force Koa Moana 23. "His ties to the island of Pohnpei have enabled Marines to connect with the local community."

Now, with his family by his side in the kitchen, Omar knows he'll have no problem meeting mission. He just wants Marines to feel welcome in his home country.

"I have my family here in Micronesia," said Hadley. "But for 20 years, the Marine Corps was my family."



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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**Deadline for submission of articles or
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of working hours on:**

Monday, August 14, 2023

Vice Speaker Robson Romolow presents strong message at Inaugural Ball

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 26, 2023

Pohnpei—Wednesday evening was a night to celebrate the successful completion of the inauguration. For organizers, it was the last event of many and signaled the end of their duties. For the President, Vice President, and the member of the FSM Congress, it was time to celebrate unity and a symbolic commencement of a working together relationship for the people of the FSM.

The parking lot at Mangrove Bar and Grill where the inaugural ball was held, was completely full to overflowing with many guests having to make the long trek up and down the steep hill to the venue. The venue itself was shoulder to shoulder but the atmosphere festive as food was consumed and Chuukese singers entertained the crowd.

Besides the performers whose music attracted many people up to the small dance floor, one of the highlights was the opening speech by Vice Speaker Robson Romolow. Many people remarked at his effective message of unity between the two branches of government, the Executive and the Legislative Branches and the message regarding support of FSM people in hard to reach places within the country.

After his welcome of all of the many high ranking visiting dignitaries from throughout the world including Presidents, Governors, Lt. Governors, a U.S. Cabinet member, a special envoy assigned by China's President Xi Jinping, Ambassadors, and many others, Vice Speaker Romolow's remarks follow:

"Let it be known that our reception this evening is a joint event to celebrate the joint inauguration of our national leadership; so, it's entirely proper, in my view, in the spirit of working together, that our words of welcome and respect, come not only from us in Congress but also from President Simina and Vice President Palik.

"There are times where we get use to speaking with one voice for the benefit of our citizens, and this is one of those times. Unless I am mistaken, we come to celebrate and enjoy each other's company, and not to invoke the doctrine of separation of powers of who has the power over the national purse.

"All of us in Congress and the Executive Branch do want you to enjoy yourselves this evening. We want to thank you for the honor you give us with your presence in the celebration of the joint inauguration. Thank you so much for those of you who join us from within Pohnpei and those who travelled

here from far. If I may, I wish to say a special word of thanks to the groups of entertainers – from Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae, and from Kuttu, Romanum, Satawan and not least Pollap-Fanatopw in Chuuk – for adding color and cultural significance to the joint inauguration.

"Kindly allow me to say just a few words to convey what I take to be the collective sentiments of Congress. At the launch of our journey together as a Nation, we in Congress are heartened by President Wesley Simina's call for the two political branches of our government, as well as our four states and National Government, to work together in lifting the national burden. We in Congress completely agree that nothing will get done if we hang apart and not together.

"As a constitutional mandate, Unity is an appropriate theme to be highlighted at the joint inauguration of our national leadership. Our sincere thanks to the President, I just want to note that we in Congress take the same oath of office recited by those in the Executive Branch, so we have a joint mandate.

The appeal is for us to work beyond the honeymoon --- that is, for the next four years. Keep in mind that most of us in Congress are elected for only two years; but we are prepared to work till the end of the honeymoon, however long may that be.

"Second, we also applaud the President for inviting our attention to the "hard to reach areas" in our Federation as a serious obstacle for the development of our country as a whole. True, it would be chaotic to redirect the primary focus of our national development, from the state centers and the bigger islands to the "rural and remote" areas. But realistically speaking, our Federation is comprised mostly of rural and remote areas that are usually hard to reach and therefore are underserved.

"Let's take the State of Chuuk, for example. Most of the areas in the capitol of Weno beyond Tunnuk on the northern end and Neuo on the southern end could be considered "rural and remote" and should deserve special consideration. The same may said about the main island of Pohnpei, Yap and Kosrae
In any event, while the President's call may be a revolutionary one, I do respect his courage in calling attention to this intricate knot in our national development. It is a major obstacle that we should seriously consider.

"Third, I am sure many of us in Congress are pleased to hear the President calling attention to the critical role of a robust, affordable and reliable telecommunication services in energizing our national priority areas, namely health and education, as well as in spurring our growing private sector. We are aware that telecommunication is the Way of the 21st Century, so we should collaborate to make sure we are not left behind as the twin Wind of Change and Wind of Globalization continue blowing non-stop across the globe in directing the pace and substance of development.

"Finally, as a former foreign service officer, I wholeheartedly welcome the President's bold reiteration to us that we will continue to look to the outside to leverage external assistance to augment our national development. We know this almost as a truth, but somebody must have the courage to drive home the message for us to appreciate its implications and complications.

"I also fully support the idea for integrating economic diplomacy in our foreign relations policy and activities. Moreover, I go along with the proposition of equipping our foreign service officers as the "eyes and ears" of the country because only when they are confident, competent, and articulate, they will be well placed to serve the Nation on the frontlines.

"Thank you very much. Please enjoy yourselves. And may God bless the Federated States of Micronesia!"

The celebration at the inaugural ball continued until late that night.



...Inauguration

Continued from front page

practiced in the United States for the office of the President and the Vice President. They, along with the rest of the 23rd Congress were sworn into office on May 11, 2023. Instead, as has been the practice of the FSM, the event was a celebration of a smooth transition of public servants between one administration and another, and both the continuation of, and the hope for progress for the people of FSM.

Jackson Soram, who since has sworn his oath of office as the newly assigned FSM Ambassador to the United States administered by President Wesley W. Simina, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the inauguration ceremony.

He introduced each of the traditional leaders, members of international delegations including heads of State and diplomats, the FSM President, Vice President, and the members and leadership of the 23rd Congress. Each were escorted by young ushers wearing the traditional clothing associated with each FSM State.

A color guard of FSM National Police officers raised the FSM flag and young adults from Pacific Missionary Fellowship sang what was possibly the best rendition of the FSM National Anthem heard in the FSM in perfect harmony, turning many heads to see who was singing.

Bishop of the Caroline Islands, the Most Reverend Julio Angkel, DD gave the invocation and as Governor of the National Government's host State, Pohnpei Governor Reed B. Oliver gave the welcoming remarks.

The Satowan singing group performed again before FSM President Wesley W. Simina gave the inaugural address. Though he apologized that the speech would not be long, it was not short but he had a great deal to say of importance.

Though people of the FSM know very well, those reading of the inauguration or listening to the speech from elsewhere in the world may not know that FSM Presidents and Vice Presidents don't run for office. The vote is not a popular vote by the citizenry for a pair of running mates united by ideology seeking the office. The President and



Vice President in the FSM are selected by the members of Congress from within and only those representatives who were elected to the four-year seat that represents an FSM State as a whole rather than a portion of the State which is divided into election districts if the population warrants it. Two people from two different FSM States may be put into the top two offices of the country who may have completely different ideological views. As such, it was important for the President to immediately address that issue in his speech, and he did so saying that both he and Vice President Aren B. Palik are committed to "forging ahead as a team where we intend to work together in every sense of the word."

President Simina also committed to work together closely with Congress for the good of the nation. "It is our desire to work with you, not just for the first one hundred days, or only when the fragrance of honeymoon remains fresh, but until the job is done," he said. "That essence of unity of purpose and vision must begin with us, in the Executive Branch, and between us, the Congress and the Executive Branch." He did not hold the "Pollyanna" view that the Executive and Legislative branches would not have differences of opinion, he called on the members of Congress to work through the resolution of whatever differences arise before they "split us asunder".

"We insist that the measure of our collective success is the satisfaction of the aspirations of our people. To succeed, this measure must be the rudder for our joint efforts," the President said.

"Let there be no doubt that we will continue supporting past endeavors and, with our own contributions, in creating a national agenda for economic development," he said. "We are inspired to take a close review of our domestic and external resources and harness them to achieve the developmental needs which our people deserve, particularly in the priority areas of education and health."

He called the FSM people to continued unity. "May we never forget that our country emerged from a long struggle from both within and without that could have left our country in a form far more different from what we have today. Fortunately, our founding fathers prevailed, and today we are the beneficiaries of their struggle. For them, unity became a solemn commitment – not to be written on paper only to be read, but first and foremost to be honored by the constancy of our deeds and the strength of our convictions."

He expressed his conviction that with



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...Inauguration

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the exception of issues that are clearly national in nature, the FSM National Government exists to support the FSM States. “The issue of Unity inherently demands our careful attention and vigilance, given the very nature of our government, being a loose federation. Allow me to remind us in no unambiguous terms: the states are not subservient to the National Government. In my view, the proper role for the central government here in Palikir is to support the advancement of the states and to facilitate and coordinate services and activities between the different levels of our governments.”

Though the new Simina-Palik administration has not yet established a public information mechanism, President Simina said that it is important for the National Government not to assume that the people of the FSM are uninterested in taking part in the affairs of the government. “Those of us in Palikir should take the initiative in setting the stage in engaging our citizens. It is our responsibility to inspire, further cultivate, and deepen a healthy sense of community belonging in our citizenry. Through the state visits, we hope to assure the citizens that they are not only the stewards of our land but the ultimate architects and movers of our unfinished task of strengthening the foundations of our government.”

He made it clear that he is deeply aware that the FSM encompasses more than just Palikir and the four State centers. It also includes the rural and remote areas that are difficult to reach and are underserved. “We must provide sufficient means of ocean and air access to better serve them,” he said.

“Let it also be stated in simple and clear terms: if the government cannot serve the needs of the people residing in our many remote and rural areas, how can we expect it to maintain the services of those living in our few urban or developed centers? This is an irony of development strategy that has been our mode of operation for a long time even before the creation of the Federated States of Micronesia. It was the choice of convenience; but it is a choice that is now calling for creative adjustment if our Federation is to be sustained,”



he said. “There is now an urgency for a new strategy for development. The new strategy should involve extension of the concentration of developmental activities from the center to the periphery as well. No doubt, the task will take far longer than the entire life of this administration. But the task must start now, and the urgent call is for us to accelerate the work during the life of this administration.”

Saying that the FSM should foster a workforce that “values efficiency, productivity, and compassion without compromising fairness, transparency, and accountability,” the President put the onus on the young people of the FSM for the future. “If our youth do not come to the call of public service in the name of our country and do the heavy-lifting, who will,” he asked?

He called upon the Diplomatic Corps of the FSM to be the eyes and ears of the nation. He said that given FSM’s diplomatic relationship with nearly 100 nations, and to be “articulate, confident, competent, and collegial, or believing in the values of team spirit for our collective good.”

He committed the FSM to full engagement rather than one of a bystander in the international Climate Change arena, “the number one existential threat”.

The last major topic was the FSM policy expressed in the Constitution which says, “We extend to all nations what we seek from each – peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity.”

“This prescription borders on simplicity,” the President said. “Yet it has served us well when encountering challenges on the world stage in the last forty-four years. But our engagement in the world arena must be more than seeking friends. For a young nation such as ours, this noble and critical task will be ongoing. We want to assure our friends and partners that attendant to placing greater expectations on our ‘eyes and ears’ abroad, we are defining the role of economic diplomacy as an integral and prominent part of our foreign relations. Domestic agencies with related responsibilities and mandates are expected to bear their fair share of the burden to contribute to our redefined and enhanced economic diplomacy.”

In expressing his thanks to the nations friends and development partners he said, “Given the mutuality of our interests, we will continue to do our best in ensuring that your schemes of assistance and support are leveraged and harnessed for the well-being and prosperity of our people. That to me,

this is part of Unity as well.”

In closing, President Simina made another call to FSM unity. “Finally, my fellow citizens, allow me to conclude by reiterating my call that we recommit ourselves to the underlying principles and ideals as set forth in our Constitution and as envisioned by our forefathers. Of particular relevance in our national life today is Unity, because it underpins everything that we want and aspire to become as a people. Words alone are not enough. Only by doing it together will we, as a united people, maximize our chances of charting the destiny that we want for ourselves and our future generations. Remember that our unity is our strength and prosperity.

“With the torch of leadership passing on to Vice President Palik and I, this is our time, this is our moment; this is a calling thrust upon us that we must welcome and not defer but accept together. With God’s continued benevolence, let us be faithful to the call of leadership as we forge ahead in our journey together for the next four years as a people and as a Nation. Killisou chapwur, kulo mulolap, kalangan, and kamagar. Thank you so much. God bless all of you and the Federated States of Micronesia.”

US Secretary of the Department of the Interior Haaland joins inaugural festivities

US Embassy to the FSM

July 27, 2023

FSM-- U.S. Embassy Kolonia warmly welcomed U.S. Secretary of the Interior Haaland to the Federated States of Micronesia yesterday. Secretary Haaland leads the U.S. Presidential Delegation for the Inauguration of H.E. Wesley W. Simina, President of the FSM. The delegation includes Erika Mortisugu, Deputy Assistant to the President and

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Senior Liaison, Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor, and INDOPACOM Senior Military Official Admiral Gregory C. Huffman, Commander of Joint Region Marianas.

Secretary Haaland and delegation members met with H.E. President Wesley W. Simina, Vice President

Aren B. Palik, Speaker Esmond Moses, and members of the FSM Senate yesterday afternoon. In her meeting with the President, Secretary Haaland highlighted the Biden-Harris administration's ongoing commitment

to the prosperity of the FSM. They also discussed the importance of the negotiations regarding the extension of economic assistance under the Compact of Free Association.



...Election

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Commissioner used as the denominator in the formula to figure the final percentage of affirmative ballots that were "spoiled" and therefore shouldn't have been used to arrive at the total number of votes cast. It claims that spoiled ballots are not to be counted and that if the Commissioner had not included those spoiled ballots, the total number of votes cast would have decreased which would have raised the percentage of affirmative votes to above the 75 percent of ballots cast.

In the July 19 issue of The Kaselehlie Press, we incorrectly reported that the threshold for passage of a Constitutional amendment in any FSM State is 75 percent of registered voters. That assertion was incorrect. In fact, the standard is 75 percent of ballots that were actually cast. Lambert said that when he first took office, he made the same error because his experience had been in Pohnpei which does have the requirement of 75 percent of registered voters to affirm any change in its Constitution. He said he learned that lesson quickly and immediately apologized at that time for his mistake. We apologize as well.

The Kosrae election had no challenges but Congress did not seat apparent winner Yoslyn Sigrah. The legal staff member said that Congress wants to wait until all challenges of the election process have been exhausted.

Along with the Yap and Chuuk challenges, Attorney Sol Saimon is the attorney of record for Yoslyn Sigrah. On July 17, Saimon wrote to Credentials Committee Chair Senator Joseph Urusemal. "...it is imperative that I

explain why this (the delay in seating Sigrah) is an unnecessary delay and why you may legally proceed without both the referendum results and even if based on the election results on Chuuk's at-large seat," he wrote. "...The court order did not touch the Kosrae election results. The court order did not attempt to enjoin any acts of Congress or your Credentials Committee nor did the court attempt to curb any of the powers that Congress has including those listed under Section 17 of Article IX of the FSM Constitution."

Lambert said that Constitutionally, Congress is the sole judge of eligibility for election to Congress. A ruling by an FSM Appellate Court in the case of Robert v. Mori in 1994, backs his statement up. It said, "Congress has the Constitutional power to prescribe, by statute, additional qualifications for eligibility for election to Congress beyond those found in the Constitution. Such additional qualifications must be consistent with the rest of the Constitution. Knowledge of English may not be a qualification."

"It would be the first time in the history of the FSM if Congress refuses to seat a person duly elected by the people," he said, and reiterated that in his opinion, his certification of Chuuk and Kosrae's elections for the At-Large seat were legal and sufficient.

"...it is hoped that the Credential Committee stays within the legally relevant concerns of Article IX, Section 9 of the FSM Constitution and its implementing Title 9, Section 711 of the FSM Code," Solomon wrote in his letter to Chairman Urusemal. "Any other statements that are not specified in the Constitution and statutes are just red herring and reliance on them would be a complete waste of time and may perhaps be seen as calculated smear tactic."



Addendum 1 July 20, 2023

for

Federated States of Micronesia, Preparatory Civil Works for Plateau Road FDR Pilot Project

NOTICE

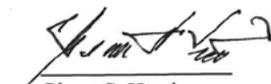
The Program Management Unit (PMU) of the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I), National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to qualified consultants for the *Federated States of Micronesia, Preparatory Civil Works for Plateau Road FDR Pilot Project*.

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Shankarah Lessey, Contract Specialist, DTC&I, P.O. Box PS-2, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941 at email shankarah.lessey@gmail.com with the subject heading:

" Federated States of Micronesia, Preparatory Civil Works for Plateau Road FDR Pilot Project. "

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department's website: <https://www.tci.gov.fm> in its PMU section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is revised date, **Tuesday August 8th at 4pm local Pohnpei Time.**


Glenn S. Harris
Acting Secretary, DTC&I

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FSM presents a Cultural Celebration in conjunction with inauguration events



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 25, 2023

Pohnpei—The College of Micronesia China Friendship gym bleachers were crammed with spectators at the announced time of the starting of the Cultural Celebration, an evening of cultural dance and song in conjunction with inauguration events. Meanwhile, in the practice gym, international dignitaries and FSM officials gathered for the actual start of the program while the spectators waited in the warm main gym.

Mr. Jeemer Lippwe, who is now the FSM Permanent Representative to the United Nations served as the master of ceremonies for the events both in the back gym and in the main gym. As is Pohnpei custom, the event began with a sakau ceremony followed by special remarks by FSM Vice President Aren B. Palik. When the formalities were complete Pastor Kemsy Sigrah of the Kosrae-Pohnpei Congregational Church gave the blessing of the food before the

several-hundred-strong group of invited dignitaries filed through the buffet line which was set up on part of the floor of the main gym where spectators were gathered.

As they sat to eat, the first of the cultural performances began with the Seinwar, Pohnpei Dance Group. Several dozen residents of Seinwar gathered on the risers that constituted the stage and performed traditional stick and other dances of Pohnpei.

At long last, the group of dignitaries including heads of Micronesian State moved to chairs waiting for them in the main gymnasium now allowing the spectators to view and cheer for their favorite performances. The Romulum, Chuuk Dancers had provided entertainment as they could as the spectators waited for the main event to begin.

One of the truly encouraging facets of the cultural celebration was the number of young children who were included in each group. Their inclusion bodes

well for the art and tradition of cultural dance and song in the Federated States of Micronesia.

A dancing group from the Yap Outer Islands began the public performance with, as their spokesperson explained before the performance, a variety of chants set to Yapese dancer's percussive style encouraging unity, all performed in the vernacular.

Stick Dancers from Kuttu Island, Chuuk next thrilled all spectators with their acrobatic stick dances. This group featured several children who performed as well as their more experienced elders and captured the hearts of anyone whose heart still beats.

The Romulum Dancers, who had so valiantly entertained the spectators in the main gym to keep them entertained while the dignitaries had their private engagement separately, were next on the agenda. They performed songs in the Chuukese language, many of them popular songs with lyrics changed to fit the group. While they performed,

members of the audience threw towels, skirts, candy and other snacks into the group.

The Southern Nomoneas Dancers from Chuuk followed the Romulum Dancers. Although more sedate in performance style their performance was well appreciated by the audience.

The ever-popular Mwoakilloa Dancers concluded the cultural performances with their explosive dance which in their history was used to frighten approaching sailors away from the island in order to protect their women, children, and resources.

Boxes were placed in front of each dance group as they began their performances. Throughout each performance, a steady stream of dignitaries and onlookers filed past the boxes dropping money into it for the dancers as a sign of appreciation. Many of the crowd dropped money into boxes several times during each performance, filling the boxes to the brim.

Cash prizes and fuel drive high turnout for 13th Annual Vital Fishing Tournament in Pohnpei



By Pohnpei Fishing Club

July 15, 2023

Pohnpei—The siren song of big cash prizes and fuel was too much for 40 boat owners to ignore as they signed up to participate in the 13th Annual Vital fishing tournament. It was the biggest number of boats to participate in any tournament of the Pohnpei Fishing Club this year. Each participating angler received a commemorative T-Shirt of the event, and every prize winner took home gas vouchers of various amounts along with a top prize of \$650 for the biggest fish caught during the day. John Hagiltaw aboard the Kayden captained by Mark Pangelinan took home that prize with a marlin that when hoisted onto the scales weighed 207.6 pounds.

There weren't a lot of really big fish caught during the tournament which gave anglers who'd caught fish that on another day may not have scored a top prize in any category, hope of a big prize. Dr. Johnny Hedson took home the second-place prize in the big fish category of \$600 for a 17.8-pound yellow fin tuna. Konrad Englberger received \$500 for his 16.4-pound barracuda. The remaining prize winners in the big fish category were all yellow fin tunas. Ziggy Eperiam had one of 15.4 pounds for fourth place and \$400. Danny Frederick's fish was next at 14.6 pounds for \$300. Last place in the category was Rex Ioanis for a \$150 13.8-pound fish.

Anglers caught a total of six different species of fish though only five qualified for prizes in the biggest of species category. The angler with the top two

biggest fish of each species was awarded \$100 and \$50 respectively along with fuel vouchers.

For yellow fin tuna, the top two fish were 13 and 11 pounds for first and second place, caught by Lensper Nickolas and Leeson David. Hilarko David's 9.4-pound skipjack tuna was the top prize winner for that species. Danny Welsin's was 6.8 pounds for second place. Only one wahoo was caught during the tournament, a 10.4-pound fish for the only prize for that species caught by Dane Nighswander. Jimmy Barnabas landed a hard fighting and acrobatic mahi mahi of 8.2 pounds while Hilarko David's was close to it at 7.8 pounds. Two anglers caught barracuda. Top prize went to Rayken Gilmete for a 13-pound example of the species. Maltrick Yamaguchi's fish took second prize at 11.6 pounds.

Several lady anglers competed but there was only one prize in that category awarded for a prize of \$125 along with a gas voucher. Dr. Mereani Raikoti won that prize for a 9.4-pound barracuda.

The prolific young angler, Marvey Spencer, Jr. won the top junior angler prize for his 7.4-pound rainbow runner, the only one of its kind caught during the day's fishing. He earned \$25 and gas vouchers for that beautiful and good eating table fish.

Soon 100 percent of Pohnpei Fishing Club members will personally own EPIRBS for safety. Three more of the members won EPIRBS during the tournament that were donated by Vital. The winners were Youky Susaia, Jr., Sidney Felix, and Tony

Manuel. The club still has some EPIRBS left to be awarded at the next tournament which will be the LP Gas/Seven Stars Annual tournament on August 5. Those EPIRBS were donated by Vital and NORMA.

The weigh in was held at Mangrove Bay,

so many thanks to them and all the people who helped out. We can't put on a big tourney like this without lots of help, and we thank all of the sponsors and volunteers.

Wear your t-shirts from this tourney proudly!

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that H.J. Heinz Company Brands LLC of One PPG Place Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222 United States of America, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:



which is used in International classes 5, 29, 30 and 32 in connection with the following goods:

Food suitable for Infants and Invalids and dietetic substances adapted for medical use; Infant formula; nutritional beverages; meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, processed, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; frozen entrees, meals, appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, vegetables, potatoes, fruits; jellies, jams; eggs, milk and other dairy products; soups; edible oils and fats; preserves, pickles and pickle products; tomato products; coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, coffee substitutes; cereals; flour and preparations made from cereals; noodles; bread, biscuits, cakes, pastry and confectionery, Ices; honey, treacle; yeast, baking powder, salt, mustard, pepper, vinegar, condiments, sauces, spices; Ice; ketchup; salad dressings; gravy; pasta meals and products; beans; tomato seeds; products made wholly or principally of any of the foregoing; beer, ale and porter, mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic drinks; syrups and other preparations for making beverages; fruit drinks, fruit juices.

H.J. Heinz Company Brands LLC claims all rights in respect to the above trade mark 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

www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Nissan Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha (also trading as Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.)** of No.2, Takara-cho, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:



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

Class 12: Vehicles for locomotion by land, air, water or rail; automobiles; electric vehicles; waggons; trucks; vans [vehicles]; sport utility vehicles; motor buses; recreational vehicles (RV); sports cars; racing cars; lorries; fork lift trucks; tractors; towing tractors ; trailers; semi-trailers; structural parts for automobiles; engines for land vehicles; motors for land vehicles; bodies for vehicles; vehicle chassis; transmission mechanisms for land vehicles; transmission shafts for land vehicles; gearing for land vehicles; clutches for land vehicles; axles for vehicles; vehicle suspension springs; shock absorbers for automobiles; vehicle wheels; tires for vehicle wheels; hubs for vehicle wheels; adhesive rubber patches for repairing tire inner tubes; brakes for vehicles; brake pads for land vehicles; windshields; windshield wipers [vehicle parts]; vehicle bumpers; steering units for land vehicles; horns for vehicles; direction signals for vehicles; vehicle seats; safety belts for vehicle seats; head-rests for vehicle seats; reversing alarms for vehicles; anti-theft devices for vehicles; air bags [safety devices for automobiles]; rearview mirrors; tailboard lifts [parts of land vehicles]; spoilers for vehicles; luggage carriers for vehicles; mudguards for vehicles; anti-skid chains; vehicle covers [shaped]; seat covers for vehicles; air pumps [vehicle accessories]; ski carriers for vehicles; cigar lighters for land vehicles; safety seats for children; hoods [folding roofs] for vehicles; doors for vehicles; space vehicles; aeroplanes; seaplanes; aircraft; carts; motorcycles; boats; ferry boats; ships; yachts; bicycles; ashtrays for automobiles; brake discs for vehicles; driverless cars [autonomous cars]; side view mirrors for vehicles; engine mounts for land vehicles; caps for vehicle petrol [gas] tanks; torque converters for land vehicles; autonomous land vehicles; bearings [parts of vehicles].

Class 37: Repair or maintenance of land vehicles, parts and fittings therefor; providing information about repair or maintenance of land vehicles, parts and fittings therefor; repair or maintenance of chargers for electrical vehicles; repair or maintenance of batteries and cells; repair or maintenance of telecommunication machines and apparatus; vehicle breakdown repair services; charging of electric vehicles; tuning of bodies for automobiles; custom installation of exterior, interior and mechanical parts of vehicles [tuning]; rental of battery chargers; vehicle greasing; anti-rust treatment for vehicles; roadside assistance services, in particular responding to calls for roadside assistance, flat tire changing, emergency fuel supplying, battery jump starting, and emergency battery supplying.

Nissan Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha (also trading as Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.) claims all rights in respect to the above trade mark 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.

JAMES & WELLS

Private Bag 3140 Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

Email: attorney@jamesandwells.com

www.jamesandwells.com

JAMES & WELLS

Australia appoints Special Envoy for the Pacific and Regional Affairs

On 3 July, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong and Australian Minister for international Development and the Pacific Pat Conroy announced the appointment of Mr Ewen McDonald as Australia's next High Commissioner to the Republic of Fiji and Australia's inaugural Special Envoy for the Pacific and Regional Affairs.

Mr McDonald will be Australia's first Special Envoy for the Pacific and Regional Affairs. Based in the region, this role reflects the Albanese Government's commitment to supporting Pacific priorities under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

It will enhance Australia's ability to respond to collective challenges and strengthen our engagement with regional organisations as a member of the Pacific Islands Forum, whose Secretariat is based in Suva.

Mr McDonald is a senior career officer

with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has headed the Office of the Pacific for the last four years.

He has previously served overseas as Australia's High Commissioner to New Zealand with accreditation to Cook Islands and Niue.



Addendum 1 July 20, 2023

for

Consultancy for the provision of Oversight Services for Full Depth Reclamation Road Rehabilitation Design and Implementation

NOTICE

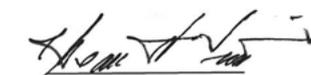
The Program Management Unit (PMU) of the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I), National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing The Bid Invitation Notice to qualified consultants for the *Consultancy for the provision of Oversight Services for Full Depth Reclamation Road Rehabilitation Design and Implementation, in Sekere, Pohnpei.*

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Shankarah Lessey, Contract Specialist, DTC&I, P.O. Box PS-2, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941 at email shankarah.lessey@gmail.com with the subject heading:

"Consultancy for the provision of Oversight Services for Full Depth Reclamation Road Rehabilitation Design and Implementation, in Sekere, Pohnpei."

The Terms of Reference can be directly obtained from the Department's website: <https://tci.gov.fm> in its PMU section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is revised date, **Tuesday August 8th at 4pm local Pohnpei Time.**


Glenn S. Harris
Acting Secretary, DTC&I

FSM Junior tennis team competes at the POJC, Lautoka, Fiji

By Tasia Isaac

July 31, 2023

This year, two of the FSM Junior Tennis Team were invited to join the top Junior Players from Guam and Saipan to make a formidable North Pacific Team to the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships from July 10 – 19, at Lautoka, Fiji. Players Tayshawn Erwin (16U) and Dontrick Daniel (14U) travelled to Fiji with their coaches Dr. Bryan A. Isaac & Tasia R. Isaac.

The boys played their best in Singles competition into quarterfinals with Erwin placing No. 10 of a draw of 16 players; while Daniel placed No. 14 in a draw of 15 players.

In Doubles competition both boys fared very well. They paired up with Guam's no. ones in their respective categories and both advanced into the semifinals. Unfortunately, Daniel's partner Seo sustained an injury in a prior match and had to retire which ended in a forfeit of Daniel/Seo semifinal Doubles match. On the other hand, Erwin and his partner Jackson fought their way to the finals ending in a very close match against Tahiti garnering them a 2nd place with a final score of 5-7, 7-6, 16-14!

The team truly enjoyed the trip to the beautiful island of FIJI and made a lot of friends not to mention the experiences gained of competing at another level. We want to thank ITF (International Tennis Federation)/OTF (Oceania Tennis Federation), FSM NOC, Jim Tobin, our major sponsor, FSM Tennis Federation and Pohnpei State Tennis Club for their continued support of Junior Tennis in the FSM.

The team coaches were Bryan and Tasia Isaac.



President Wesley W. Simina receives China's Special Envoy Minister Tang Renjian

FSM Information Services

July 25, 2023

FSM-- President Wesley W. Simina received President Xi Jinping's Special Envoy to the FSM's Joint inauguration celebration, honorable Tang Renjian, Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

The two sides exchanged pleasantries and both evaluated the state of bilateral relations between the Federated States of Micronesia and the People's Republic of China, which was established on September 11, 1989.

President Simina conveyed his appreciation for the honor that President Xi attached to the FSM's joint inauguration celebration by dispatching Special Envoy Minister Tang to lead a delegation to join in on the festive occasion.

President Simina welcomed the honored guests to the seat of the nation's capital Palikir, Pohnpei, acknowledged the great friendship between the FSM and China, and reassured of the FSM government's

continued support of its One China Policy. The President also conveyed appreciation for the resumption and considerations of delayed and pending projects such as the National Convention Center, Renovation of the Pohnpei Administration Building, Chuuk Road Project, and the purchase of a second Y-12 aircraft.

Special Envoy Minister Tang extended congratulations for the inauguration from His Excellency President Xi Jinping and also conveyed congratulations to the honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik from China's honorable Vice President Han Zheng. Special Envoy Tang additionally thanked President Simina for his government's support of the One China Policy.

Both sides touched on important areas for cooperation including development, promoting people to people exchanges, and cooperation in the multilateral forums to tackle global challenges. Other topics of discussion included fisheries, agriculture and trade, and tourism.

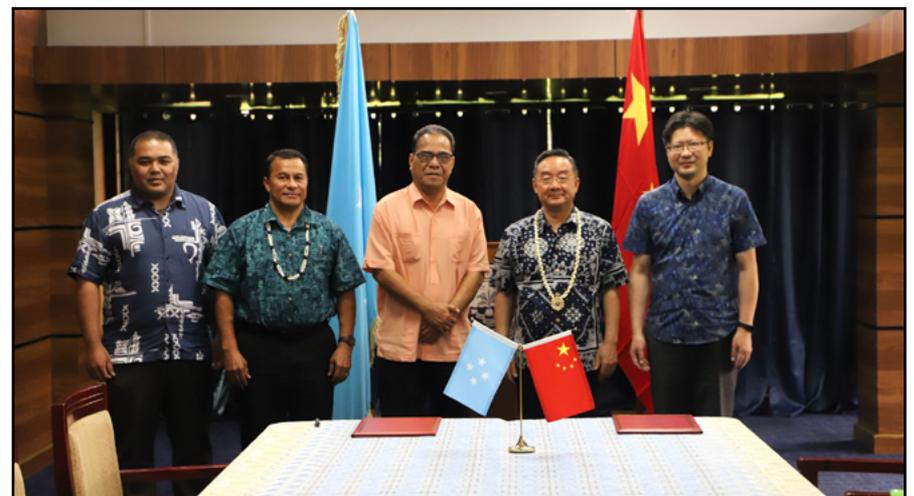
Special Envoy Minister Tang also made the following announcements: the



resumption of various projects that were delayed due to COVID-19, an upcoming visit to the FSM by acrobatic troupes from Shandong and Guangdong province to come to the FSM soon to promote cultural exchanges, as well as resumption of programs from Guangdong province which include medical doctor program to resume in the FSM. China's scholarship program and trainings will also resume and welcome more FSM students and technicians to utilize the capacity building opportunities provided by China. Through the provincial and city relations with China, the Special Envoy also announced that Zhongshan district of Guangdong province is ready to build five speed boats for Chuuk state to facilitate transportation. The Special Envoy also announced his

government's support of another economic and technical cooperation agreement to be signed, for projects to be later determined by the two governments, in the value of 30 million RMB. He also announced that China is making special arrangements to provide another \$2 million dollars cash contribution into the FSM Trust Fund.

The courtesy call on the President concluded with a signing ceremony of the announced economic and technical cooperation agreement. FSM's Ambassador to China Vincent Sivas, and China's Ambassador to FSM Wu Wei signed the agreement on behalf of the two respective governments.



**Addendum 1
July 20, 2023**

for

Federated States of Micronesia, Chuuk Nantaku Campus, College of Micronesia Needs Assessment

NOTICE

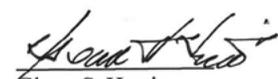
The Program Management Unit (PMU) of the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I), National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to qualified consultants for the ***Federated States of Micronesia, Chuuk Nantaku Campus, College of Micronesia Needs Assessment and Master Plan.***

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Shankarah Lessey, Contract Specialist, DTC&I, P.O. Box PS-2, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941 at email shankarah.lessey@gmail.com with the subject heading:

“Federated States of Micronesia, Chuuk Nantaku Campus, College of Micronesia Needs Assessment and Master Plan and Preliminary Design Details ”

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department's website: <https://www.tci.gov.fmi> in its PMU section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is revised date, **Tuesday August 8th at 4pm local Pohnpei Time.**


Glenn S. Harris
Acting Secretary, DTC&I

Pohnpei DPS holds last General Inspection of current administration and kicks off Police Academy



By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News and Pohnpei Department of Public Safety

July 24, 2023

Pohnpei--Governor Oliver attended the opening ceremony for the Department of Public Safety's Police Academy, General Inspection and awards ceremony held at the Kolonia-China Friendship Gym. Also attending with Governor Oliver was Ms. Cheryl Burkindine, Grants Management Specialist from the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular and International Affairs and a member of the Pohnpei State Police Commission, Ms. Phyllis Silbanuz.

This is the third Police Academy held during the Oliver/Ioanis Administration. The recruits will undergo a 14-week course of instruction that includes lots of physical training delivered this year with the assistance of Marines from Task Force Koa Moana '23. The recruits will also learn policing foundations, traffic management and enforcement, property crimes, crimes against a person and applied policing tasks.

Director of the Department of Public Safety, Patrick Carl, delivered remarks on behalf of Governor Oliver to highlight the good work the Department has undertaken leading up to the Police Academy. He also introduced U.S. Marine Corps Captain Lucas Walters who thanked Director Carl for allowing the Marines to be a part of the training. Captain Walters advised the Officers to train hard and to "relish the opportunity" to train and suffer because that will

better prepare them to meet the challenges of being Police Officers.

You can view, follow their progress, and find updates on the Department of Public Safety's Facebook page: [Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety](#). Thank you to the Marines of Task Force Koa Moana for their help, thank you to the U.S. Government's Capacity building fund for their generous support to the Department of Public Safety's Police Academy.

On July 24, 2023, the Department of Public Safety also conducted a general inspection to all four divisions; Division of Police & Security, Correction & Rehabilitation, Fish & Wildlife and Fire & Emergency Services. In this inspection, new attire was issued to the division of Correction & Rehabilitation, Fish & Wildlife and Fire & Emergency Services including new chest badges.

The inspection was then conducted by the Director of Public Safety Mr. Patrick Carl along with Chief of Police Mr. Keper Joel, Chief of Correction Mr. Ricky Rodriguez, Chief of Fish & Wildlife Mr. Hermis Edmund and Chief of Fire Mr. Joseph Ainstain. The inspection concluded with some awards presented by the Governor of



Pohnpei the Hon. Reed B. Oliver and the Director of Public Safety. These awards were the certificate of Certificate of Commendation, Certificate of Appreciation, Certificate of Recognition and Police of the Month certificate award. Also, two certificates were issued. These certificates for Promotion were for Mr. Thomas Koike who was promoted to Police Officer III and Mr. Travis Rudolph who was promoted to Police Officer III.

At the end of the inspection, the Police academy cycle 8 began and initiated by Police Academy Commander Mr. Bronson Martine along with the assistance of the United States Marine Corps.

Academy Cycle 8 Staff Members:

1. Bronson Martine – Commander
2. Taylor Andon – Deputy Commander
3. Joseph Artui – First Sergeant
4. Steward Silbanuz – Tactical Staff
5. Clayton Pelep – Tactical Staff

6. Marvin Hainrick- Tactical Staff
7. Jesner Elias – Tactical Staff
8. Johnson Clarence – Tactical Staff

Cadets:

1. Stanley Abraham
2. Adessa Albert
3. Kensily Boaz Jr.
4. Reiel Eliam
5. Julyed Ernest
6. Dyron Francis
7. Winscott Ioanis
8. Mcgay Ioanis
9. Dehler John
10. Oliver Joseph Jr.
11. Elli Manuel
12. Shadrock Marolmeng
13. Danny Mihkel
14. Jones Rudolph
15. Alpenster Pedley Jr.
16. Mixon Silbanuz
17. Jaxceen Valentine
18. Richard Nakasone
19. Ronald Koike
20. Priston Carlos

Pohnpei Governor receives JICA Resident Representative

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

July 28, 2023

Pohnpei--Governor Oliver received representatives from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Mr. Kunihiro Yamauchi, new Resident Representative, Ms. Nanako Koe, JICA Volunteer Nutritionist at Island Food, Mr. Kuzihiko Ishijima, Volunteer Coordinator and Ms. Trish Billen, Program Officer, paid a courtesy visit to Governor Oliver at the Governor's cabinet conference room.

JICA has been a key partner in supporting Pohnpei State Development initiatives over the years, providing technical expertise in the form of Volunteers to help build capacity and also technical training opportunities in key development areas.

During their discussions, Governor Oliver thanked Mr. Yamauchi and staff for their Volunteers who have worked in Pohnpei over the years in key development areas. Director of Health Services also echoed Governor Oliver's gratitude, noting Volunteers who worked

at the Pohnpei State Hospital to build capacity. Director of the Department of Resources and Development, Hubert Yamada, praised JICA for not being political and doing real work for the development of the State. The courtesy call served as a testament to the strong bond between JICA and Pohnpei State, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in creating a prosperous and resilient future. Both Governor Oliver and Resident Representative Yamauchi reiterated their commitment to working together to address the evolving

challenges and opportunities faced by the people of Pohnpei State.

JICA Micronesia office is located on the 2nd floor of Martin's Building in Kolonia. JICA's history in FSM goes back to 1979 when the first trainees were sent to Japan from FSM. Since then, JICA has provided bilateral aid in the form of technical cooperation and grant aid. Their vision of inclusive and dynamic development includes cooperation in the health services, environment, education and social and economic infrastructures.



**Addendum 1
July 20, 2023**

for

***Supply and Installation of Full Depth Reclamation Equipment,
Sekere, FSM***

NOTICE

The Program Management Unit (PMU) of the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I), National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to qualified consultants for the ***Supply and Installation of Full Depth Reclamation Equipment, Sekere, FSM.***

This RFP consists of three separate RfQs :

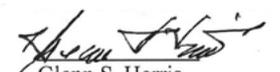
- 1. Supply of FDR Equipment***
- 2. Supply of Compactor and related Equipment***
- 3. Supply of Testing Equipment and Training***

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Shankarah Lessey, Contract Specialist, DTC&I, P.O. Box PS-2, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941 at email shankarah.lessey@gmail.com with the subject heading:

***“ Supply and Installation of Full Depth Reclamation Equipment,
Sekere, FSM ”***

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department's website: <https://www.tci.gov.fm> in its PMU section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is revised date, **Tuesday August 8th at 4pm local Pohnpei Time.**


Glenn S. Harris
Acting Secretary, DTC&I

**Addendum 1
July 20, 2023**

for

***Federated States of Micronesia, Professional Auditing Consulting
Service for the Sustainable Road Infrastructure and Investment
Program (SRIIP)***

NOTICE

The Program Management Unit (PMU) of the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I), National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to qualified consultants for the ***Federated States of Micronesia, Professional Auditing Consulting Service for the Sustainable Road Infrastructure and Investment Program (SRIIP).***

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mrs. Caroline Senda-Adolph, Finance Specialist, DTC&I, P.O. Box PS-2, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941 at email csadolph@tci.gov.fm with the subject heading:

***“ Federated States of Micronesia, Professional Auditing Consulting
Service for the Sustainable Road Infrastructure and Investment
Program (SRIIP). ”***

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department's website: <https://www.tci.gov.fm> in its PMU section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is revised date, **Tuesday August 8th at 4pm local Pohnpei Time.**


Glenn S. Harris
Acting Secretary, DTC&I

Local non-profit organization sponsors Animal Welfare Clinic in Pohnpei Seeks donors to continue with at least quarterly clinics in the State

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 24, 2023

Pohnpei—Kidi Oangoahng, a recently established non-profit organization also known as Animal Welfare, Inc. of Pohnpei today finished a five-day clinic for dogs and cats at the location of the New Tokyo Medical College. The NGO raised funds from donors to pay for a team of veterinary experts to come to Pohnpei to perform medical consults and spaying and neutering of pets. Pohnpei has been without a resident veterinarian since Dr. Joel Joseph left Pohnpei several years ago, though many of us who have had contact with him have sought his advice and have sometimes received prescriptions from him online.

This is the second clinic sponsored by the group and it hopes to have another clinic that they are planning for November 19, 2023. During the clinic which began on July 19, Dr. Joel Joseph, owner of Guam’s Wise Owl Animal Hospital and a team of two surgical assistants spayed three cats and 14 dogs, and neutered eight cats and five dogs (including the dog owned by the writer of this article). They also performed 14 non-surgical consults.

“Kidi Oangoahng is an animal welfare organization,” wrote Lisa Barrow, one of the founders of the non-profit. “Humane animal control is a primary concern, and spaying and neutering is probably the most humane animal control strategy, although you would need to spay and neuter about 70 percent of animals before there is any effective control.”

A website by the County of Mendocino of California offers an excellent list of the benefits of spaying and neutering pets. You can find their list [here](#).

With the prevalence of parasites in Pohnpei, vaccination is also vitally important, and each dog that entered the clinic was also vaccinated and given anti-parasitics. All dogs were tested for heartworm and anaplasma (a tick-borne bacterial organism). Barrow said that four of 19 dogs (21 percent) tested positive for heartworm, and five of 19 dogs (26 percent) tested positive for anaplasma. All cats were tested for feline AIDS. Only one of them tested positive for the disease which is viral in nature. Dr. Joseph said that feline AIDS is not contagious as an airborne virus.

“This brings home the importance of regular use of anti-parasitics and the need for vaccination,” Barrow wrote. “Last visit (about 100 spays and neuters), the nurses commented on seeing a few dogs with parvovirus.” Parvovirus kills many dogs in Pohnpei which could be avoided with proper vaccinations.

Dr. Joseph told one dog owner that just because her dog is completely isolated in a gated community with no exposure to other animals does not mean that her pet is immune to parasites. “Parasites are brutal in Pohnpei,” he said. “They are actually in the soil.”

Dr. Joseph has committed to send more anti-parasitics to Kidi Oangoahng in August, and the organization hopes to one day open a store/clinic so that it can sell meds and provide routine vaccinations for animals.

The Kaselehlie Press spent two hours taking photos of intake and also of two surgical procedures at the clinic on Friday, July 21. Sadly, some of the very cutest of the photos we took on that morning were of a seven-month-old kitten brought in by a happy young owner. The kitten, unfortunately later died on the operating table during a routine spaying operation. Dr. Joseph

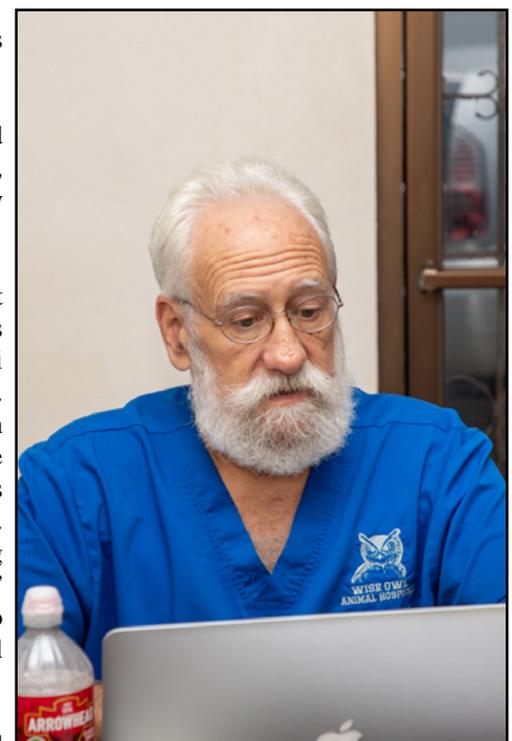
said that sometimes a pet does die during even simple and routine procedures for any number of reasons including a previously unidentified heart defect. The team compassionately handled the remains of the beautiful animal and an emotionally moved Dr. Joseph ceased operations until he could contact the devastated owner. Out of respect for the kitten’s owner, we will not publish any of the photos of its arrival or of the procedure.

Of approximately 150 pets treated during the two clinics, that death, as difficult as it was, was the only animal who died.

Kidi Oangoahng is totally reliant on donations and desperately needs funds to bring two vets to Pohnpei for the next clinic on November 19. Barrow said that the organization especially needs people who are willing to use their One Pass miles for flights for the vet teams. Organizers have also been toying with the idea of a photographic pets’ and owners’ calendar as one idea to help generate funds for its animal welfare activities.

Donors for the clinic that concluded today provided a vehicle for the team to use, and housed and fed them.

Though donations were certainly accepted during the clinic, the organization did not want the cost of the service to exclude any pet from treatment. The cost of a spay or neuter was only \$10, though some paid significantly more if they were able in order to support the organization and their efforts.



President Simina administers oath of office to FSM's U.S. and United Nations representatives

FSM Information Services

July 28, 2023

FSM—Families and friends gathered to witness the special occasion as President Simina conducted the oath of office ceremony for the FSM's most recently sworn-in diplomats. President Simina and Vice President

Palik expressed their deep gratitude to Permanent Representative Lippwe, Ambassador Soram and Deputy Chief of Mission Filepin for their dedicated service in representing the Government of the Federated States Micronesia and wished them well as they travel back to their respective posts.



President Simina & Special Envoy Furuya Continue to Strengthen FSM-Japan Kizuna

FSM Information Services

July 24, 2023

FSM-- On July 24, 2023, the Japanese Special Envoy, the Honorable Keiji Furuya, and his delegation arrived in Pohnpei and were received by Acting Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, T.H. Ricky F. Cantero, the Ambassador of FSM to Japan, H.E. John Fritz, along with resident Ambassador of Japan to the FSM, H.E. Hisashi Michigami. The Special Envoy Furuya Sensei is visiting the FSM to attend the Joint Inauguration for the President, Vice President, and members of the 23rd Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. The visit this time is Furuya Sensei's third time representing the Japanese Prime Minister to attend Joint Inauguration Ceremonies in the FSM and serves as the Chairman of the the Japan FSM Friendship League and the Japan Pacific Island Countries Friendship League. On the same day of his arrival, the Special Envoy and his delegation paid a courtesy call on H.E. Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, and

the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the FSM.

In the courtesy call, the principals expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet once again in Pohnpei. The Special Envoy then highlighted the numerous high-level exchanges which are testaments of mutual trust and the bond of friendship (Kizuna) that will further strengthen the existing relationship between Japan and the FSM. Discussions also touched on important issues of great importance to both countries, mainly Japan's Official Development Assistance and the ALPS-treated water.

In conclusion, the President thanked Special Envoy Furuya Sensei for taking this important assignment of representing the Prime Minister of Japan, T.H. Fumio Kishida, to the Inauguration and submitted the FSM's hope to further enhance and improve the already strong Kizuna between the FSM and Japan.



Pohnpei Governor gives welcoming remarks at FSM Joint Inauguration

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

July 26, 2023

Pohnpei--Governor Oliver delivered welcoming remarks at the Joint Presidential Inauguration for President Simina, Vice President Palik, Speaker Moses and the 23rd FSM Congress. Governor Oliver was accompanied to the inauguration ceremony by First Lady Estle G. Oliver.

The Joint Inauguration ushers in the 10th President of the Federated States of Micronesia, along with Vice President Aren B. Palik. Dignitaries and esteemed guests were in attendance, including His Royal Majesty Nanpwutak Pikiniap, Nahmwarki of Sokehs, His Royal Highness Iso Nahnken of Madolenihmw, His Royal Highness Iso Nahnken of U, His Royal Highness Iso Nahnken of Sokehs. Also joining were the State Governors of Kosrae and Chuuk and the Lt. Governor of Yap. Presidents of the Republic of Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands were also there along with the Speaker of the Nauru Parliament and Lt. Governor of Guam. Delegations from the U.S., China, and Japan were also in attendance along with resident diplomatic embassies and diplomatic partners from India, New Zealand and South Korea. International and Regional Organizations were also represented including UN, JICA, PIDB, SPC, OFCF and Tuna Commission.

In his welcoming remarks that emphasized unity, Governor Oliver described the beginning of the Simina/Palik administration as the, "...dawn of a new era guided by the resounding theme OUR UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY". Governor Oliver spoke of the hope and confidence brought on by the leadership of President Simina, whose experience includes terms as Governor of Chuuk and Speaker of the FSM Congress. He also quoted the late President Tosiwo Nakayama, first President of the FSM's first inaugural speech, describing the Federated States of Micronesia like a rainbow, "...It is a single beautiful thing, yet it is composed of many different colors. Our differences do not divide us, but make us richer through their diversity. The ocean is our common link, it is our heritage and our greatest natural resource. Our islands form our way of life and our many islands together, our states together, make us stronger than our four separate states apart." Governor Oliver closed

his remarks with heartfelt congratulations to President Simina, Vice President Palik and Speaker Esmond Moses and expressed hope that the inauguration would be a turning point in the FSM's collective pursuit of progress and unity.

The Governor joined President Simina, Vice President Palik, Speaker Moses and all the dignitaries that joined the Presidential Inauguration for a dinner reception later in the evening at Mangrove Bay to conclude the Joint Presidential Inauguration activities that included a Church Service at Seinwar, Kitti and Cultural celebrations at COM-FSM Palikir the day before.

You can watch the Inauguration on video, thanks to Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation at [FSM Inauguration video](#)



US Secretary for the Department of the Interior participates in wreath laying ceremony to honor Pohnpei service members

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

July 27, 2023

Pohnpei--Governor Oliver attended a wreath laying ceremony at the Pohnpei State International Airport arrivals hall. The ceremony was held in honor of fallen service members from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ten framed photographs of fallen U.S. Armed Forces members from the FSM are posted in the arrivals hall of the Pohnpei International Airport. Also known as the Hall of Heroes, this special area highlights the unique and enduring partnership between the United States of America and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Vice President of the Federated States, Aren B. Palik, delivered remarks sharing close connections with some of the fallen members, highlighting the interconnectedness and intimacy of the close-knit communities in the FSM. U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland delivered moving remarks, speaking of her connection with the military, having a Father who served as a Marine in the Vietnam War. Both Vice President Palik and Secretary Haaland,

thanked Governor Oliver for attending the solemn ceremony of remembrance and both highlighted the importance of the enduring USA-FSM partnership.

The Hall of Heroes pays tribute to service members from the FSM who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Four of the ten fallen are from Pohnpei:

- US Army Sergeant, Skipper Soram, died September 22, 2004, Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- US Army Specialist, Darence J. Weillbacher Jack, died October 31, 2005, Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- US Army Specialist, Henry Paul, died September 26, 2006, Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- US Army Sergeant Youvert Loney, died September 5, 2009, Operation Enduring Freedom.



Joint efforts lead to successful rescue of overdue fishermen in FSM

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia / Sector Guam

Story by Chief Warrant Officer Sara Muir

July 13, 2023

Santa Rita, Guam-- U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam personnel successfully coordinated a search and rescue operation, in collaboration with multiple partners, to locate and rescue two overdue fishermen near Nukuoro Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia on July 12 and 13.

Thanks to the combined efforts of air asset crews, commercial mariners, and local partners, the missing fishermen were found and brought to safety on July 13.

The U.S. Coast Guard was alerted at 1:20 p.m. on July 12 by officials at the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia of a request from the Federated States of Micronesia government for assistance in locating two fishermen, aged 21 and 17, reported overdue on their fishing trip near Nukuoro Atoll. They were due back on July 10.

Through active coordination of search and rescue operations to save the lives of local mariners, the U.S. Coast Guard, along with international, interagency, and local partners, contribute to the overall safety and security of the Indo-Pacific region. The region's vast expanse, with its numerous islands and remote areas, poses inherent challenges and risks for mariners. Timely and effective search and rescue efforts not only save lives but also help to maintain maritime stability, reunite families, and prevent potential emergencies from escalating into larger-scale incidents.

"By demonstrating a commitment to the safety of mariners in the region, the U.S. Coast Guard and our partners foster an environment of trust and cooperation, strengthening strategic regional partnerships and enhancing the overall security framework in the Indo-Pacific," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam immediately initiated search coordination efforts. They issued SafetyNet broadcast alerts to mariners in the area and used the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System to identify potential vessels of opportunity. They notified these vessel crews of the distress situation and requested assistance using Inmarsat C communications.

The search involved deploying a patrol boat from the Federated States of Micronesia and a diverted contract re-supply vessel, developing search patterns based on winds and currents to predict the potential location of the fishermen. Given the absence of organic U.S. Coast Guard aviation capability in Guam, watchstanders requested fixed-wing aircraft support from U.S. Coast Guard 14th District and Department of Defense partners. As a result, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point crews scheduled an HC-130 Hercules airplane to depart Oahu, Hawaii, and arrive in the search area the following afternoon.

"Aircraft play a crucial role in our search and rescue operations at sea by getting crews on scene quickly and improving our coverage of large search areas,"

said Cmdr. Ryan Crose, the search and rescue mission coordinator for the case. "The collaboration between different agencies and the use of air assets is vital to success given the remote nature and tyranny of distance to overcome. This case is the second in four days where aircraft and multinational, interagency partnerships were essential to saving lives."

The U.S. Air Force 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base offered assistance by identifying four U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft departing Guam at various times. These aircraft crews were instrumental in the subsequent discovery of the boat in the water, approximately ten nautical miles southwest of Nukuoro Atoll, on the morning of July 13.

During the search and rescue operation, the watchstanders at JRSC Guam conducted a second pull of the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System. As a result, they identified the 394-foot Motor Vessel Sea Pearl I, a cargo ship, was present in the area and established communication with them via phone. Later that afternoon, the watchstanders received notification from the M/V Sea Pearl I crew and their parent company representatives, informing them the cargo vessel crew successfully rescued the two fishermen from the water.

"Operating in the expansive Pacific region with limited resources poses unique challenges. Recognizing the immense value of commercial mariners in supporting search and rescue efforts, particularly in the vast expanse of the Pacific, we extend our appreciation to these merchant mariners who are willing

to divert and rescue others at sea. They are a force multiplier," said Simmons.

On July 13, the JRSC Guam watchstanders received positive confirmation from the Department of Public Safety in the FSM that the two fishermen had indeed been found and were safe. Watchstanders notified U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point and Department of Defense partners who stood down additional aviation assets.

Nukuoro Atoll is one of 607 islands comprising the Federated States of Micronesia; The FSM is a sovereign nation. The United States and the FSM have full diplomatic relations and maintain deep ties and a cooperative relationship. Nukuoro is remote, 832 nautical miles from Guam, and has no airstrip; a passenger boat calls irregularly, only once a month. The small population speaks their own unique language.

AMVER is the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System. Participating ships send a sail plan to the AMVER computer center before sailing. Vessels then report their locations every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. Search and rescue controllers can predict the position of each ship at any point during its voyage and then call on them if there's a case in their area.

CWO Sara Muir, the designated contact person for the search and rescue operation, can be reached at (671) 688-6096 or sara.g.muir@uscg.mil. For questions about the U.S. Air Force aircraft, please get in touch with 36th Wing Public Affairs at (671) 366-2228 or 36wg.pa.mediaoperations@us.af.mil.

President Simina signs law removing COVID-19 vaccination mandate for all people entering the FSM

FSM Information Services

July 29, 2023

FSM-- As its title suggests, this act removes the COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate that prevailed during the COVID-19 pandemic by virtue of Public Law No. 22-134. This amendment lifts the COVID-19 vaccine as a mandatory requirement

for travelers entering into the FSM. The lifting of the vaccination mandate applies to everyone, whether FSM citizens, nationals, non-citizens, nonresident workers, diplomats, crew of vessels or aircraft, and contractual personnel of foreign governments and international organizations.

While the COVID-19 vaccination mandate has been lifted, the amendment also gives authority to the Secretary of the Department of Health to issue regulations to require a COVID-19 vaccination for the purpose of entry into the FSM. But the amendment does not automatically impose this vaccination requirement; it is up

to the authority of the Secretary of Health to issue regulations requiring vaccination for travel purposes, if such requirement is considered necessary.

This amendment is now in effect. International carriers and travelers are bound to adhere to this recently passed public law.

Digital Billboard in Pohnpei open for business

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

July 14, 2023

Pohnpei-- Governor Oliver attends the ribbon cutting ceremony for the first digital billboard in the State of Pohnpei. The billboard, strategically located in the heart of Kolonia town is a successful outcome of collaboration and cooperation among the Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation, USAID, U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, FSM Telecommunications Corporation, Pohnpei Utilities Corporation and the FSM Social Security Administration, Pohnpei branch.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was done before speeches. Governor Oliver was joined by the Administrator of the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure, Iso John Adolph, Speaker Marvin T. Yamaguchi, U.S. Embassy Acting Charge d'affaires Andrew Posner and FSM Social Security Administration Executive Director, Mr. Leon Panuelo, Jr.

PPBC Board of Directors Chairperson, Steezia Aldis delivered welcoming remarks, PPBC Commissioner Peterson Sam shared the story of collaboration that brought forth the billboard and was able to share a short video clip highlighting the resolution and detail of the billboard. U.S. Embassy Acting Charge d'affaires Mr. Andrew Posner delivered brief remarks commending the use and re-purpose of compact funds for the billboard. Speaker of the 10th Pohnpei Legislature, T.H. Marvin T. Yamaguchi also delivered remarks applauding PPBC for keeping up with the rest of the world and calling the digital billboard "a reflection of our way forward in advancement". Governor Oliver delivered the final remarks, thanking the US Embassy, Mr. Posner Office of Insular Affairs Ms Cheryl Burkindine, USAID Mr. Roger Gardner, FSMTC CEO Fredy Perman, PUC, Mr. Trevayne Esiel, FSM Social Security Administration Executive Director, Leon Panuelo Jr., Gonzales



construction company and all parties involved for their collaboration and cooperation. He asked that the digital billboard be used "for the betterment of our community" and commended the board and management of PPBC for providing such an exemplary example of leadership.

The digital billboard will be streaming announcements via streaming video and images. For more information on the digital billboard, please contact Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation at 320-2296.

Micronesia Red Cross Society joined forces with the US Marines in conducting blood donation during friendly softball match

Alvie B. Cabañez

Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor

On July 23, 2023, Micronesia Red Cross Society (MCRS) and the US Navy organized a friendly softball match at Spanish wall.

A team of US Marines, Seabees, Navy, Pohnpei Division of Fire & Emergency, and some youth battled it out in a softball friendly match. The games started at 4pm while having the blood typing and blood donation registration simultaneously.

The Marines backed by some youth crushed their opponents by countless home run-hitting qualities. The Loyola brothers brought their A-game with a left-center-field swing and perfect pitch. JT Loyola has both the hotspot in left-center and the hotspot in deep right field. And when he turns on a ball and taps into that pull power, he really crushes it. "It's a great way to the bring our community together not just to have fun but exercise and get to know each other and for a good cause," said Kealoha Rickeem Loyola, youth left fielder.

Out of the 24 individuals who signed up for blood typing: 12 were O+; 1 B+; 1 A-; and 10 A+. While 41 individuals courageously signed up for blood donation. These patients will be included in the pool of blood donors and will be contacted by MCRS whenever Pohnpei State Hospital requests for blood donors. Non-remunerated blood donation is among the services provided by MCRS aside from Disaster Risk Management and COVID-19 response. The individuals received US Marines memorabilia like magnet stickers with their logo on it and unlimited cold water.

"It is something in the US we're very familiar doing especially in the military," said Michael Poppe, United States Navy, Emergency Physician. "We do a lot of blood donation projects. So it seem like a very easy way to help out the community," he continued.

"It's a good activity especially for the youth to come out and hangout to play and exercise," Mike Lucas, Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire & Emergency. "I thank the organizers for the event especially we have a lot of patients now who needed blood. Its difficult to find especially for family members to find the blood they need," he continued.

The activity was made possible through collaborative effort and support from Seabees, Marine Corps, Construction Engineers, UNESCO Personnel, Division of Fire & Emergency, Micronesia Red Cross Society, and Pohnpei State Medical Laboratory team.



Training strengthens climate resilience of Micronesian countries

SPREP

July 26, 2023

Majuro, RMI-- The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) have benefited from the final in person training on “Strengthening Climate resilience and safe water access in rural areas in the Pacific” held in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), from 24 – 28 July 2023.

The Deputy Chief Secretary for Planning and Administration, of the Office of the Chief Secretary of RMI, Mr Richard Bruce, said his country like many of the Small Island Development States (SIDS) in the region have had to continue to grapple with the daily threats and impacts of climate change.

“Communities and the households in RMI primarily rely on a single water resources supply system, which makes them highly vulnerable to risks of water shortages and drought,” he said.

He added that the RMI’s response to these threats is multi-faceted as they seek to ensure that their people, livelihood, islands, and resources are not further impacted. He also acknowledged the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) hosted at SPREP for delivering the training with the Micronesian sub-region and also the regional engagement on the key functions of the centre.

The training is a follow up to the virtual training organised by the PCCC in May 2022 and is the final of three training undertaken for the three sub-regions. It is a milestone event as it is the first convened for the Micronesia-region and also focuses on a very important vulnerable resource, water which is very critical for the Micronesian sub-region countries.

The training presented climate modelling, projection, and data to support a strong climate rationale. It also delved into the impacts analysis methodology, additional innovative

technical solutions and gender and social inclusions.

The training focused on enhancing capacities on project formation, scheduling, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation plan of water-related climate change project. A site visit was also scheduled at the end of the training for a water and climate change project for RMI.

Manager of the PCCC, Ms. Ofa Ma’asi-Kaisamy thanked the representative and host country RMI and noted that the impacts of climate change on the water sector as one of the most compelling consequences of climate change, as well as one of the most critical issues for Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

“The main objective of the training programme is to support practitioners in the Pacific to enhance the capacity working on climate change and the water sector,” said Ms Ma’asi-Kaisamy.

“The journey of the PCCC began more than ten years ago, when climate change practitioners from around the region tabled the idea of a Pacific Climate Change Centre during the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the PCCC is now in implementation mode and providing capacity building programmes for the region.”

The in-person training was made possible with funding support from the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and in partnership with experts from SPREP, the Fiji Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services, CSIRO – Australia, Moerk Water Solutions - Asia-Pacific and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)- Japan.

For further information on the training courses delivered through this PCCC, please contact pccc@sprep.org

President Wesley W. Simina and Vice President Aren B. Palik receive Members of the Micronesian Presidents’ Summit (MPS)

FSM Information Services

July 26, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei-- On July 26, 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 His Excellency David Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, His Excellency Surangel Whipps, Jr. President of the Republic of Palau, and the Honorable Marcus Stephen, Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Nauru, members of the Micronesian Presidents’ Summit who visited the FSM to attend the Inaugural Ceremony of the new leadership of the FSM.

During the calls, President Simina welcomed again and thanked his fellow members of MPS for the desire to join the celebration of the new leadership of the FSM. Among many others, President Simina as MPS Chair reaffirmed the importance of the ongoing consultations among MPS family to ensure continual updates on collective efforts in moving forward with the Forum family. As such, it was mutually agreed to convene the MPS Special Leaders’ meeting

soon, prior to the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting slated for 6-10 November 2023.

Additionally, the Presidents and Speaker Stephen emphasized the need to improve air and sea transport within the North Pacific to support trade and people-to-people exchange. Speaker Stephen reaffirmed Nauru’s nominee of Mr. Baron Waqa as the next Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, for which President Simina reassured the FSM’s continued support.



President Wesley W. Simina receives Secretary of Interior, the Honorable Deb Haaland

FSM Information Services

July 25, 2023

FSM-- On July 25th, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), along with The Honorable Aren B. Palik, the Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, received The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior and her delegation from the United States Government.

President Simina conveyed his welcoming remarks to Secretary Haaland by thanking her for attending the Joint Inauguration Ceremony on behalf of President Biden. President Simina also thanked the Biden Administration for its continued support for the strong and enduring FSM-US relationship, noting the bipartisan support for the Compact Impact Fairness Act, which will restore eligibility to FSM citizens lawfully residing in the U.S. for key federal benefits and programs. President Simina also conveyed his appreciation to Assistant Secretary Cantor, and former US Ambassador to the FSM, for her and her team's instrumental role in the progress thus far in regards to the Amended U.S.-FSM Compact Agreement. President Simina further stated that the FSM 23rd Congress has ratified the Amended Compact and emphasized the importance of the pending matters being resolved in a timely manner and encouraged that the Administration to actively work with US Congress to ensure the FAS

countries can have certainty in planning over the next 20-year compact period.

After the President's remarks, Secretary Haaland conveyed her appreciation and congratulations on behalf of President Biden and her delegation, and thanked President Simina for welcoming them to the Federated States of Micronesia. Secretary Haaland also stated that the US Government will continue to support the FSM and continue to strengthen the important U.S.-FSM partnership. Secretary Haaland also announced that the U.S. Government has approved 6 grant proposals that the FSM submitted to the US Government through the Department of Interior, as listed below:

- \$250,162 to Pohnpei State Government to meet requirements for a management unit for the Nan Madol World Heritage Site and conduct vegetation removal and management training;
- \$198,304 to the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation for technical assistance support to Yap State to conduct a comprehensive review of the Dinay Water Reservoir;
- \$195,492 to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for technical support to Pohnpei State for Pohnpei Utility Corporation's Photovoltaic and Island Energy Systems optimization project;
- \$176,960 to The Nature Conservancy in support of developing capacity among local conservation partners who manage marine and



terrestrial resources across the FSM; and

- \$156,000 to the Pohnpei State Office of the Public Auditor for training.

Vice President Palik also thanked the US Government for completing the Kosrae State Hospital project. He also stated that the FSM continues to seek assistance from the U.S. Government for pending projects in the FSM such as the Chuuk State Hospital.



Both sides expressed their concerns and willingness to complete the pending issues in regards to the Amended Compact. Both sides also raised the importance of US-FSM relations and concluded by restating their appreciation for each other and their continued desire in strengthening the enduring US-FSM relationship.

On the same note, Secretary Haaland conveyed that the Biden Administration looks forward to meeting President Simina at the US-Pacific Summit in the latter part of the year.

“Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of RAMSI: 20 years, 15 countries, one Pacific Family, one incredible story

Australian Embassy

The Pacific is celebrating the 20th anniversary of RAMSI, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands. RAMSI successfully restored peace and security in Solomon Islands.

Considered as one of the best examples of regional security cooperation in the world, RAMSI reminds us of the importance of regional collaboration, diplomacy and friendship.

All members of the Pacific Islands Forum came together through RAMSI, contributing personnel to the Mission

in partnership with Solomon Islands: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of RAMSI, the Australia Pacific Security College at the Australian National University has launched episode one of a six-part vodcast series. Filled with testimonies from across the Pacific, this series highlights RAMSI or Operation Helpem Fren as a major milestone for all Pacific Islands Forum members. You can follow the incredible Operation Helpem Fren story at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUKTAiC--eE&t=11s>

Episodes will be released every two weeks over August and September. Episode 6 will feature a story on FSM's participation in RAMSI.”



Photo provided by the Australia Pacific Security College

Pohnpei government celebrates Pohnpei Utilities Corporation Appreciation Day

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

July 21, 2023

Pohnpei-- Governor Oliver attended the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) appreciation day at Club Flamingo. The event, attended by PUC employees, family members, Board of Directors and Management recognizes and awards the work done to keep Pohnpei electricity, water and sewer services running.

Joining Governor Oliver at the event was Speaker Marvin T. Yamaguchi, Senator Brian Etschreit and Chairman of the PUC Board of Directors, Mr. Erick

Paul. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Mr. Trevayne Esiel, Chief of Corporate Services.

In his remarks, Governor Oliver congratulated the Board of Directors, Management and Employees of PUC who provide services to Pohnpei 24/7, all year around. Governor Oliver also paid a special tribute to the wives and families of those who work around the clock, who help the employees at home, cook for them and care for them so they can provide the essential services of electricity, water and sewer to Pohnpei State. Governor Oliver also

joined Speaker Yamaguchi and PUC Management to recognize and congratulate the eight PUC linemen who assisted Guam Power Authority in recovery efforts after Typhoon Mawar.

PUC is dedicated to providing efficient, reliable, accessible and cost-effective utility services to improve and sustain the quality of life in Pohnpei. More information on PUC services including the current tariff



schedule can be found online at: PUC (pohnpeipuc.fm)

Pohnpei Governor receives New Zealand non-resident Ambassador

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

July 27, 2023

Pohnpei--In a gesture of friendship and collaboration, His Excellency Mike Ketchen, non-resident Ambassador of New Zealand to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), paid a courtesy call on Governor Oliver at the Governor's Office. First Secretary Matt Broome accompanied Ambassador Ketchen on the courtesy call.

Ambassador Ketchen is also non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Palau and the Marshall Islands. He serves currently as the Consul General for the New Zealand Consulate-General in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Ambassador Ketchen conveyed his greetings from the Government of

New Zealand and reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to supporting the development initiatives of Pohnpei State through the FSM National Government. He also shared long-term and short-term scholarship opportunities available through the New Zealand Government's aid program. Governor Oliver expressed gratitude for the esteemed Ambassador's visit acknowledging New Zealand's role and support to Pohnpei State. Both leaders looked forward to ongoing collaboration and cooperation in priority areas like education, health, tourism, agriculture and fisheries.

The courtesy call marks a significant step in the friendly relations with our New Zealand partners. Thank you to Ambassador Ketchen and First Secretary Matt Broome for your visit to Peilapalap.



Pohnpei Governor receives Commander of Joint Forces, Marianas



Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

July 27, 2023

Pohnpei—The Commander of Joint Forces, Marianas, Rear Admiral Gregory Huffman, paid a courtesy call on Governor Oliver. Joining Rear Admiral Huffman was Kyle Papish, Acting Defense Attache, US Embassy Kolonia. Welcoming the Rear Admiral with Governor Oliver were the Administrator of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Dahker Abraham, Director of the Department of Resources and Development, Hubert Yamada, Director of the Department of Public Safety, Patrick Carl, Overseas Development Assistance Coordinator, Shirley Ligohr, and Protocol Officer, Jordan Torres.

Rear Admiral Huffman is on Pohnpei, attending the Joint Presidential Inauguration of President Simina, Vice President Palik, Speaker Moses

and member of the 23rd FSM Congress. In addition to overseeing installation management functions for both U.S. Naval Base Guam and Anderson Air Force Base on Guam, the Commander of Joint Region Marianas, also serves as Commander U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Defense representative to Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

During the cordial introductory exchange at the Governor's Cabinet Conference Room, Rear Admiral Huffman conveyed his appreciation for the courtesy call and expressed his enthusiasm to continue to work with Governor Oliver and the Pohnpei State Government to further expand on the enduring bonds of friendship and cooperation between the U.S. Government and the FSM. Governor Oliver warmly welcomed Rear Admiral Huffman acknowledging the significance of enhancing ties and furthering cooperation with the U.S., particularly with Joint Region Marianas in areas of security and law enforcement.

Both Governor Oliver and Rear Admiral look forward to the next Joint Committee meeting where the issues of security, law enforcement and maritime law enforcement will be formally discussed.

Xavier School students completed leadership workshop and basic vegetable gardening

Alvie B. Cabañez
Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor

On July 19-21, 2023, seven Xavier School students successfully completed the Effective Leadership and Basic Vegetable Gardening workshop organized by Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS). It was held at the MRCS, Conference Room. The students are currently completing their 160-hour community service in the said office. The objective of the 3-day workshop was to fully engage and maximize participation of the students during their community service. It will also enable them to understand the importance of teamwork, active listening, and practice basic gardening skills.

The students had an induction prior to the 3-day workshop. They were welcomed by the MRCS team headed



by the Executive Director, Isao Frank, Jr. They had a quick tour of the office and a video presentation on the history of the Red Cross Crescent Movement. On day 1, the students came early for registration. The day started with a briefer of the 3-day workshop, expectation setting, and self-introduction. They were engaged in Harkness discussion on their leadership experience as a student leader in Xavier or within their respective communities. They were presented with leadership and communication strategies they showcased through the fun activities prepared for them. In the afternoon, they were able to present orally their leadership journey map taking into consideration the theories they learned during the discussion.

“I believe that communication and teamwork was the main highlight of the workshop,” said Jayden Kanoa Yamase, incoming Team Captain of the Xavier Boys Basketball team. “Even with the failed attempts, we communicated with each other and tried for better results,” he continued.

On day 2, they had a lecture on basic vegetable gardening. They conducted soil analysis in a form of pH test and N-P-K test. They were amazed that the experiment showed visible results. They tested the soil sample and it showed alkaline and slightly acidic. The N-P-K test showed the soil sample is nutrient deficient. They had to repeat the experiment to validate the results

and the results were consistent. They showed enthusiasm in performing the experiment while mixing the reactants and following the procedure religiously. After the experiment, they prepared the plot for transplanting. They mixed the soil, dug the plots in preparation for tire gardening. They briskly held the shovel and dug the holes. They placed the tires horizontally and buried the fruits peels and eggshells for composting and covered with soil. They were also introduced to the concept of composting. It is something they can start at home using kitchen waste. They transplanted a number of tomatoes, eggplants, and bell peppers.

“As part of MRCS Health Programs, this is something that we need to increase and implement as part of our in-school activities to help promote healthy environment and healthy living,” said Morgan Y. David, Disaster Risk Management Officer.

On the last day, they received their certificate of completion for successfully completing the workshop signed by the Executive Director, and the trainer Alvie B. Cabañez, MRCS Volunteer, with a degree in Crop Science.

High school students have a lot more power than they think. They can impact their communities in more ways than not. They are passionate about their communities and the world because they know they will have to deal with the effects of the laws passed and issues in



this day and age. Without these students participating in community service, little would get done.

The Red Cross Society aims to inspire, initiate and create the urge to undertake humanitarian tasks at all times necessary, so that humans do not have to suffer. In line with this, the tasks that the Red Cross Society performs can be widely distinguished into four types – furthering the principles and values of humanitarian cause, response to disasters, preparedness for disasters, and healthcare.

The workshop was organized by Ms. Morehna Rettin-Santos, Communications Officer, MRCS. She was assisted by a volunteer, Simone Blue Talei.

WCPFC Secretariat IT Manager explores innovative Vessel Monitoring Systems during Trackwell visit in Reykjavik

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

July 24, 2023

Reykjavik, Iceland - The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Secretariat's IT Manager embarked on a two-day visit to Trackwell's headquarters in Reykjavik in June. This visit, coinciding with the longest day of the year, aimed to enhance collaboration and strengthen the existing partnership between WCPFC and Trackwell.

Trackwell, a renowned provider

of cutting-edge Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), has been a trusted partner of the WCPFC since 2016. During the visit, the IT Manager was given a preview of the eagerly anticipated new version of the VMS, a key component of effective fisheries management.

One of the highlights of the new VMS is its remarkably intuitive map interface, which strikes the perfect balance between simplicity and functionality. The user-friendly

design will undoubtedly enhance the efficiency of monitoring and controlling fishing activities within the WCPFC's jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the upgraded VMS introduces a game-changing feature: a seamless single-sign-on (SSO) capability. With this enhancement, WCPFC officials and related personnel will be able to log in using their email addresses and a unified password across all WCPFC systems. This streamlined authentication process

aims to improve accessibility and bolster security measures.

This visit marks a significant milestone in the ongoing collaboration between WCPFC and Trackwell, paving the way for improved fisheries management practices in the Western and Central Pacific region.

For further information, please contact: wcpfc@wcpfc.int

FSM faces health threats, stronger storms, and challenges for atolls and fisheries from climate change

East West Center

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HONOLULU – Stronger typhoons, growing challenges for populations on low-lying atolls, ecosystem declines, and human health issues are among the major risks detailed in a new report on climate change in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Threatened resources include culturally significant coastal infrastructure and the tens of millions of dollars that fisheries inject into the FSM economy annually, according to the report by the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA), a consortium of several government, NGO, and research entities.

[Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia: Indicators and Considerations for Key Sectors](#) is one in a series of PIRCA reports. Authors from the East-West Center, Arizona State University, and the University of Hawai'i—along with 30 technical contributors from local government, NGOs, and research organizations—collaboratively developed the FSM PIRCA report.

“This research is important to translate science and reality into pragmatic solutions to address climate change,” said Lucille Apis-Overhoff, FSM’s Assistant Secretary of Climate Change and a contributor to the report.

Another contributor, College of Micronesia–FSM research scientist Dr. Murukesan Krishnapillai, has studied climate-related changes affecting the country’s communities and developed technical assistance programs that strengthen resilience of local food systems. “By delving into crucial aspects such as rising temperatures, extreme events, sea level rise, migration, human health risks, and food security, this report unveils the intricate web of challenges posed by climate variability and change,” Dr. Krishnapillai said. “Its analysis equips decision-makers with the insights necessary to develop effective action plans, ensuring a more resilient and sustainable future for the Federated States of Micronesia.”

Key Messages

[Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia](#) lays out the changes the country is already experiencing, and

what lies ahead. The key messages for decision-makers include:

- Hotter days and nights and stronger typhoons affect human health. Temperatures have risen, and heat waves exacerbate a range of pre-existing health issues. More intense tropical cyclones mean a greater potential for loss of life, damage, and public health issues. Hot weather and storms pose a particular threat to women, children, and older adults.
- Sea level rise threatens infrastructure, including housing, drinking water, and transportation, as well as agroforestry, ecosystems, and cultural sites. More frequent and extensive coastal flooding and erosion are anticipated as sea level rise accelerates. The FSM’s numerous low-lying atolls especially face growing challenges.
- Ocean changes disrupt fisheries and cause coral death. In the FSM, the ocean is life—more than 70 percent of FSM households engage in fishing. Fisheries changes and extensive coral loss are possible within the next few decades if current trends in rising ocean temperatures continue.
- Collaborations can bolster

traditional knowledge and cultural resources and enhance resilience. National government, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, local communities, and others can work together to expand adaptation strategies.

About Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia and the PIRCA

The collective efforts of the technical contributors, coordinating authors, and PIRCA Advisory Committee made the FSM PIRCA report possible. The report builds upon the US National Climate Assessment, offering a closer look at climate change impacts in the FSM and providing information for a wide range of sectors.

The PIRCA is funded and supported by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s CAP/RISA Program (through the Pacific RISA), the East-West Center’s Research Program, Arizona State University’s Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation, the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center, and the US Global Change Research Program.

UOG launches program to help local talent return home

University of Guam

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant recently launched the 2023 National Science Foundation’s Navigating Home Early-Career Fellowship Program, taking steps to help stem brain drain and its impact on the island’s development.

Alongside climate change, the exit of local talent has been identified as a contributing factor to population declines in U.S. territories like Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, according to the 2020 Census.

In response to this pressing challenge in the territories, UOG CIS and Sea Grant, and its partners in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, launched the Navigating Home program, designed to create a pipeline for training and recruiting individuals with advanced degrees in marine, environmental, or sustainability sciences who may have left the island

territories for educational or work opportunities. For the UOG, the primary aim is to entice them back to Guam, where they can contribute their expertise to the local workforce.

“We’re empowering our future, one homecoming at a time,” said Austin Shelton, Director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant. “Our capacity-building program unlocks the potential of our students and reverses the brain drain, bringing them back home to Guam where they will lead the way towards a prosperous future.”

Thanks to the National Science Foundation’s \$7.5 million funding, the five-year program will provide opportunities to 68 fellows and 68 professionals from Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Of the amount, \$2.17 million goes directly to UOG. Young professionals can apply for early-career fellowships at UOG or in local government agencies. They will receive a \$45,000 annual salary and airfare to come home to Guam.

Morgan Leon Guerrero, a fellow in the National Science Foundation’s Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (INCLUDES) program, participated in a pilot Navigating Home program in 2022. Previously, she had to leave Guam to pursue a master’s in sustainability solutions at Arizona State University. Through the Navigating Home Early-Career Fellowship, she was able to work with the Guam Energy Office on energy transition grants.

“Leaving the island was necessary for my master’s program, but it’s always in the back of my mind to come back and do something for the island and really give back,” Leon Guerrero said.

During a recent launch event, incoming UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez recognized the outflow of talent as many UOG graduates have sought career opportunities beyond Guam. She voiced

optimism the Navigating Home program will help attract, retain, and empower more individuals to contribute their talents on the island.

“As we think of students and graduates who call Guam home – who don’t want to leave and who are looking for opportunities – I think this is a beautiful model that we can replicate across other sectors – the social sciences, health care, education, and so forth,” Enriquez said.

Several government agencies have joined as program partners, including Guam Energy Office, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program, Guam Department of Agriculture, and Guam Department of Administration.

The next fellowship period is from August 2023 to July 2024. Applications are now open. Interested individuals can access the application form through this link: <https://rb.gy/fn0wi>.