

FSM Supreme Court rules Congress violated Constitution by not seating Senator-Elect Sigráh

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 2, 2023

FSM—In a landmark decision on the afternoon of November 2, 2023, the FSM Supreme Court delivered a resounding verdict, declaring that the FSM Congress had unequivocally violated the FSM Constitution by failing to seat Yoslyn Sigráh, the At-Large Senator-Elect from Kosrae.

The crux of the matter revolved around the failure of the FSM Congress to uphold its constitutional obligations regarding the seating of Senator-Elect Sigráh. The Court's judgment, delivered by Associate Justice Dennis L. Belcourt, made it abundantly clear that an injunction to halt the planned re-election was not warranted due to the declaratory nature of the ruling. Congress' violation of the Constitution as ruled by the court precludes any possibility of a lawful election, therefore the Election Director has no legal choice but to cancel it.

After concluding all pre-hearing matters, a hearing on Declaratory and Injunctive Relief took place on November 1, 2023. The Court addressed various preliminary matters, including a motion for reconsideration by the Election Director. The motion was denied on the grounds of lacking substantial grounds, and the concept of "forum shopping" was dismissed as inapplicable to the case.

The Court categorically declared that Congress's judgment regarding the disqualification of one member-elect due to character and fitness concerns was unconstitutional and void from its inception. In addition, the Speaker's declaration of a vacancy in the 4-year at-large seat for Congress was also deemed null and void.

The Court's ruling hinged on the interpretation of constitutional provisions regarding the eligibility and qualifications of members of Congress in the FSM. The Court made several key

declarations in this regard:

1. Only qualifications enumerated in the FSM Constitution or prescribed by statute can be considered by Congress.
2. The specific qualifications for a member of Congress were outlined.
3. Congress had not enacted a statute to add a "character and fitness" qualification for a member of Congress.
4. The Committee on Credentials was found to have applied qualifications that were not in the FSM Constitution or statute, which the Court deemed unconstitutional.
5. Congress's judgment that one member-elect was not qualified due to character and fitness concerns was declared unconstitutional and void from the beginning.
6. The Speaker's declaration of a vacancy in the 4-year at-large seat for Congress was also deemed void.
7. The Court asserted that



Senator-elect Sigráh only needed to take the oath of office to be seated.

It is now incumbent upon Congress, in line with their oaths of office, to administer the oath to Yoslyn Sigráh promptly.

The Court has scheduled a status conference for November 7 to monitor the steps taken following the ruling.

V6AH unveils spectacular video Sign-On Theme at exclusive "Palm Carpet" Event

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press



October 27, 2023

Pohnpei—This evening, V6AH, Pohnpei's Public Broadcasting, held what is thought to be the island's first "Palm Carpet" film screening event. Fashioned after the "Red Carpet" events of Hollywood, this event used palm branches rather than a red carpet. The event marked the first full public screening of the new V6AH Video Sign-On theme.

Pohnpei Broadcasting Corporation's Commissioner Peterson Sam explained that for decades, V6AH has been opening and closing their AM radio

broadcasting day with an audio theme. "We could never make it better than how it is. The sound of the pounding of sakau is uniquely Pohnpeian and uniquely V6AH," he said. "Now that the radio station is producing video, we wanted something that would be in keeping with that theme but for video."

The video, which will serve as the sign-on theme, is exceptional in every respect, with videography that is cinematic in scope, lighting, and foley effects. There are few spoken lines, but the acting, directed by Peterson Sam

[Click here for continuation on page 6](#)

Pohnpei Police arrest suspect in child kidnapping and sexual assault case

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 4, 2023

Pohnpei—On Tuesday, October 31, Pohnpei police officers arrested an 18-year-old Madelonihmw man later charging him with the kidnapping, sexual assault and sexual abuse of an 11-year-old female child that occurred on the morning of October 29.

Police responded to the call notifying them of a potential sexual assault at approximately 7 AM on October 29. The police report that followed said that the young victim was on her way to church in Palikir and was waiting at her usual pick-up spot near the 4-TY store parking area. A then unidentified male individual approached her, claiming he was also headed to the same church. However, his intentions quickly turned sinister.

The male individual initiated a conversation with the young victim and then forcibly held her arm, leading her toward the

Pohnumpwumpw woods. Two people familiar with the case said that several people had passed the male and his victim and had seen the distressed look on her face but continued on thinking it was a family matter that was not their business. However, one “good Samaritan” as the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety press release on the arrest called him did something. Out on his morning job he passed the pair and became suspicious when he saw how the child was responding to the adult and that the adult seemed to be leading her into the woods.

He turned back and discovered that the man had dragged the child further into the woods a short distance from the public road. He approached and yelled at the male as he entered the woods. He told police that he saw the man “get off of” the victim and ran away.

The good Samaritan tended to the victim and walked with her to the Ace Commercial store to seek assistance.

The victim was transported to the hospital for medical treatment and examination.

Police conducted an investigation, interviewing witnesses and community members. It is reported that the police also asked the local businesses with security video cameras as well as the US Embassy whether their cameras had caught footage of the two as they passed. After the arrest, the “good Samaritan” and other witnesses identified the man police arrested as the one they had seen with the child.

The Pohnpei prosecutors’ office said that it asked for no bail but the court grated it. Bail was set at \$1500 though the prosecutor’s office asked for \$5000. They have refused to release the name of the man they have charged with the crime. They instead reminded us that a person is innocent unless they are convicted in a court of law.

“The Pohnpei Department of Public Safety takes this opportunity to remind the public to remain

vigilant and report any suspicious behavior by any person,” their press release said. “The safety and well-being of children are of utmost importance. If you observe anything unusual or concerning, please contact the Pohnpei Division of Fire & Emergency Services 911 dispatch or the Detective Section at 320-3774. You can also reach out via their Facebook page.”



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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November 22, 2023

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

Monday, November 20, 2023

Bold Explorer sets sail to lay the foundation for \$95 million Eastern Micronesia Cable project

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

November 1, 2023

Pohnpei, FSM—Today, US Ambassador Jennifer Johnson, Australian Ambassador Jo Cowley, and Japan’s Chargé d’Affaires Hamano Shigeru were given a tour of the Bold Explorer, which begins its survey of the ocean floor. The survey is the first physical indication in the FSM that the Eastern Micronesia Cable, a \$95 million dollar project funded by the governments of the three dignitaries aboard, is finally connecting Kosrae, Nauru, and Kiribati to an undersea fiber optic cable.

Members of the FSM government were also present for the tour, including Glenn Harris of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure (TC&I). TC&I Secretary Carl Apis was on duty travel and was not able to attend but prepared a speech to be read.

“Today we stand on the brink of a transformative change that will bridge the digital divide and uplift the socio-economic well-being of our communities,” Apis’ speech said. “The EMC project presents a powerful symbol of hope. It is more than just a fiber optic cable. It is a lifeline that will bring the world to our doorstep and our voices to the world. The initiative will empower our people, opening doors to new arrivals of opportunity. Our students will gain access to world-class education. Our businesses will find global markets. Our healthcare system will receive expert support, and our communities will connect



with their loved ones, no matter where they are.

“This cable will be the thread to weave our dreams and aspirations into a tapestry of progress and prosperity. It will create jobs, attract investments, and strengthen our economy. It will also allow our people to share their unique stories, talents, and cultures with the world. It will empower us to preserve our rich heritage and traditions while embracing the modern world.

“But let us not forget that this agreement is not solely about technology. It is about the determination to overcome adversity and work together for a greater good. It is about the belief that we can achieve great things when we come together in the spirit of cooperation and shared aspirations. So let us stand together with our hearts full on the horizon. The EMC project is a testament to what we can achieve when we work in unity, and its completion will be a celebration of the strength and ingenuity of our nation.

“Ladies and gentlemen, as we embark on this extraordinary journey, let us hold fast to the vision of a more connected, prosperous,



and inclusive Micronesia. Let us remember the challenges we have overcome and the opportunities that lie ahead, and let us be grateful for the support of our international partners who believe in our potential and are helping us turn our dreams into reality. Thank you, and may the East Micronesia Cable project be a beacon of hope for the generations to come.”

Mr. HASEGAWA Yashiro, NEC representative, the company that will build and install the cable system, gave an overview of the project. He said that currently the route for the 2,300-kilometer cable is only on paper. NEC contracted EGS Survey Group to conduct a bathymetric survey of the route and a topographic survey of the landing sites. EGS’s vessel Bold Explorer will survey over the course of November 2023, from Pohnpei to Tarawa, via Kosrae and Nauru. The purpose of the survey is to establish a safe and economical route for the proposed cable by determining water depth and topography of the seabed so that NEC

may optimally design and safely install the EMC cable.

For the month of November, the “Bold Explorer” will track the proposed cable line from Pohnpei to Kosrae, then to Nauru and on to the terminus of the line in Tarawa, Kiribati.

Mr. Hasegawa said that the project is scheduled for completion by the end of 2025.

The “Bold Explorer” is a 68m multi-purpose geophysical and geotechnical survey vessel. This former Stalwart class vessel was fully refitted as a state-of-the-art survey vessel in 2020, by EGS in Singapore.

With a permanently mobilized survey spread, including a range of geophysical and geotechnical equipment, the Bold Explorer is able to deliver a wide range of survey services, from coastal waters to full ocean depth.



Acting Secretary Wayne Mendiola of the National Department of Education launches World Bank Supported Skills and Employability Enhancement project

FSM DOE

November 2nd 2023

Kolonia, Pohnpei – The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Government has launched the World Bank supported FSM Skills and Employability Enhancement (SEE) project, marking a historic milestone in the growth of educational and employment opportunities for the people of FSM.

Launched at an event at the World Bank’s office in Pohnpei on November 2nd, the US\$17.7 million project will invigorate job opportunities and vocational training across the nation. Over the next five years, the SEE project will provide funding and technical assistance to Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap, to enhance the quality of vocational skills and employment opportunities among young people. The SEE project will focus on three key areas:

- **Equitable Access to Vocational Education:** The SEE project will ensure Micronesians have equitable and inclusive access to vocational education and training, with a special emphasis on opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalized students.
- **Cutting-Edge Technical and Vocational Education:** The project will empower students with state-of-the-art technical and vocational education, courses that match job opportunities, well-trained trainers, and a rigorous skills testing and certification processes.
- **Crafting Job Pathways:** Courses will adapt to the job market with career counselling and engagement with the private sector to help link students to the jobs and careers that are right for them.



The project will also build awareness of the benefits and opportunities of technical and vocational education with a special focus on people with disabilities and those from outer-islands and low-income families.

Finally, the project will offer cutting-edge job search assistance services while partnering with employers, so graduates are matched to the right jobs, faster.

Acting Secretary Wayne Mendiola of the National Department of Education and, the former Secretary of Education, Gardenia Aisek, who played key roles in the design, planning, and guidance of the project, both commented on the potential the SEE Project stands to unlock in FSM and the multifaceted approach of the project which will provide direct financial assistance to students alongside performance grants to schools to prop up FSM students while ensuring the institutions they attend are



more effective.

“At the heart of our vision lies the profound significance of skills development in empowering our communities and bolstering our economic resilience” commented Mendiola while adding that “nurturing skills not only fosters individual growth but also unlocks a multitude of economic opportunities with essential skills and knowledge, we empower them to become active contributors to our nation’s economic stability and sustainability.”

With a commitment to fostering inclusive, high-quality, and market-relevant vocational education and training, the SEE project stands as a beacon of hope for thousands of Micronesian youth, paving the way for a future defined by increased opportunities and enhanced skill development. As the nation rallies



behind this transformative initiative, there is a shared optimism that the SEE project will not only shape the careers of countless job seekers but also lay the groundwork for sustainable economic growth and prosperity across FSM.

“We are very honored that the FSM government has asked the World Bank to support them achieving their educational goals” said Degi Young, the World Bank’s Resident Representative in FSM, “Ultimately, this project aims to ensure that the people of FSM have the opportunity to be employed and it does so by providing students with training and education that is effective, accessible and relevant for the existing job market, so that students can move from education to employment faster and more effectively”





EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Instructor-Nursing (POHNPEI)

Teaching 12 – 15 contact hours per week with one to four preparations in the domain of nursing including courses with clinicals.

College Nurse (YAP)

Provide medical treatment to students for minor illness, injuries, and other medical and dental complaints, and refer students to physicians appropriate health agencies as necessary.

Executive Secretary II (POHNPEI)

The executive secretary to VPIA's office will perform a variety of secretarial and clerical tasks that will extend to the Dean of Academic Programs, Campus Deans, and National campus divisions on matters relating to Instructional programs.

Secretary I (FSM-FMI Yap)

Serve as HR representative on campus performing HR related duties for the campus with guidance and consultation with HRO.

Media Technician II (POHNPEI)

Under the supervision of the MITC Coordinator, the Media Technician II performs the following audio & media services to meet the institutional needs of the college community.

Bus Driver (POHNPEI)

Follow precise and preplanned schedules and must adjust driving according to traffic and weather conditions in order to arrive at each stop at designated time and safely.

Instructor- Computer Information System (POHNPEI)

Teaching 12-15 contact hours of CIS courses per week with one to four preparations specifically teaching CA 095 and CA 100 and other courses within the specialty of instructor. Teaching classes in accordance with the goals and objectives of the course as described in the course outline.

Librarian III (CHUUK)

Under the supervision of the Instructional Coordinator and LRC Director, the librarian will perform a full range of professional services which include readers' services (reference assistance) and circulation; collection development and maintenance; acquisition; library programming; providing technical, analytical and instructional support services to the college community.

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...V6AH Video

Continued from front page

and Landon Cook, was extremely well done by local actors. C-Joy Luther, Bejay Obispo, Eugene Conrad, and Sweeter Kalio were the stars of the short video, supported by a host of well-costumed and well-coached and rehearsed background actors.

The talented Landon Cook previously served as an LDS Missionary in Pohnpei and now lives in Utah. He studied as a film crew technician at the Salt Lake Community College and has his own freelance video production company. Peterson Sam said that Cook not only planned and edited the many hours of video footage but also composed the majestic musical score.

Though the video is not set to be officially released until November 14, participants at the screening, which included the people whose faces and voices appear in the video, as well as supporters and behind-the-scenes cast members, were treated to their first full viewing of the video on October 27. The production took many months to complete after on-location filming was finished. While major studios utilize hundreds of video editors, the editing was Cook's sole responsibility to complete and included graphic design elements, such as the closing scene, likely produced with After Effects, a top-notch video graphics program, of a coconut shell being held while the V6AH logo is etched into its sides in a 3-dimensional representation.

Guests in attendance for the first viewing of the film included Pohnpei State Governor Reed B. Oliver; Director of Pohnpei Department of Public Safety Patrick Carl; Acting Director of Pohnpei Department of Resources and Development, Michaela Saimon; Chief of Pohnpei Tourism Office, Kukulynn Gallen; PPBC Director Bensile Enicar; State Public Information Officer Patrick Pedrus; Manager/Editor for Kaselehlie Press, Bill Jaynes; and the Director of Photography/Cinematographer Landon Cook, who "zoomed" in from Utah, as well as representatives of film sponsors.

Full support, assistance, and guidance were received from the Office of the Governor, Pohnpei State Government.



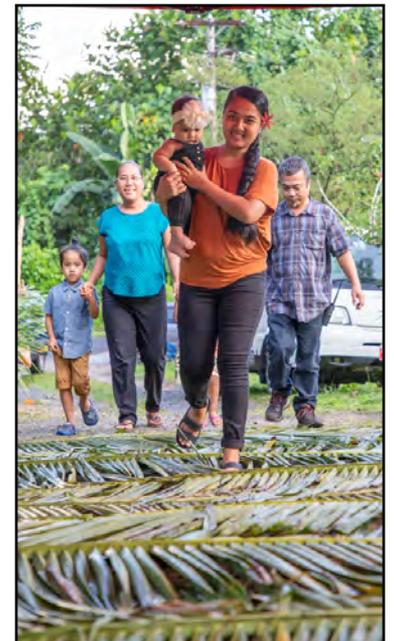
Former FSM Congressman Ferney Perman and his wife, Miyuki Perman, were among those who stepped up to show their support with donations, along with Nihco Corporation, Black Sand, Isamu Nakasone Store, Micro Loan Depot, Sunset View Car Rental, BRDFRT.co, North Pacific Tribe, Len & Fiona Isotoff, NGO Pasifika Renaissance, Pohnpei Surf Club, LSC Video Production Company, JADESA, Epikenio Eperiam, Yuto Nakasone, Alfonso Deres, Yuleen Nanpei Perman, and YCT Ehpel Peneinei.

Director Sam formally announced November 14 as the release date for the V6AH Sign-On Theme.

Sam invites the general public to follow the V6AH media platforms: V6AH Radio (AM 1449 KHz and FM 88.3 MHz), YouTube Channel, Facebook Page, and FSMTC Cable TV Channel 22.

"V6AH management and team also express their appreciation and gratitude to all sponsors, supporters, and everyone else who helped make this film a success," the press release on the premier event said. "Special thanks and credits go to Mr. Cook and his family for their unwavering dedication and commitment in the production of a film that encapsulates Pohnpeian culture, art, music, language, and rituals."

Though the "sign-on" video is now complete and ready for release, V6AH is currently in the process of attempting to secure funds to complete the "sign-off" video. According to a "behind-the-scenes" video, the footage for that video is largely complete and now merely needs funding to finish that additional video.



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY



FFA

VACANCY - DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Applications are invited for the position of Director-General.

Prospective applicants should note:

- a) Applications are open only to citizens of FFA member countries.
- b) Applicants must have the written endorsement of their national Government to be considered.

The Director-General (DG) serves as the leader of the FFA Secretariat and is the primary public representative, reporting to Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) and Forum Leaders. The DG works in partnership with the FFC and by direction of Leaders to ensure that the Secretariat fulfils its mission and to create strategies that ensure future success of fisheries management and sector development for the long-term benefits of the membership.

Remuneration

- Base Salary – Band 18 starts at SDR114,680 (approx. US\$153,809) with a total package starting at US\$217,693 including allowances and Superannuation (subject to changes in exchange rates)
- Additional Allowances and benefits apply. There is also limited medical insurance cover, 30 days annual leave, leave passage annually to place of recruitment. Housing accommodation, vehicle and utilities will be provided free.
- Normally tax-free status, for non- Solomon Island nationals.

The appointee will be based in Honiara, Solomon Islands but is expected to travel extensively mostly in the region.

Interviews will be held at the Annual Official FFC meeting in May 2024. Appointment will be made at the Annual Ministerial FFC Meeting in July 2024. The successful candidate is expected to take up duties in November 2024.

For more details and how to apply please visit the FFA website www.ffa.int/employment

Closing Date – 30 November 2023 (11.59pm Solomon Islands Time (GMT+11))

FFA Members Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Direct Aid Program elevates NMHS sports ambitions with vital equipment and uniforms

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

October 30, 2023

Pohnpei—Sporting fervor filled the air at Nanpei Memorial High School (NMHS) as Ambassador Jo Cowley embarked on a visit to commemorate the launch of NMHS's sports program.

The event witnessed the presence of the Principal, Mrs. Dekagwihda Peter, traditional leaders, education officials, and the vibrant student community, all united by a shared passion for sports. This year, NMHS's sports program proudly carries the theme "Physical and Mental Coherence" ("Kehele Palwaroh Madamadau kindoadohkpen"), symbolizing the harmonious synergy between physical and mental well-being.

One of the notable highlights of the day was the introduction of new sports equipment and uniforms for basketball, volleyball, softball, and track & field games. These vital supplies, instrumental in fostering the growth of sports at NMHS, were generously funded through Australia's Direct Aid Program (DAP). The DAP grant has been instrumental in enhancing the sporting landscape of NMHS, paving the way for a brighter future for the students.

The NMHS sports program stands as a dynamic initiative, engaging students and their families from the Kitti community in various activities aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles. These activities not only enhance physical well-being but also contribute to improved student performance, behavior, and morale. The program underscores the power of sports as a unifying force, instilling essential life skills and values within the student community.



The successful execution of this initiative would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of a collaborative team. Principal Peter, grant writer Mr. Erik Hagberg, teachers, and other staff, together with students and the Kitti community leaders, have played pivotal roles in bringing this project to fruition. Their combined efforts have set the stage for a brighter sporting future at NMHS.

Ambassador Cowley had the privilege of throwing the first ball at the softball tournament.

The support extended by the Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program demonstrates the commitment to empowering local initiatives, enhancing the lives of students, and fostering community development. This marks another successful stride in the ongoing partnership between Australia and FSM, fostering positive change at the grassroots level.

For those interested in participating in the FSM DAP 2023-24 application round, the opportunity is now OPEN! For further details and application guidelines, please visit the Australian Embassy website at www.fsm.embassy.gov.au or reach out to them via email at DAP.Pohnpei@dfat.gov.au. The door is open to more transformative projects, and the future holds the promise of positive change through collaborative efforts.

Budweiser and Ambros sponsor their 20th Pohnpei Fish Club Tournament—the last of the year



Pohnpei Fishing Club

October 29, 2023

Pohnpei—22 boats signed up to participate in the 20th annual Budweiser and Ambros, Inc. fishing tournament for a day of fishing in beautiful weather.

The tournament was a “species tournament” with boats awarded prizes based on how many of the seven species that qualified each boat caught. The boat that came the closest to landing all seven of the species was “Dolphin”, captained by Marvey Spencer. The prize for that accomplishment was \$400. “Splash” captained by Dr. Johnny Hedson won the second prize of \$300 with five species of fish caught.

Three boats caught four species but the “Dirty Oar”, captained by Darius Santos had the largest aggregate weight for the four species with a total of 56.8 pounds beating out the two other boats that had also caught four species of fish.

The tournament also offered \$100 prizes for biggest fish of each species. Zenn Amemiya landed the biggest Marlin aboard Alloys Malfitani’s boat at 169 pounds. Jeff Seeley, aboard the same boat landed the largest yellow fin tuna at 28 pounds. Dave Spencer grabbed the largest skipjack at 7.4 pounds.

There was a tie for the first prize

for wahoo with twins of 26 pounds. A.G. David aboard Juliano Manuel’s “Fokaii”, and Lara Trott aboard James Cook’s “Pepe Erepani” split the first prize for that species.

Dan Ryan, aboard “Lady Layleen” won the prize for barracuda with a 10-pound fish. John Hagitaw, aboard “Kayden” had a 9.6-pound mahi mahi for the top prize in that species. Darius Santos caught an astounding 35.2-pound grand trevalle aboard his own boat, the “Dirty Oar”

There was a good celebration down at Mangrove Bay after the weigh in. All anglers received shirts and each registered boat that fished got a case of Bud.

Many thanks to Gus and Roy handling the weigh in, Virgie keeping score, and Doc and James announcing the winners, along with the helpers on the boom truck and those that just helped out. We can’t do it without support.

We also want to thank Budweiser and Ambros, Inc. Glad a rep for Bud came down and I hope he enjoyed the Pohnpei hospitality.

This is our last tourney this year. Sharpen the hooks and get ready, we will have a full schedule of tournaments for next year.



Pacific fisheries experts on mission to learn from Iceland's fisheries transformation

The World Bank

October 25, 2023

REYKJAVÍK — Fisheries officials from nine Pacific Island countries have arrived in Iceland to learn from the country's experience with building a thriving, sustainable fisheries sector.

The visit, part of a collaboration between the World Bank and the Icelandic Government, aims to give many of the Pacific's leading fisheries experts the opportunity to learn from a country that has emerged from being a development assistance-recipient to becoming a global leader in maintaining sustainable fisheries.

Over the next 10 days, Pacific fisheries leaders, including Directors and Chiefs of Fisheries divisions from Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and the regional Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), will explore Iceland's newest practices and technologies in sustainable fisheries management, best practices in handling of raw fish material, and look at how Iceland has managed and developed a thriving private fisheries sector.

The initiative has been co-organized by the World Bank – with financing from PROBLUE, a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank that supports the integrated and sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in a healthy ocean – together with Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the GRO-Fisheries Training Programme.

Despite the considerable geographical distance between Iceland (population 390,000) and the Pacific Islands (with a combined population of 2.3 million across 11 World Bank member countries), there are significant similarities among their fisheries sectors. Iceland has transformed its economy by harnessing the economic and social benefits of renewable natural resources, such as water (hydropower), geothermal energy, and fisheries. The country carefully manages its marine resources through a science-based quota system that controls the harvest quantity of all its commercial fish stocks, which has an export value of about US\$2.5 billion; about 70% of which is processed in Iceland for export.

"Going back 50 years, Iceland was



struggling with management of its fisheries sector, reliable information from the industry, handling of raw material, lack of high-end markets and technology," said Thor Asgeirsson, Director of Iceland's GRÓ Fisheries Training Program. "Up until mid-1970s, our country was an overseas development assistance beneficiary country – as most Pacific countries are now – but with the extension of our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and transformation in fisheries management and technology, Iceland is today a relatively prosperous country thanks to, among other industries, fisheries." Iceland has provided a benchmark that many Pacific countries could

look towards as having successfully and sustainably grown their fisheries sectors, said Xavier Vincent, the World Bank's Lead Fisheries Specialist for the Pacific.

"Pacific Island nations have increased their earnings from tuna fisheries to about \$500 million in the last six years through enhanced management and surveillance coordinated by entities like the FFA," Vincent said. "There's still huge untapped potential in onshore processing and geothermal energy. Delegates are excited at the potential for these sectors in the Pacific, and there is no greater way of understanding their benefits than seeing them in action."

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Job Announcement

Job Description

Job Title: Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Category: Accounting

Level: III

Salary: Annual \$35,000 - \$50,000 per annum, depending on qualifications

Benefits: The position is eligible for housing and relocation costs Location: COM LG Central Office, Pohnpei State – FSM

Opening date: October 30, 2023

Closing date: November 17, 2023

General Description

Under the direction of the COM LG Executive Director, the CFO is responsible for the day to day management and maintenance of the organization's overall budget including the development and coordination of annual operating, capital and program budgets, ensuring that cash flow is compatible with the organization's internal and external operations and in compliance with local, national and capacity/competitive grant providers' requirements and policies. As a member of the leadership team at the COM LG Central Office, the CFO is also responsible for all processes relating to financial reporting to the Executive Director, COM LG Board of Regents, the regional Management Team, National Institute of Food and Agriculture and auditing authorities, and to attend and actively participate in all meetings and conferences related to the role.

Key Outcomes Required Of The Role

Essential Function 1: *Planning, Managing and Maintenance*

Supporting Activities:

- Work with the regional Management Team to efficiently develop annual budget proposals.
- Plan, establish and maintain an annual budget for the central office and the partner colleges' Cooperative Research and Extension programs.
- Work with the Executive Director to reconcile and finalize the annual allocations for the central office and the partner college's Cooperative Research and Extension programs.
- Circulate the annual budget to all internal and external key stakeholders
- Provide access to all finance information including audit processes and results
- Ensure grant and contract compliance
- Develop fundraising initiatives to support the endowment fund
- Manage personnel finance including IT and Communication systems
- Research revenue opportunities and economic trends
- Analyze internal operations and identify areas for cost reduction and process enhancement.
- Develop and execute best budgetary practices and approaches
- Work with the Management Team to design and implement initiatives to utilize any and all carryover funds appropriately and efficiently.
- Manage purchases using the central office's credit card diligently and efficiently
- Handle all invoices, receipts, statements and all other supporting documents
- Handle all transactions with all partner financial institutions, airlines, and other relevant vendors

Essential Function 2: *Reporting*

Supporting Activities:

- Prepare and present easy to read summary and detailed budget reports for the Executive Director and the Board of Regents.
- Prepare and present audit results to the Executive Director and the Board of Regents.
- Prepare and present all other easy to read budget reports to all other

stakeholders through the COM LG communication channels.

Essential Function 3: *Meetings*

Supporting Activities

- Attend and contribute to all administrative meetings
- Attend and contribute to all board meetings
- Attend and contribute to all other related financial meetings and conferences
- Meet on a quarterly basis with all partner colleges' business office teams via all available communication platforms.

Minimum Qualification:

- Bachelor degree in accounting or business administration
- 5 years of work experience in either field
- Proficient English communication skills in English (reading, writing, speaking and listening)
- Literate in most computer software programs and apps
- Able to travel within the Micronesia region or internationally for a week or longer at least 10 times per fiscal year.

Preferred Qualification:

- Master degree in accounting or business administration and CPA certification
- Exceptional communication skills in English (reading, writing, speaking and listening)
- Exceptional computer skills in most computer software programs and apps
- Able to travel within the Micronesia region or internally for a week or longer at least 10 times per fiscal year.

Process:

Application Procedure

To ensure full consideration, candidates must submit the following documents:

1. A letter of interest addressing how the candidate's professional qualification and experience match the minimum essential requirements of the position (not to exceed 3 pages);
2. COM application form (send a request to email address comlandgrant@gmail.com);
3. A current resume that includes personal email address and cellular phone number;
4. Copies of college transcripts for all degrees earned;
5. A minimum of three professional reference letters;
6. Court/police clearance not more than 6 months old.

Documents are to be submitted electronically to comlandgrant@gmail.com (preferably as PDF attachments) or mailed to:

Executive Director
College of Micronesia Land Grant
P. O. Box 1179
Pohnpei FM 96941

(U.S Postal Service domestic rates apply in the Federated States of Micronesia.)

Applications will be accepted until **November 17, 2023**, followed by screening by the committee. Official and hard copies of college transcripts are required to be mailed directly from schools to COM Land Grant when a candidate is being considered.

The College reserves the right to request or require from any applicant additional documentation or certification in addition to the minimum requirements stated in this advertisement in order to be considered for this position. All persons applying must meet or exceed any additional qualifications required.

The College of Micronesia Land Grant is an equal opportunity employer. Marshall Islands, FSM, and Palau Citizens are encouraged to apply

Pohnpei's own Bersin Elias investigates impact of El Niño on coral reefs in Micronesia

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press
from *Blue Prosperity Micronesia*

November 1, 2023

FSM—In a Facebook post, the Blue Prosperity Micronesia media team introduced Mr. Bersin Elias, a dedicated scientist and seasoned diver hailing from the beautiful island of Pohnpei. Bersin has embarked on an exciting journey as a key member of the Blue Prosperity Micronesia and National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition, participating in its first two legs from Kosrae to Chuuk.



Bersin Elias currently serves in the role of Fisheries Technician within the Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development, specifically in the Division of Natural Resource Management. His work revolves around the preservation and sustainable management of the region's natural resources, particularly its vibrant marine life.

Elias's connection with the underwater

world goes back to 2015 when he first became involved with local Coral Reef Monitoring efforts. This longstanding commitment demonstrates his passion for understanding and safeguarding the delicate ecosystems of our oceans.

During the expedition's second leg, Bersin Elias eagerly set his sights on Oroluk and Minto, two locations he had not previously visited. His primary objective was to conduct a comprehensive study of these marine environments, with a particular focus

on assessing the impact of past El Niño events on the coral reefs.

Beyond his contributions as a scientist and diver, Bersin Elias emerges as a true ocean advocate. He plays an instrumental role in the expedition's outreach initiatives, actively participating in radio interviews and contributing as a guest speaker at community events held in Pohnpei. His involvement in these activities further underscores his commitment to raising awareness about the significance of our oceans and the

need to protect them.

Bersin Elias's remarkable journey as a science diver with the Blue Prosperity Micronesia and National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition not only highlights his personal achievements but also serves as an inspiration to all those who share a profound connection with our marine environment. The Pohnpei community applauds his unwavering dedication and eagerly anticipates the valuable insights and knowledge he will bring back from this expedition.



President Simina issues Executive Order implementing Constitutional Amendment for Dual Citizens in the FSM

FSM Information Services

October 26, 2023

FSM--On October 20th, President Simina issued Executive Order 23-07, the final step in implementing the Constitutional Amendment for Dual Citizenship. Those who wish to seek dual citizenship are now able to do so by applying for an FSM passport.

The order defines citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia as individuals who meet the criteria outlined in Article III of the Constitution. This includes individuals born to parents who are FSM citizens and those who were citizens of the

Trust Territory prior to the effective date of the Constitution. The order clarifies that a "dual citizen" is a person recognized as a citizen of both the Federated States of Micronesia and another country. Importantly, it reaffirms that citizenship in another country does not affect one's FSM citizenship, provided the latter persists.

To support passport applications, several documents are accepted as proof of citizenship, including certificates of live birth showing FSM parentage, previously issued FSM passports, and court orders declaring the applicant an FSM citizen. In certain cases, supplementary proof of citizenship may

be considered if reliable. Notably, an affidavit alone signed by the applicant is insufficient as proof of citizenship.

Dual citizens, as defined by the order, can apply for passports through the Division of Immigration & Passport Services of the FSM Department of Justice, following existing procedures. Passport application services are also available at FSM consulates and embassies. Standard fees for passport application, renewal, and lost passport replacement are applicable. Former FSM citizens who renounced their citizenship in the past may regain their FSM citizenship through naturalization in accordance with existing procedures.

This Executive Order, following the successful ratification of the constitutional amendments on July 4, 2023, reflects the FSM's commitment to upholding the rights and privileges of its citizens, including those seeking dual citizenship. For further information, citizens are encouraged to contact the Acting Chief of Immigration at the Department of Justice, Mr. Apiner Hadley at hadleyapiner63@gmail.com or call their passport hotline number at (+691) 320-8866.

The passport application can be found at: <https://www.fsmgov.org/passport.pdf>

Vice-President Aren B. Palik and delegation represents FSM at CRGA53 and C13 in New Caledonia

FSM Information Services

November 2, 2023

Noumea, New Caledonia--From October 23 - 27 2023, T.H. Vice-President Aren B. Palik of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) led a delegation to participate in the 53rd Committee of Representatives of Government and Administrations (CRGA53) and the 13th Conference of Leaders (C13) of the Pacific Community at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) headquarters in Noumea. This significant event, hosted by New Caledonia and the Secretariat, coincided with the launch of the Digital Earth Pacific program.

The conference addressed various vital issues impacting the Pacific Community and its member nations. Key topics of discussion included an

update on the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) efforts towards the 2050 Strategy of the Blue Pacific Continent Implementation Plan and the strengthening of SPC through an independent institutional review.

Vice President Palik's visit also included diplomatic engagements. He met with H.E. Louis Mapou, President of New Caledonia, discussing national political challenges and cooperation opportunities for human capacity-building. Additionally, Vice President Palik met with H.E. Ewen McDonald, Australia's High Commissioner in Fiji/Special Envoy to the Pacific, to discuss progress in the FSM-Australia cooperation partnership, with particular reference to regional security and climate change.

At the conference's conclusion, Vice



President Palik held discussions with Director-General Stuart Minchin, expressing support for the SPC Micronesia Regional Office in Pohnpei and the timely replacement of its leadership. He also requested a legal review of the Memorandum of Understanding for the FSM National Strategic Development Plan. Director-General Minchin affirmed his intention to visit the Pohnpei office in early 2024.

During the 13th Conference of Leaders, Vice President Palik delivered the country statement on behalf of the FSM, congratulating the hosts and expressing support for regional cooperation. Vice President Palik also conveyed thoughts and prayers to the people of Vanuatu affected by cyclone Lola.

In his statement, Vice President Palik emphasized the need for more efficient

utilization of SPC's sub-regional offices in line with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. He reiterated FSM's commitment to the SPC Regional Office, extending gratitude to Director-General Stuart Minchin and acknowledging the outgoing head of the SPC Micronesia Regional Office, Ms. Lara Studzinski.

The Vice President's delegation included Ambassador Carson K. Sigrah, Secretary Elina P. Akinaga of the Department of Resources and Development, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs Kenmore Salvador, and Special Assistant to the Vice President Ari Skilling.

More info and related documents on the CRGA, C13 and Digital Earth Pacific can be found at: <https://www.spc.int/crga>



President Simina continues state visits to the outer islands of Mwoakilloa and Pingelap

FSM Information Services

October 28, 2023

Mwoakilloa and Pingelap—

October 23 & 24, 2023, His Excellency, President Simina and First Lady Simina visited the islands of Mwoakilloa and Pingelap in continuation of the administration’s state visits within the FSM. Joining the President and First Lady were members of the cabinet and staff, as well as Senators from FSM Congress and Pohnpei State legislatures, and representatives from the Governor of Pohnpei’s office.

This trip was also significant due to the use of the newly donated patrol boat from the Australian Government, the FSS Bethwel Henry, a fitting first voyage to the late Speaker Henry’s home island and its neighboring island of Pingelap. Upon arrival in Mwoakilloa, the delegation was welcomed by song performances by the island’s church group as they arrived at the municipal government building. The festive gathering consisted of President Simina’s delegation, the leadership of the municipal church leaders and community members. President Simina conveyed his great appreciation for such a welcoming reception and the great efforts that the



community evidently took in order to prepare for their arrival.

Along with his remarks, President Simina and the First Lady pledged \$2,000 for the women’s groups on Mwoakilloa to support their ongoing activities. President Simina also pledged that the Simina-Palik administration will continue to strive to meet the needs of the outer island communities, including announcing the support of \$50,000 for food security efforts through FSM R&D. The gathering was followed by a tour around the lagoon of Mwoakilloa and a site visit to the airstrip to assess the state of it. Following the site visit to the airstrip, President Simina intends to utilize grant assistance from development partners such as China for necessary improvements.

Continuing onward to Pingelap, the

delegation was also received with a welcoming reception by the community, featuring songs and performances. During his remarks President Simina reassured the community of the Simina-Palik’s unending support for the island of Pingelap and its citizens.

President Simina and the First Lady also pledged \$3,000 to the women’s groups of Pingelap to support their ongoing projects and also announced the support of \$50,000 for food security efforts through the FSM Dept. of R&D.

After the gathering, President Simina and the delegation were given a tour of the lagoon, during which they paid their respects at the memorial site of the late Peter Sitan, a long-time public servant of the FSM.

The Simina-Palik administration thanks the good people of Mwoakilloa and Pingelap for their generous hospitality and gracious hosting and looks forward to continuing to build stronger relationships and support for all outer island communities.



Governor Charles Chieng initiates executive order establishing political status task force

Yap Government Media

October 26, 2023

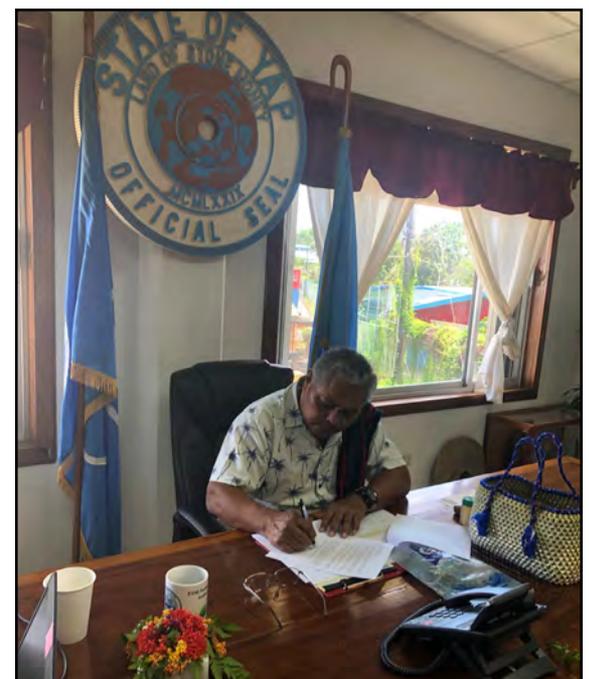
Colonia Yap—In an effort towards fostering public awareness and political education on the political status question as outlined under Yap State Law 11-27, Governor Charles Chieng, signed Executive Order No: 2023-02. The establishes a dedicated task force responsible for advising the Governor and executing its mandates in public awareness, public education, political education, and all forms of engagement with the voting population and various communities.

The newly formed task force comprises the Directors of Education, Health Services, Public Works & Transportation, Youth and Civic

Affairs, Resources & Development, Office of Administrative Services, Office of Planning and Budget, Office of Attorney General, and Yap State Election Commission. Each of these departments will contribute their unique expertise and resources to enhance public understanding and awareness.

The public’s attention will be focused on the question, “Shall the State of Yap Commence a review of its political status”, as outlined in Yap State Law 11-27. This constitutes a significant responsibility for the task force, and, in accordance with the executive order, public education, awareness campaigns, and political education is scheduled to commence on November 1, 2023.

This executive order represents Governor Charles Chieng’s commitment to ensuring that the citizens of our state have the information and knowledge necessary to make informed decisions regarding their political future. The collaborative efforts of the task force will play a pivotal role in facilitating open dialogue, education, and awareness among the voting population and communities, ultimately strengthening the democratic process we have come to adopt and keeping Yap’s People First.



Governor Oliver, Senator Alfonso, Dr. Nicole Yamase and Jeannyleen Andrew local Marine Science Student embark on an extraordinary deep sea dive

Blue Prosperity Micronesia

October 26, 2023

Pohnpei—Governor Oliver, Senator Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, Dr. Nicole Yamase, and Ms. Jeannyleen Andrew, a student at the College of Micronesia - National Campus, explored the marine wonders of Pohnpei aboard the DeepSee submersible. The descent took them to depths between 100 - 150 meters (328- 492 feet), offering an exceptional opportunity to experience Pohnpei's ocean from a rare perspective.

Governor Oliver shared his experience, "I experienced what I would consider a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I had the privilege of diving in a state-of-the-art submersible, allowing me to see our ocean from a completely different perspective. We take for granted what we know about the ocean but being in the submersible made me realize that there is still so much to discover."

Senator Alfonso completed the submersible dive along with her niece, Dr. Nicole Yamase, and felt inspired after seeing the underwater life. She said, "I would like to share this experience with my colleagues in Congress so we can work together to push policies to protect our unique marine environments and resources."

Dr. Nicole Yamase, reflecting on her second submersible dive, expressed her enthusiasm, "Visiting the deep sea changed my life forever. My wish is to have more young people from the FSM have the same opportunity and become the next ocean champions. I'm



so proud of Jeannyleen, another young Micronesian female scientist who will carry on the torch to light the way for those to come."

Jeannyleen Andrew is from Kapingamarangi, an outer island of Pohnpei, and is a Marine Science student at the College of Micronesia. She emphasized the importance of scientific research, "I want to encourage my fellow students to keep studying and working to protect our ocean. It's up to us to preserve the amazing ocean that we have."

These submersible dives were an initiative of the Blue Prosperity Micronesia and National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition. The customized research vessel, the M/V Argo, is equipped with a safe and proven submersible named 'DeepSee.' The DeepSee is rated to reach depths up to 450 meters (~1,500 feet) and has conducted more than 3,600 dives safely.

Paul Rose, National Geographic Pristine Seas Expedition Leader stated, "It is a tremendous honor to bring Governor Oliver, Senator Alfonso, Dr. Yamase and student Jeannyleen Andrew to see the deep sea with National Geographic Pristine Seas. We are honored to support the Federated States of Micronesia's vision for managing and protecting their seas and to work with community members on this expedition."

The expedition team hosted a public event on October 25 attended by state leaders, community members and students. Governor Oliver



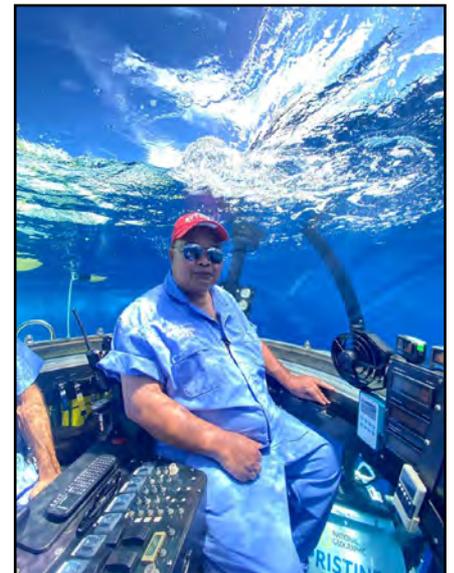
welcoming remarks underlining the importance of preserving the ocean, stating, "Our ocean has long been a source of sustenance, providing us with nourishment, economic opportunities, and a sense of belonging. As stewards of our waters, it is our duty to ensure their preservation so that our ocean can continue to sustain our current and future generations. That's why I am excited to have the Blue Prosperity Micronesia and National Geographic teams here to study our ocean."

Blue Prosperity Micronesia and National Geographic Pristine Seas have partnered to embark on a large-scale scientific expedition to study FSM's marine environments to benefit the nation's current and future generations. The results of the expedition will allow us to understand the current health of our ocean and will inform the best way to protect and sustainably manage the nation's marine resources. The expedition will travel to all four states, it began in Kosrae on October 14 and will conclude in Yap on November 22.

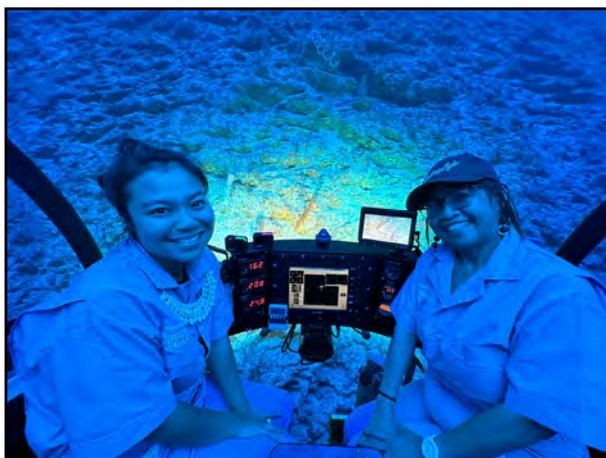
ABOUT

Blue Prosperity Micronesia is a program to support the sustainable growth of marine resources in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This program is government-led, with the goal to optimize ocean uses, protect 30% of FSM's waters, strengthen fisheries management, and support the development of marine industries.

National Geographic Pristine Seas works with Indigenous and local communities, governments, and other partners to help protect



vital places in the ocean using a unique combination of research, community engagement, policy work, and strategic communications and media. Since 2008, our program has conducted 41 expeditions around the world and helped establish 26 marine reserves, spanning more than 6.6 million square kilometers of ocean.



Pohnpei embraces FamilySearch International's commitment to history preservation

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

October 20, 2023

Pohnpei—Governor Oliver warmly welcomed Mr. Stephen L. Nickel and W. James Jacob, PhD, representatives from FamilySearch International, an organization closely affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Church. Also present during the important meeting was Mr. Williamson Rodriguez, Pohnpei Stake President for the LDS Church, who accompanied Mr. Jacob and Mr. Nickel.

FamilySearch International, the world's largest genealogy organization, operates as a non-profit entity with a mission to preserve records that hold a deep connection to family history. Their work extends far beyond merely tracing family trees; it encompasses the preservation and digitization of historical records that form an invaluable part of cultural heritage.

Governor Oliver expressed his sincere gratitude to the LDS Church, specifically acknowledging Elder Bill Davis in Guam, for their consistent support and assistance.

He cited a recent donation of wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches as a testament to the LDS Church's commitment to improving the lives of the community. Additionally, Governor Oliver conveyed his unwavering support for the vital work that FamilySearch International will undertake in Pohnpei.

This collaborative endeavor isn't the first of its kind between Pohnpei State and FamilySearch. Governor Oliver emphasized the significance of the organization's contribution in preserving historical records for the benefit of future generations, reinforcing family bonds through the knowledge obtained from these precious resources.

Mr. Stephen L. Nickel and Dr. W. James Jacob also shed light on their ongoing efforts to collect cultural genealogy at the community level. They are actively engaged in collaborating with the division of historic preservation at the Department of Land, emphasizing the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of Pohnpei.

FamilySearch International's involvement extends beyond genealogy; they have already played an instrumental role in the collection and digitization of Pohnpei State Supreme Court



records. The organization is committed to assisting in the digitization of land records, further streamlining access to critical historical information.

The meeting between Governor Oliver and the representatives from FamilySearch International marks a significant step in a collaborative journey aimed at preserving Pohnpei's rich cultural heritage. The shared commitment to these endeavors highlights the power of partnership and underscores the value of safeguarding our history for the generations to come.

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Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Bank of the FSM currently maintains accounts for the following individuals & groups:



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

INAKACOMMUNITY ORGANIZATION	P.O. Box 504	Weno	CHK
Siana I Wainit	1388 ALA NAPUNANI ST	Honolulu	HI
Anna W Mijares	P.O. Box 369	Weno	CHK
Diocese of the Caroline Islands	P.O. Box 939	Weno	CHK
FSM Women's Council (FSMWC)	P.O. Box 699	Kolonia	PNI
Ray & Dor's	P.O. Box 617	Kolonia	PNI
Angila R George	936 Lehua Avenue #103	Honolulu	HI
Mrs. Angila R George	P.O. BOX 242	Tofol	KOS
Nestor E Acosta	P.O. Box 37	Tofol	KOS
Mr. Nestor E Acosta	Block 3 Lot 1 Phase 2	Rizal Providence	Philippine
Shiro N Skilling	P.O. Box 1019	Tofol	KOS
Neila J Hedmon	P.O. Box 501	Tofol	KOS
Augusta A Alik	P.O. Box 899	Tofol	KOS
Hattie R Phillip	P.O. Box 441063	Tofol	KOS
Lucinda J O'Daol	P.O. Box 378	Tofol	KOS
Andelina Neth	Fefen Sapeta Village	Weno	CHK
Ande Kauka	P.O. Box 559	Weno	CHK
Cathedral Parish	P.O. Box 337	Weno	CHK
Mokut William	P.O. Box 304	Weno	CHK
J-Siwin Robinson	P.O. Box 802	Weno	CHK
Manikis M Sonis	2339 Kalaunu Apt. 39-F	Honolulu	HI
Siana Dois	Oneop Eor Village	Weno	CHK
Kolber Loch	Losap Island	Weno	CHK
Istor Edwin	P.O. Box 112	Weno	CHK
Isinory Manuel	P.O. Box 632	Weno	CHK
Truk Stop LPG, Christina Stinnett DBA,	P.O. Box 546	Weno	CHK
Isabell Mario	P.O. Box 1491	Weno	CHK
Arkangal Renuk	P.O. Box 246	Weno	CHK
Familien Petrus James	P.O. Box 509	Weno	CHK
Philip Yatch	C/O Ulithi Post Office	Colonia	YAP
Andrew A Minginfel	1627 Kuahale St.	Pearl City	HI
Marva P Moolang	P.O. Box 249	Colonia,	YAP
Glapta Account	7850 Fm 1960 E Apt#601	Humble	TX
Margaret M Margou	P.O. Box 85	Colonia,	YAP
Namgier Techur	P.O. Box 298	Colonia,	YAP
Gillippin Dugwen	P.O. Box 40	Colonia,	YAP
Simon S Maluwelmeng	107 Camacho St.	Guam, USA	GU
Ray R Igechep	P.O. Box 1265	Colonia,	YAP
William B Talugmai	P.O. Box 971	Colonia	YAP
Teresa Ow	P.O. Box 982	Colonia	YAP
Nonohn Mwomwohdsohn Pohnpei NMP	P.O. Box 373	Kolonia	PNI
Dannes Brown	P.O. Box 2327	Kolonia	PNI
Edgar W Edwards	P.O. Box 447	Kolonia	PNI
Matarr Njiiie	P.O. Box 1256	Kolonia	PNI
Liza Allen	P.O. Box 615	Kolonia	PNI

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2024. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2023.

Kosraean:

In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemey nusin Customers nukewa ma e akkalemeyyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemeyyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfeh itukyan nusin Secretary lun Finance ke FSM National Government ke January 2024. In oralla account se lom an tia putayan nuke oakwuk ku oiya se inge, kom enenu in tuku nu Bank FSM oralla sie deposit ku withdrawal nuke account san meet liki December 31, 2023.

Chuukese:

Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 2024, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2023 Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.

Yapese:

Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2024, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2023.

Pohnpeian:

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihi en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2024. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2023 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2023, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with BANK OF GUAM® are inactive and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective BANK OF GUAM® Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2024, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2024, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Chuuk Branch (CC)

MAKAPEUS N MAZAWA
275 Farenholt Ave PMB 160
Tamuning GU 96913

Pohnpei Branch (CC)

LORIHNA CHARLEY
PO Box 941
Pohnpei FM 96941

LUCIA N DONRE
PO Box K2582
Pohnpei FM 96941

SINOLET LEKKA
PO Box 2241
Pohnpei FM 96941

IRENE LENGSI
PO Box 2486
Pohnpei FM 96941-2486

VALERIO PANUELO
PO Box 662
Pohnpei FM 96941

JACKLEEN J SANTIAGO
PO Box 3277
Pohnpei FM 96941

Kosrae Branch (CC)

CAROLYN R SHREW
275 Farenholt Ave Ste G PMB 32
Tamuning GU 96913

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

Pohnpei Branch

KRYSTILYN M ATKINSON
PO Box K3057
Pohnpei FM 96941

CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS BARENZ

PO Box 614
Pohnpei FM 96941-0614

EDSIN I JOHN

PO Box 778
Pohnpei FM 96941-0778

YUCHEL PAINGAI

PO Box 2363
Pohnpei FM 96941-2363

ENGELBIRT PERMAN DBA P4 LUBE EXPRESS

PO Box K2860
Pohnpei FM 96941

Pohnpei Branch (CC)

MINH C NGUYEN
PO Box K3005
Pohnpei FM 96941

Kosrae Branch

DANIEL JOSE LANGU
BURTHALISA T LANGU
717 NE 82nd Ave Apt 236
Vancouver WA 98664-2051

LUEN THAI FISHING VENTURE LTD KOSRAE

PO Box 357
Kosrae FM 96944-0308

WILFRED STARSKY'S TILFAS DBA WST TIRE SHOP

PO Box 625
Kosrae FM 96944-0308



Police Academy cycle eight graduates 19 law enforcement officers

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 27, 2023

Pohnpei— In a momentous event, nineteen officers proudly graduated from the Pohnpei State Police Academy Cycle Eight, signifying the culmination of rigorous training and dedication to their roles in law enforcement. The graduation ceremony, attended by Governor

Oliver, U.S. Ambassador to FSM, Her Excellency Jennifer Johnson, and various other esteemed guests, was an occasion filled with pride and inspiration.

This distinguished group of graduates, which included two female officers, began their journey three months ago as part of a cohort of 24 recruits. The Pohnpei State Police Academy Cycle Eight welcomed police officers from the Department of Public Safety and representatives from Kolonia, Sokehs, Nett, and Pingelap Municipal



governments, reflecting a collaborative and comprehensive approach to training.

Director Patrick Carl delivered the first set of remarks, providing an insightful overview of the training process. He expressed gratitude to the U.S. Embassy for their generous support in funding Cycle Eight, emphasizing the crucial role played by the U.S. Marines of Task Force Koa Moana, who provided invaluable assistance in drill and firearms training.



The ceremony reached its pinnacle when Governor Oliver took the podium to deliver special remarks. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the graduating officers, thanking the U.S. Embassy for their unwavering support. In his speech, Governor Oliver shared three core virtues - "respect, responsibility, and honesty" - urging the graduates to hold these values close as they assume their duties in enforcing the law and maintaining peace within the community.

Associate Justice Robert Nakasone played a pivotal role by administering the oath to the officers, a solemn moment signifying their commitment to upholding justice. Family members were also invited to take part in the ceremony by pinning new badges onto the graduates, symbolizing their support and pride in their loved ones' achievements.

In a moment of recognition for outstanding performance, certificates were awarded to top performers, with R.J. Edgar achieving the esteemed title of Valedictorian, and Julyed Ernest securing the position of Salutatorian.

The graduation ceremony also served as the backdrop for a significant promotion, with Major Bronson Martin, the Academy commander, being sworn in as the new Deputy Chief of Police. This promotion underscores Major Martin's exemplary leadership and dedication to the force.

The community extends their heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates of the Pohnpei State Police Academy Cycle Eight and Deputy Chief of Police Martin. The collective commitment and professionalism of these officers stand as a testament to the bright future of law enforcement in Pohnpei.

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Navigating hope- SMK's transformational journey in empowering Pohnpei through aquaculture practices

In the western Pacific Ocean, the idyllic small island of Pohnpei of the Federated States of Micronesia is home to a rich diversity of marine life. However, this diverse ecosystem is under threat from climate change and other human activities. Recognizing the urgent need to protect these invaluable natural resources, Sokehs Menin Ketengesed (SMK), an NGO based in Pohnpei, embarked on an ambitious initiative of implementing sustainable seaweed harvesting and marine conservation practices.

They were able to embark on this journey with the help of funding from the UNDP-Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA), a programme which aims to foster and accelerate innovative technologies, practices and business models for local adaptation through tapping into the incredible potential of NGOs, civil society, women and young innovators.

Their guiding principle, "Tuhken Wahr Tipwitipw, Wahr Seisei" translated to "Sticks of the canoe are breaking, but the canoe continues to sail", highlights their determination as they continue to work with coastal communities driving change. We interviewed Mark Johnny, the President of the Sokehs Menin Ketengesed Board.



Rooted in community engagement, SMK has been making an impact in the community through targeted awareness campaigns on sustainable management of resource, and adoption of traditional fishing techniques. This has successfully shifted locals to focus away from mass fishing for market, to taking ownership of preservation of natural resources. Additionally, they have provided employment through the creation of sustainable blue jobs, particularly the appointment of community conservation officers. This has empowered individuals to take ownership of their work and thus has been instrumental in contributing to the overall success of marine protection efforts. They continue to fortify Pohnpei's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) against the consequences of climate change while simultaneously uplifting local communities.

Moreover, The UNDP-AFCIA grant has been instrumental in amplifying SMK's footprint. They have made incredible efforts to harness local knowledge to implement sustainable seaweed management practices that prioritizes preservation over extraction. The initiative serves a dual purpose, not only does it provide a sustainable source of income for local communities, but it also acts as a critical element in the broader strategy to build resilience against climate change impacts. Seaweed serves as a powerhouse of essential nutrients, fortifying local diets and supporting indigenous and culturally significant foods.

One of the standout achievements has been the creation of a seaweed farm, a departure from traditional farming methods. This venture was not without its challenges as SMK had to navigate the complexities of working in government jurisdiction and creating market linkages. However, after persistent efforts and consultations with the esteemed traditional chief of the community, SMK was ultimately able to obtain the necessary approvals from the government. This was a major victory for the project as it paved the way for the establishment of a sustainable seaweed farm that would have a positive impact on the community. They also worked to educate the public about the benefits of seaweed farming, which helped to create demand for the product. These processes highlighted the intricacies of navigating through government-backed traditional structures, underscoring the complexity of our undertaking.

SMK's approach has been holistic and hands-on. The initiative relies on a multifaceted aquaculture approach including growing different species of fish, seaweed and seacucumbers (a delicacy on the island). As SMK has actively aligned their efforts with the state's strategic development plan (agriculture and the fisheries rationale while safeguarding natural resources and cultural heritage), focusing on exporting and expanding seaweed cultivation they are now being endorsed by the government. Furthermore, to enhance the project's viability, SMK has collaborated with a fellow from Oxford University (engaged via the UNDP AFCIA programme) to develop

comprehensive business plans. This strategic partnership aims to optimize the project's potential and ensure its long-term sustainability.

The proceeds from seaweed sales contributed to the establishment of a revolving fund, which in turn compensates Community Conservation Officers who are dedicated to enforcing MPA conservation measures. The grant has elevated the role of local conservation officers and enabled them to conduct critical fish counts and provide invaluable data for MPA monitoring. Specialized training programs have been implemented to enhance their proficiency, ensuring they remain at the forefront of conservation efforts in Pohnpei.



The grant has facilitated 120 climate monitoring sessions, fostering heightened vigilance and equipping fishermen and farmers with the information needed to make informed decisions. They serve as a bridge between traditional knowledge and modern conservation practices. Through their work, they have rekindled generational wisdom, teaching skills such as net mending, knot tying, and utilizing moon cues for optimal fishing times. This revival of traditional knowledge is instrumental in fostering a more sustainable approach to resource management.

A noteworthy mark of this initiative is its commitment to women's empowerment through ensuring women's active involvement in the harvesting and production of marketable goods. Notably, a significant portion of the value-added businesses such as pop-up restaurants and local businesses and shops, particularly those specializing in seafood, are under the management of women. This not only signifies a thriving economic opportunity but also underscores the project's commitment to women's empowerment. The success achieved in this aspect serves as a compelling model that can be replicated in other communities, promising increased economic support for women, as well as for individuals identifying with various gender identities, and those from communities most impacted by shocks and stresses. SMK is not only creating equitable opportunities but also catalyzing a shift towards enhanced nutritional diversity.

The UNDP AFCIA grant has not only provided crucial financial support to SMK's projects but has also catalyzed a range of additional benefits and has expanded their influence and impact. It models that, through communities working together to protect their natural resources, sustainable development can be achieved. The grant has amplified awareness, strengthened partnerships, and equipped local stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to address the intricate challenges posed by climate change and unsustainable commercialization. Through these efforts, SMK is sailing towards a future where Pohnpei's marine ecosystem thrives in harmony with its coastal communities, a path towards a more sustainable and resilient future.



New Zealand government boosts Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) with NZD 20 Million to Increase Pacific Resilience to Climate Change

October 3, 2023

New Zealand—The New Zealand government has moved to strengthen the Pacific's environmental resilience, by committing NZD 20.6 Million for the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) to support the implementation of the Restoring Island Resilience (RIR) Project.

PRISMSS, led by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is a regional mechanism that facilitates the scaling up of invasive species management for biodiversity protection in the Pacific in collaboration with leading organizations. It also supports countries and communities with resources to take action against invasive species threats to their island ecosystems and resilience.

The funding arrangement was officially signed between SPREP and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZMFAT) in June 2023. The main aim of the PRISMSS- Restoring Island Resilience project is to improve the livelihoods and climate change resilience of Pacific Island countries and Territories (PICTS) by reducing the impact of invasive species on their natural and agricultural ecosystems.



The PRISMSS-RIR project builds on the foundational work previously funded by NZMFAT through the Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific (MISCCAP) project. The MISCCAP project, set to conclude in June 2024, laid the essential groundwork, paving the way for the upcoming efforts.

The funding will also focus on developing PRISMSS and expanding its five invasive species management programmes throughout the region;

- Protect our Islands – Prevent the arrival, establishment and spread of invasive species
- Predator Free Pacific – Removal of invasive mammalian predators from islands
- War on Weeds – Management of high priority weeds
- Natural Enemies, Natural Solutions – Biological control of widespread weeds
- Resilient Ecosystems, Resilient Communities – Priority area ecological restoration

SPREP Invasive Species Adviser, Mr. David Moverley said the generous support from the New Zealand government will be instrumental in continuing the vital work PRISMSS does along with Pacific members and other significant donors to strengthening the foundations of a bio diverse and resilient Pacific.

“Receiving this funding support not only underscores the importance of our mission but it also demonstrates the ongoing willingness and commitment of the New Zealand government to improving the livelihoods and resilience of Pacific Island communities” said Mr. Moverley. “Through the PRISMSS- Restoring Island Resilience project, we are not only addressing immediate environmental threats but are also

investing in the long-term resilience and health of our island ecosystems and communities to the growing impacts of climate change. Collaborative ventures like this set a precedent for what we can achieve when nations come together to safeguard our shared environment.”

Invasive species such as rats, wild pigs and invasive plants are the leading driver of bio-diversity loss in the Pacific, not only do they outcompete native species but they also harm crops and intensify ecosystem degradation. This further increases the susceptibility of Pacific communities to the devastating effects of climate change and natural disasters.

The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Services (PRISMSS) was launched by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in 2019. PRISMSS is dedicated to enhancing the collective efforts of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) in addressing the threat of invasive species to biodiversity and ecosystems in the Pacific region.

With a focus on knowledge-sharing, technical support, capacity-building, and strategic coordination, PRISMSS strives to strengthen and increase the region's response to invasive species, ultimately leading to improved livelihoods and more resilient ecosystems across the Pacific.

Historical insights emphasize literacy’s role at Parent’s Literacy Day

Pohnpei State Public Information

October 27, 2023

Pohnpei—Governor Oliver attended the opening ceremony of Parent’s Literacy Day, organized by the Early Childhood Education (ECE) division of the Pohnpei State Department of Education. The event marked an annual tradition, where educators and parents unite to celebrate the profound significance of reading and the invaluable benefits it imparts to both students and their parents.

The Parent’s Literacy workshop serves as a platform for emphasizing the vital role of reading in education and the reciprocal joy it brings to families. This year’s theme, conveyed in Pohnpeian as “Utuht ong sapwelimatail serikan rahnwet ong pweidahn lakapw,” translated to English

as “Supporting our children today to succeed tomorrow,” encapsulates the spirit of the gathering.

Governor Oliver delivered special remarks that resonated deeply with the audience. He chose to share a historical event that underlines the critical importance of literacy. The event in question involved two Pohnpeian men entrusted with a message bound for the colonial authorities during the Sokehs Rebellion. The receipt of the message set in motion a series of events that would determine the fate of the freedom fighters in Sokehs. Governor Oliver said that the course of Pohnpei’s history could have been dramatically altered had it not been for the power of literacy and the ability to read.



Governor Oliver’s address underscored the paramount importance of reading and called upon parents to actively engage in their children’s learning journey. He said that the home serves as the foundational cornerstone of learning, emphasizing that the process of nurturing young minds commences within the family. The Governor urged parents to not only support their children’s education at school but to also inculcate the values of respect, responsibility, and honesty in their upbringing.

The Early Childhood Education staff played an instrumental role in organizing this meaningful event, and their dedication and hard work were acknowledged and appreciated. The team, led by Acting Chief Laura Shed, included dedicated professionals such as Nutritionist Detrickson Anson, Social Worker Sohspen Penias, Resio Aron, Adelihner Ioanis, Linser Weber, Stephanie Rosario, Emyuleen Martin, Belsihter Ladore, Rihleen Paulus, Wagner David, and Rex Hadley.

Pohnpei State welcomes Leon Panuelo Jr. to the Board of Directors of the State Housing Authority

Pohnpei State Public Information

November 1, 2023

Peilapalap, Pohnpei—The Office of the Governor is delighted to share that Mr. Leon Panuelo Jr. has officially taken his oath as the latest member of the Board of Directors of the Pohnpei State Housing Authority. This significant appointment was conducted by Governor Oliver in a ceremony that gathered key figures and stakeholders.

Mr. Panuelo's induction into the Board of Directors is being hailed as a remarkable addition, attributing to his extensive background and expertise. Currently, Mr. Panuelo holds the distinguished position of Administrator at the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Social Security Administration. His prior role as the Pohnpei State Budget Officer showcases his longstanding dedication to public

service and financial stewardship. His appointment to the Board of Directors underscores the steadfast commitment to addressing the needs of Pohnpei's residents by providing them with accessible and high-quality housing solutions.

In a statement delivered on behalf of Governor Oliver, the Executive Director of the Pohnpei Housing Authority, Mr. Onlino Lawrence, extended a warm welcome to Mr. Panuelo, acknowledging him as the most recent addition to the esteemed Board of Directors. The Executive Director also extended heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Panuelo on this significant achievement.

Expressing his gratitude for the trust placed in him, Mr. Panuelo expressed his appreciation to Governor Oliver and the Pohnpei State Legislature for their



nomination and confirmation of his role. He further highlighted the importance of unity and collaboration within the Pohnpei State Housing Authority, emphasizing the need for the collective support of the Executive Director and the agency's dedicated staff as he embarks on his duties within the Board of Directors, aiming to serve the people of Pohnpei.

This monumental appointment of Mr. Leon Panuelo Jr. to the Pohnpei State Housing Authority's Board of Directors stands as a remarkable step forward in the pursuit of affordable and quality housing solutions for the residents of Pohnpei. The community congratulates Mr. Panuelo on this prestigious role and eagerly anticipates the positive contributions he will make in this vital endeavor.

FSM Petrocorp/Vital explores clean energy possibilities in meeting with Governor Oliver

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

October 26, 2023

Pohnpei—The Board of Directors of FSM Petrocorp/Vital recently paid a courtesy visit to Governor Oliver, signifying a pivotal discussion on the prospects of harnessing clean and renewable energy sources, particularly through the establishment of hydropower plants. The meeting was marked by constructive dialogues and a shared vision of sustainable energy solutions.

The high-level delegation from FSM Petrocorp/Vital included the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Faustino Yangmog, Vice Chairman Mr. Anselmo Daniel, Secretary Ms. Maria Laaw, Member Mr. Andy George, and the Executive Officer (Governance) and Executive Secretary to the Board, Mr. Joseph Saimon.

The gathering between Governor Oliver and the FSM Petrocorp Board of Directors revolved around the promising potential of clean and



renewable energy sources, with a particular focus on hydropower initiatives. The initial discussions sought to identify suitable locations within Pohnpei and to determine the relevant Pohnpei State organizations to collaborate with in advancing these efforts.

This meeting concluded with both parties expressing their unwavering commitment to fostering continued cooperation in the realm of renewable energy. The optimism shared by Governor Oliver and the FSM Petrocorp Board of Directors underscored the

profound positive impact that this environmentally responsible endeavor could have on the local ecology and the regional economy as a whole.

FSM Petrocorp/Vital Group stands as the largest and most influential supplier of energy in the Federated States of Micronesia. Boasting an experienced, qualified, and highly trained workforce, totaling more than a hundred individuals, the combined petroleum and aviation handling experience of the team exceeds a remarkable 150 years.

The significance of this collaborative effort in advancing clean energy solutions cannot be understated, as it reflects a collective commitment to the future well-being of Pohnpei and the entire FSM. The community eagerly anticipates the positive outcomes of this initiative and commends both Governor Oliver and the FSM Petrocorp/Vital Group for their dedication to a sustainable and eco-conscious future.

More information can be found on their website: www.vitalenergy.fm

UNESCO collaborates with Australian Government to boost Pacific Representation on World Heritage List

UNESCO

Nadi, Fiji – 3 November 2023 - In a promising move to enhance the cultural and natural heritage representation of Pacific Island Countries on the World Heritage List, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in partnership with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) of the Australian Government, has completed a 3-day workshop in Nadi, Fiji. In her opening remarks, Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Director, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States, emphasized, "This workshop provides us the opportunity to work towards the objectives we set with the Pacific Regional World Heritage Workplan 2021-2025, but also to connect and create a community working together for the protection of Pacific natural and cultural heritage."

World Heritage is highly relevant to the Pacific with its large ocean spaces, customary land tenures and linking culture, people, communities, and nature together in values and management. The region contains a series of spectacular and highly powerful, and spiritually valued natural features, as well as



cultural places. These places are related to the origins of peoples, the land and sea, and other sacred stories. Despite this rich diversity of culture and nature heritage, the Pacific region remains underrepresented on the World Heritage List, making it challenging for SIDS to secure global heritage recognition. A lack of financial and technical assistance for documentation and management, coupled with vulnerabilities to climate change, has hampered efforts for the identification, protection and promotion of sites. "More than in other regions of the world, the implementation of the 1972 Convention in the Pacific SIDS requires a coordinated strategy. Workshops like this are instrumental for this purpose, helping to identify common challenges and ways to address them, while also raising awareness about the need to

reinforce the institutional framework to ensure effective outcomes." noted Mr. Alessandro Balsamo, Chief of Nominations Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

This workshop aims to equip more than 40 national stakeholders with skills for the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention and explore the role of World Heritage in helping to meet the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People target to protect 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030 (the 30x30 target). It will do this by providing training and mentorship to Pacific Island countries, specifically designed to help them navigate the World Heritage Tentative Listing and nomination processes, in an effort to increase the number of World

Heritage property nominations from this region. Dr Anita Smith, Associate Professor in Archaeology and Heritage at La Trobe University, Australia highlighted "The Pacific nations all face similar challenges in managing their heritage including lack of resources and training and natural disasters that are increasing as the climate changes. Sharing of experiences and possible approaches to overcoming these challenges is vital."

The workshop, is in line with the recommendations of the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage for the Pacific 2021-2025 and the Regional Framework Action Plan that was endorsed at the Extended 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee that was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in September 2023. The initiative is part of UNESCO efforts to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Henry Puna inspires youth climate warriors ahead of COP28



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

October 26, 2023

Nadi, Fiji—During a speech at the 'Pacific Power Up' gathering of young Pacific climate warriors, Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Henry Puna expressed his deep respect and admiration for the Pacific youth leading the charge against climate change. Puna commended their unwavering commitment to confronting one of the most significant challenges of our time.

Addressing a room filled with

passionate advocates, Puna highlighted the grave threat that climate change poses to the Pacific islands, including their homes, cultures, and ways of life. However, he emphasized that the Pacific youth's determination and courage shine brighter than any despair, fear, or challenges they face. They are defined not by the problems surrounding them but by the solutions they seek, the actions they take, and the impact they create.

Puna acknowledged that Pacific leaders recognize the urgency of addressing the climate crisis and have established the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General's Young Climate Leaders Alliance (PYCLA) to empower young climate activists. This alliance aims to amplify their voices, provide access to resources, and facilitate collaboration with regional leaders to accelerate climate action.

Puna shared insights gained from the

advocacy work of the Young Climate Champion Alliance, highlighting that courage and determination are powerful tools for change. The Pacific youth's actions, even the smallest ones, can create waves of transformation.

He announced a Youth competition on Just Transitioning to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, offering the winner a place in his delegation to COP28, providing a platform for Pasifika youth to make their voices heard globally.

Puna recognized the Youth Climate Declaration, developed in consultation with youth across the region, as a testament to their leadership. He encouraged them to embrace the challenges as opportunities to make a difference, emphasizing that their actions today will shape the legacy of the planet for generations to come.

Puna also shared the Pacific leaders' commitment to the 2050 Strategy for

the Blue Pacific Continent, designed to advance regionalism for the next three decades. As Forum Leaders gather in Rarotonga to consider the Strategy's Implementation Plan, he urged the youth to stay engaged and contribute to its execution.

In his closing remarks, Puna quoted climate warrior Ms. Brianna Freuan, emphasizing the passion and determination of youth in making a positive impact on the world. He expressed his anticipation of their support for Forum Members' advocacy efforts at COP28, highlighting the potential of the Declaration to complement the goals of the region.

Henry Puna concluded his inspiring speech by expressing gratitude and hope for the future, relying on the strength, determination, and passion of the Pacific youth to shape the world they aspire to achieve.

Regional workshop advances E-commerce legal frameworks in the Pacific

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

October 26, 2023

Suva, Fiji--A significant stride in the advancement of Pacific E-commerce was marked with the initiation of a 3-day regional workshop focusing on legal frameworks to support the digital economy and the groundbreaking signing of the Statement of intent for the Pacific E-commerce Alliance by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The workshop was held from 18-20 October, 2023.

Under the umbrella of the Pacific E-commerce Initiative, the Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec), in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Asia Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), hosted the “Workshop on Effective Legal Frameworks for Building the Digital Economy” at the Pacific Islands Forum, in Suva.

This workshop aligns with Key Priority Area 4 of the Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap, underscoring the significance of robust E-commerce laws and regulations as the fundamental building blocks for fostering E-commerce development across the Pacific region.

The primary objective of this workshop was to enhance capacity, raise awareness, encourage dialogue, and facilitate knowledge exchange among influential policymakers, government officials, senior ICT professionals, technocrats and legal reform officers in the region. Participants had the opportunity to attend presentations of leading experts in various areas of the digital economy, attend engaging

panel sessions, and participate in group exercises to enhance their understanding of the topics.

PIF Deputy Secretary-General, Esala Nayasi, emphasised ‘E-commerce presents the potential to facilitate trade, connect our islands, and empower businesses in the digital era. However, doing so correctly is essential. This workshop addresses one of the priority areas of the Regional Strategy, focusing on advancing E-commerce and legal and regulatory frameworks. Our goal is to equip ourselves with the knowledge and skills to craft legislation that fosters innovation, protects consumers and the private sector, and builds trust in online marketplaces.’

During the event, ComSec’s Deputy Secretary-General, Dr Arjoon Suddhoo, also shared valuable insights, ‘This initiative tracks our pathway to the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), in Samoa, and its theme “One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Commonwealth.”

He said the “Commonwealth Aiga of 56 nations, recognizes the importance of developing resilient economies to support recovery from and survive future pandemics, withstand economic uncertainties, and unlock the potential of the private sector.” He added that the adoption of innovative and transformative technologies and digital solutions “can safeguard the prosperity of our family of nations.”

The training received contributions from various regional and international agencies such as the United Nations and Commission on International Trade Law, International Chamber of Commerce, World Intellectual Property Organization, and many more.



FSM Olympic hopefuls inspire next generation ahead of Pacific Games

FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs

October 26, 2023

Pohnpei—On Thursday, October 26, 2023, the Department of Health & Social Affairs had the honor of hosting a visit from a group of accomplished young Olympic athletes who have been proudly representing the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on the global stage. These exceptional athletes, joined by fellow athletes from across FSM, are in intense preparation for the upcoming Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands scheduled for November, with their sights set on securing a coveted spot in the Paris Olympics in 2024.

Dedication and inspiration were the cornerstones of this visit as these athletes have been actively engaging with local high schools and community colleges throughout FSM. Their mission is to inspire and guide the next generation of aspiring athletes who dream of carrying the flag of FSM to international acclaim. In candid interactions, they generously shared their experiences, answered questions, and illuminated the pathways that lead to becoming future Olympians.

The journey of these athletes to Pohnpei was made possible through the unwavering efforts of the FSM Olympic Committee. Their diligence in securing grants under the Olympic Movement, which champions UNITY, LOVE, and PEACE through sports, played a crucial role in facilitating the travel arrangements for this inspiring encounter.

The Department of Health and Social Affairs extends its heartfelt best wishes to these two athletes and the entire contingent participating in the upcoming Pacific Games in 2023. Their relentless pursuit of excellence and their commitment to nurturing the dreams of future athletes is indeed commendable.

In the accompanying photo, are some of the remarkable individuals who made this event possible, including Jake Scaliem (FSM Olympic Committee, OSEP Educator), Scott James Fiti (Olympian Sprinter, Olympic Tokyo 2020), Secretary Marcus Samo (FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs), Jourdyn Adams (Former Female Swimmer), Tasi Limtiaco (Olympian Swimmer, Olympic Tokyo 2020), Sebastian T. Tairuwepiy (FSM Sports and Physical Wellness Coordinator), and Assistant Secretary Stuard Penias (FSM Division of Social Affairs).

This visit symbolizes the indomitable spirit of FSM's athletes and their commitment to nurturing the sporting dreams of the next generation. They serve as a beacon of inspiration and a testament to the extraordinary talent that thrives in our nation.



SPC's PEGSAP program gets USD \$1.5M boost from USG to elevate women's role in climate solutions

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

November 2, 2023

Suva, Fiji—A groundbreaking initiative supported by the United States Government (USG) is set to empower women and girls in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and across the Pacific. The announcement, made by the U.S. Embassy Suva, brings promising news for women and girls who are at the forefront of climate challenges and solutions in the region.

Globally and particularly in the Pacific, women and girls are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. The U.S. Embassy Suva is taking a proactive stance to address this concern by introducing a USD \$1.5 million initiative. This initiative aims to bolster the implementation of the Pacific-European Union (EU) Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (PEGSAP) program, led by the Secretariat of the

Pacific Community (SPC). PEGSAP centers on enhancing women's leadership in climate and clean energy efforts, along with bolstering their economic security through an increase in career and income opportunities. This transformative initiative will be extended to 22 Pacific Island countries and territories, including FSM.

The significance of this initiative cannot be understated, as it not only addresses the critical issue of gender inequality but also underscores the pivotal role that women and girls play in the fight against climate change. The USG's generous funding will serve as a catalyst for positive change, offering women and girls across the Pacific the resources and support they need to contribute actively to climate solutions.

This commendable initiative reflects the collaborative efforts of the U.S. Embassy Suva, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), and



SPC. Their shared commitment to empowering women and girls in the Pacific reinforces the belief that a gender-inclusive approach is crucial in confronting the environmental challenges that the region faces.

As this initiative unfolds, it not only holds the promise of uplifting women and girls but also stands as a testament

to the USG's dedication to promoting gender equality and addressing climate change in the Pacific. With this monumental step, the USG is helping to ensure that women and girls in FSM and throughout the Pacific are actively engaged in building a more resilient and sustainable future.

Pacific talks progress ambitious plan for science

International Science Council and National University of Samoa

25 October 2023

APIA, SAMOA—An ambitious plan to co-design and establish a Pacific academy of sciences and humanities has gained strong support from more than 70 scholars from across the Pacific meeting in Samoa.

There is currently no mechanism for the knowledge of Pacific scholars to be gathered and used to inform decision-making regionally and internationally, even though the Pacific region stands to be most impacted by the rapidly changing environment.

Local scientists and indigenous communities possess unique knowledge about their respective regions and inhabitants. The establishment of a Pacific Academy responds to the pressing need to foster co-creation of knowledge to empower Pacific scholars to be part of solutions in their region.

In a speech of the Prime Minister of Samoa, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa (delivered by Aeau Christopher Hazelman, CEO, Ministry

of Education & Culture), she said "The establishment of a Pacific Academy of Sciences and Humanities will be a global testament and a commitment by the Pacific region to promote sustainable development through scholarly activities providing interdisciplinary approaches to complex problems, offering scientific advice to governments as well as informing public policy for the benefit of our communities".

After two days of discussions, hearing from experiences in other regions including the African Academy of Sciences, Australian Academy of Science, the Royal Society Te Aparangi (NZ) and U.S. National Academies, the Pacific scholars overwhelmingly agreed in a landmark decision to join forces to create a voice for science in the Pacific by establishing a Pacific academy.

Sir Collin Tukuitonga, a Pacific Island scholar leading the initiative on behalf of the International Science Council, said he was confident that convening the expertise of scholars from across the Pacific would gain sustained institutional support.

"There is a time and a place for everything,

and I think the time for an Academy in the region is now," Sir Collin Tukuitonga said.

"It will unite Pacific scholars, foster collaboration within the community and outside, and promote research on and from the region," he said.

Professor Teatulohi Matainaho, Vice Chancellor of the Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea said, "The Pacific Island states and territories face unique issues, from environmental to health and wellbeing challenges, and local knowledge plays a key role in supporting the solutions."

"A Pacific Academy would be game changing for the region and for our young people," Professor Matainaho said.

Early-career researchers welcomed the opportunity for more multidisciplinary local and global collaborations to build regional capability and to create opportunities for them to continue to advance research.

"Importantly, establishing a mechanism to connect all our science, signals to the

international science community that Pacific scholars are leading investigators," said research student Salote Nasalo from the University of the South Pacific.

Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Malua Amosa, Vice-Chancellor, National University of Samoa, welcomed the leadership of the International Science Council, which is the global voice of science that has catalysed this initiative in view of integrating the voice of Pacific scholars in global scientific decisions.

Meeting participants agreed to set up an Establishment Group to lead the next steps in designing a Pacific academy that represents Pacific scholars and their knowledge.

The landmark meeting of Pacific scholars to discuss the codesign for a united Pacific academy of science and humanities has been facilitated by the International Science Council and its regional office, the ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting has been hosted by National University of Samoa, with funding support from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and the Richard Lounsbury Foundation.

Palau National Marine Sanctuary named a Blue Spark in growing network of outstanding Marine Protected Areas

Palau International Coral Reef Center

The Marine Conservation Institute and the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), announced that Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) is a Blue Spark marine protected area collaboration. The Blue Spark designation reflects the leadership and commitment of PICRC to effectively implement the PNMS and shows that the protected area is making progress towards earning a prestigious Blue Park Award for conservation excellence. "The Palau National Marine Sanctuary



is a huge contribution to conservation for Palau and the world," stated PNMS Programs Manager, King Sam. "The core goals of the PNMS have always been healthy ocean populations, food security, and sustainable development. This Blue Sparks designation showcases that we are on track to achieving these goals."

Referred to in Palauan as Euotelel a Klingil a Debel Belau, the PNMS is one of the world's largest marine protected areas (MPAs), closing 80% of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone to all forms of extractive activity. The Sanctuary's waters support one of the densest biodiversity hotspots in the Indo-Pacific region, protecting nearly 800 known vertebrate species. PICRC is now working on extensive stakeholder engagement and the development of plans for longer-term management and monitoring, including the development of a comprehensive management plan and the implementation of the PNMS

Science and Monitoring Strategy. This Strategy outlines the next ten years of research priorities in the PNMS, and will guide the pursuit of science at the national level, which is arguably unprecedented in the field of Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas.

Dr. Lance Morgan, President of Marine Conservation Institute, said, "We are committed to accelerating the protection of the ocean's most important places, and Palau has made an exceptional commitment to protecting marine biodiversity. We are excited to partner with the Palau International Coral Reef Center as our newest Blue Spark collaboration to safeguard Palau National Marine Sanctuary's exceptional ecosystems and their value to local communities."



Marine Conservation Institute collaborates with Blue Spark partners to plan and improve their management and implement MPAs, using the Blue Park Award criteria as the blueprint for a better protected ocean. A Blue Park Award indicates that a marine protected area meets the highest science-based standards for marine biodiversity conservation.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Henry Puna inspires youth climate warriors ahead of COP28

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

October 26, 2023

Nadi, Fiji—During a speech at the 'Pacific Power Up' gathering of young Pacific climate warriors, Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Henry Puna expressed his deep respect and admiration for the Pacific youth leading the charge against climate change. Puna commended their unwavering commitment to confronting one of the most significant challenges of our time.

Addressing a room filled with passionate advocates, Puna highlighted the grave threat that climate change poses to the Pacific islands, including their homes, cultures, and ways of life. However, he emphasized that the Pacific youth's determination and courage shine brighter than any despair, fear, or challenges they face. They are defined not by the problems surrounding them but by the solutions they seek, the actions they take, and the impact they create.

Puna acknowledged that Pacific leaders recognize the urgency of addressing the climate crisis and have established the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General's Young Climate Leaders Alliance (PYCLA) to empower young climate activists. This alliance aims to amplify their voices, provide access to resources, and facilitate collaboration with regional leaders to accelerate climate action.

Puna shared insights gained from the advocacy work of the Young Climate Champion Alliance, highlighting that courage and determination are powerful tools for change. The Pacific youth's actions, even the smallest ones, can create waves of transformation.

He announced a Youth competition on Just Transitioning to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, offering the winner a place in his delegation to COP28, providing



a platform for Pasifika youth to make their voices heard globally.

Puna recognized the Youth Climate Declaration, developed in consultation with youth across the region, as a testament to their leadership. He encouraged them to embrace the challenges as opportunities to make a difference, emphasizing that their actions today will shape the legacy of the planet for generations to come.

Puna also shared the Pacific leaders' commitment to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, designed

to advance regionalism for the next three decades. As Forum Leaders gather in Rarotonga to consider the Strategy's Implementation Plan, he urged the youth to stay engaged and contribute to its execution.

In his closing remarks, Puna quoted climate warrior Ms. Brianna Freuan, emphasizing the passion

and determination of youth in making a positive impact on the world. He expressed his anticipation of their support for Forum Members' advocacy efforts at COP28, highlighting the potential of the Declaration to complement the goals of the region.

Henry Puna concluded his inspiring speech by expressing gratitude and hope for the future, relying on the strength, determination, and passion of the Pacific youth to shape the world they aspire to achieve.

WCPFC shares High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme experience

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

A seminar on High Seas Boarding and Inspection Schemes in the context of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), was held from 13 – 14 September 2023 in Vigo, Spain. Hosted by the European Union with the support of the European Fisheries Control Agency, the purpose of the seminar was to review and exchange experiences of High Seas Boarding and Inspection activities across different ocean regions.

WCPFC's Compliance Manager, Dr Lara Manarangi-Trott, and Assistance Compliance Manager, Ms. Eidge Sharp, participated virtually as guest speakers, joining Mr. Andrew Wright, from New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries, to provide an overview of the WCPFC's High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme.

The origin of WCPFC's High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme is enshrined in the WCPFC Convention and to date, the Scheme has facilitated more than 970 independent boarding

and inspection activities of WCPFC member vessels in the high seas of the Convention Area. Currently there are 270 registered inspection vessels for the fourteen WCPFC members, who may board and inspect vessels of other WCPFC CCMs in the high seas of the Convention Area.

The WCPFC's High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme is one of many monitoring and verification tools supporting CCMs meeting Commission objectives. Agreed procedures require Inspection Vessels fly the special WCPFC Inspection Flag (see inset)

and submit notifications to flag States prior to commencing boarding, and full reports of inspections are sent to the flag State and WCPFC Secretariat after completing the boarding.

Further information on the WCPFC's High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme, including the updated list of Inspection Vessels, can be found on WCPFC's website: <https://www.wcpfc.int/high-seas-boarding-inspection>

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

WCPFC join the homecoming celebration of FSS Bethwel Henry

WCPFC was privileged to join its host nation of FSM in welcoming home the FSS Bethwel Henry, a new patrol vessel donated to FSM by the Australian government.

Attendees acknowledged the significance of this vessel as an important component of FSM's ongoing commitment to protecting its waters and sustaining its people and economy. The FSS Bethwel Henry supports activities to combat illegal fishing to ensure fisheries resources can be sustainably managed. These resources are not only important to the nation's economy but are also integral to the lives and livelihoods of its people.

The vessel bears the distinguished name of the late Honorable Bethwel Henry, the inaugural Speaker of the FSM Congress, renowned for his remarkable contributions including shaping the first Congress when the FSM gained independence. Members of the Henry family, along with close friends and Congress colleagues all emphasized the vessel's significance and the appropriateness of its name.

The FSS Bethwel Henry will play a pivotal role in conducting sea patrols throughout the FSM exclusive economic zone, supporting various national government agencies such as the National Oceanic Resources

Management Authority, the Police, Customs, and Immigration. Its mission is to ensure that all maritime activities, including fishing, adhere to FSM's domestic regulations and international laws. The vessel will also provide humanitarian assistance when required.

WCPFC Secretariat attendees Rhea Moss-Christian (Executive Director), Eidge Sharp (Assistant Compliance Manager), and Tim Jones (IT Manager) recognized the importance of FSM's new patrol vessel in supporting FSM's participation in WCPFC through effective implementation of WCPFC's conservation and management objectives.

The vessel homecoming was marked by a flotilla leading the vessel to the wharf and with performances from Mwokilese War Dancers and the Enpein Cultural Dancers, and songs from the Kepinle Church choir that gave tribute to FSM and particularly to the birthplace and home of the late Honorable Bethwel Henry.

This is the fifth such vessel donated by the Australian government since 1990 and is the second Guardian Class vessel they have donated. The first, the FSS Tosiwo Nakayama was named after the first President of FSM.

Building resilience through increased access to information in the FSM

SPREP

October 25, 2023

FSM--A critical element of any decision-making process is the availability and access to relevant information. The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project is working cross fifteen Pacific ACP countries to support regional and national climate change portals to increase access to and reach of climate change and disaster resilience information.

In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the project is supporting the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency (DECEM) through enhancing the FSM Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Data Portal with the addition of a Climate Change Functionality feature. Working with Eighty Options Pty Ltd, PACRES has consolidated the existing portal into FSM's INFORM portal, updated information and knowledge management products required for national climate change and disaster planning response and enhance community awareness.

From 16-17 October 2023, PACRES Project Manager, Mr Semi Qamese has been on the ground in FSM, discussing with the national focal points and users on the Climate Change Functionality features and Landing Page on the INFORM portal. The newly added

features allow users to search items within climate and disaster risk management topics, navigate the current climate change projects list, search related legislation and policies, and find information and knowledge products.

Mr Qamese highlights the importance of the work that goes into maintaining access to climate change information and resources. He says, "we must ensure there is adequate support to regional and national climate change data portals, this increases accessibility of climate change and disaster resilience information and is critical for long term sustainability".

Staff from DECEM competent on the new features of the portal include, Assistant Secretary of the Environment Division, Ms Cynthia H. Ehmes, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Climate Change Division and Adaptation Unit, Mr Correy Abraham, Programme Manager for the Climate Change Division and Adaptation Unit, Kohsak Keller Jr and IT and Communications Officer, Mr Skiis Dewey.

As key users of the FSM Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Data Portal, DECEM staff are now well versed on the utilisation of the newly added features of the portal, through collecting, uploading, and updating spatial and non-spatial datasets and information required for climate change and disaster resilience planning and thus contributing to national decision making.

Navy Divers Conduct Rescue Operation in Chuuk

DVIDS
Commander,
Logistics Group Western Pacific
November 3, 2023

Chuuk - U.S. Navy divers assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Company 1-8 assisted local authorities in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia during a rescue operation to save a local driver who had driven his car off a pier the night of Friday, February 13, 2023.

“A few of us got a call about a man running his car off of the pier,” said U.S. Navy Diver 2nd Class Robert Larson. “I was one of the divers who went down to recover

him. We broke through the window to extricate the man from the submerged vehicle.”

The divers extracted the victim from the vehicle and brought him to the surface. Using Navy medical equipment, they transported the victim to a local ambulance. A Navy medical corpsman and two Navy divers performed CPR on the victim during the trip to the local hospital.

The entire incident took less than thirty minutes from the initial request for assistance until the victim was in a local hospital.

“Participating in the Chuuk rescue effort was an intense experience, and the efficiency of the divers’ teamwork was crucial,” said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Justin Redus.

For their admirable efforts, four members of CTG 73.6 were awarded Navy Commendation Medals by Rear Adm. Mark Melson, commander of Task Force 73 (CTF 73).

“People needed help and that’s really what we came out here to do,” said Navy Diver 1st Class Blake

Goins. “Our team was equipped with the resources to do what was needed to be done and so we did just that.”

CTG 73.6 is currently deployed to Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia with USNS Salvor (T-ARS 52) and a commercial salvage team as part of Pacific Partnership 2024. Renowned as the United States Navy Seventh Fleet’s premier maritime emergency response and salvage force, CTG 73.6 exemplifies the U.S. Navy’s commitment to aiding communities in need and providing swift assistance during times of crisis.

Ambassador Johnson’s visits to Chuuk and Pohnpei weather stations highlight critical roles in North Pacific/FSM Weather monitoring

US Embassy to the FSM
November 6, 2023

FSM - Ambassador Jennifer Johnson visited the Pohnpei Weather Service on November 1, following on her visit to the Chuuk Weather Service last month. As part of her visit to the Pohnpei Office, she released the daily 10:00 a.m. weather balloon. The balloon transports sensory equipment up to the proper altitude to monitor weather conditions to help keep airplanes safe, give warnings ahead of typhoons and other natural disasters, and monitor the climate in the North Pacific. Ambassador Johnson was impressed by the Pohnpei and Chuuk Weather Services' knowledgeable teams and state-of-the-art equipment, and the vital role they play in protecting life and property through their warnings for natural disasters.



Ambassador Jennifer Johnson meets with staff of the Chuuk Weather Service in Weno during her inaugural visit to Chuuk

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service in Guam provides significant funding, supplies, equipment, and training for the Weather Service Offices in the Federated States of Micronesia. Together, the United States and FSM track daily patterns to predict the weather, warn about upcoming typhoons and other natural disasters, and study the long-term effects of climate change.