

Micronesia region leaders agree to “paddle together for a stronger Micronesia” after a period of paddling separately

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 13, 2022

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—This morning, the five Presidents of the independent Micronesia countries met for their first full face to face meeting at the College of Micronesia for the Micronesian Presidents’ Summit (MPS). For the last two years, the pandemic forced the presidents to meet by Zoom conference online. The majority of the work between the independent sovereign nations had been done prior to the one-day summit in closed-door meetings, which continued at a retreat at AA Resort yesterday afternoon, resulting in what they named the “Palikir Communique”.

A central goal of the MPS was to hammer out the details of the “Suva Agreement” for implementation. The Suva Agreement was reached in a meeting with then Pacific Islands Forum chairman, former Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainamarama. Though only Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau were represented at the meeting in Suva, it was that agreement that set the groundwork for all of the Micronesian nations to ultimately agree to keep their membership in the Pacific Island Forum (PIF). The Micronesian countries had previously announced their intention to remove themselves from the group when their candidate for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General was not chosen for the position. Instead, the PIF again



[Click here for continuation](#)

FSM National Police officer shoots and wounds machete wielding man in Palikir, Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 15, 2023

Pohnpei—The FSM National Police are currently investigating the facts of an officer-involved shooting on the morning of February 15 after an officer shot a machete-wielding man in the area of the Capital Corner Store in Palikir, Pohnpei. FSM Secretary for the Department of Justice, Joses Gallen, said that any discharge of firearms by its officers requires an investigation and report. The investigation is underway, and the report is forthcoming.

approximately 8:15 on February 8, officers received a report of an individual waving a machete and lashing out with it against people there. Lt. Martin said that it took some time for State Police officers to reach the scene as they were on the scene of another incident in Pehlang, Kitti at the time. National Police officers were first on the scene in Palikir.

By the time National Police officers arrived, alleged perpetrator, 55-year-old Anther Ikelap, had injured a 47-year-old male victim. The victim suffered cuts on his hand and on the back of his neck.

National Police officers confronted Ikelap and ordered him to drop the machete. National Police officers on the scene told Lt. Martin that Ikelap refused the order and instead began attacking police officers. One of the officers was injured in that attack when he was struck on the right side of his chest with the machete. National Police officers continued to order Ikelap to drop the machete, but the attack continued.

Lt. Bronson Martin of the Pohnpei State Police department said that at



[Click here for continuation](#)

FSM and the United States sign Memorandum of Understanding on Compact preliminary agreements

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 11, 2023

Washington D.C.—This morning (February 10, U.S. time), the FSM and the United States government issued a joint communique announcing that the two countries had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the intention to extend and amend the financial provisions of the Compact of Free Association as it was amended. The agreement, the communique announced, was signed to “affirm our close and continuing partnership and reflecting our consensus reached on levels and kinds of future U.S. financial assistance to be provided in the next Compact assistance period.”

“The Memorandum of Understanding was signed as part of ongoing negotiations on

key documents in the FSM-U.S. relationship and confirms our shared vision for a strengthened and lasting partnership that will continue to benefit both nations and the entire Pacific region.

“The FSM and the U.S. are working diligently to reach agreement on other key aspects of our bilateral relationship, including mutually agreeable texts for the Federal Programs and Services Agreement, the Fiscal Procedures Agreement, and the Compact Trust Fund Agreement,” the communique said.

The details of the MOU were in line with the announcement made by FSM President Panuelo upon his return from a high level in the United States nearly two weeks ago.

The MOU says that the U.S. intends to request from the U.S. Congress a mandatory appropriation for annual grants of \$140 million for direct economic assistance to the FSM to be provided to the FSM for 20 years beginning in 2024. Unlike the Compact as amended, which provided for annual grants on a declining scale, the MOU announced that it is the intent of the U.S. that new financial assistance would have no annual adjustments. The direct economic assistance would be used as are the current Compact grants, for Education, Health Care, Private Sector Development, the environment, public sector capacity building, infrastructure, and enhance reporting and accountability, and/or for other sectors as mutually decided.

The U.S. also agreed that it intends to request a mandatory appropriation of \$250 million to be deposited into the Trust Fund for the People of the FSM for two years beginning with the 2024 fiscal year. A deposit would be made if Congress approves in FY 2024 and FY 2025 for a total of \$500 million.

The U.S. intends also to continue and maintain the provision of federal programs and services to the FSM that is currently provided under the Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

“Taking into consideration the special relationship between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia and the mutual desire to continue their special partnership and cooperation for the long term, the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia plan to include in the agreement a provision regarding the continuation of direct economic assistance beyond Fiscal Year 2043 on similarly favorable terms, subject to mutual agreement,” the MOU concludes.

The agreement was signed by Deputy Chief of

Mission of the Embassy of the FSM, Jackson Soram, and Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs of the Department of the Interior, Carmen G. Cantor. Other FSM and U.S. officials attended the signing at the Department of Interior.

“Our nations continue to work toward agreement on the final Compact package to be submitted to our respective legislative bodies for consideration in the near future,” the joint communique concluded.



Pictured Above: U.S. Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmon Cantor (left) and FSM Deputy Chief of Mission Jackson Soram (right) shake hands at the MOU signing in Washington



**the Village
Travel**

**Serving the Islands and
abroad since 1980!**

**Providing your domestic and
international flight arrangements**

**Call us now
for your next trip**

**Tel: (691) 320-2777
921-2777**

Fax: (691) 320-5375

**email: villagetravel@mail.fm
Villagetravel2@gmail.com**

**P.O Box 339
Pohnpei, FM 96941**

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

The Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

P.O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941
ph:(691) 320-6547
email: Kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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

March 1, 2023

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

Monday, February 27, 2023

FAA grounds Asia Pacific Airlines over qualifications issues

FSM Postmaster says USPS cargo should not be significantly impacted by the action

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 13, 2023

FSM—According to several news sources, including “Air Cargo News”, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has grounded Asia Pacific Airlines, the subcontractor to United Airlines that carries the United States Postal Service (USPS) mail to the FSM.

FSM Post Master Ginger Mida said that the grounding of the Guam-based freight carrier should have no impact

on mail service to and from the FSM. She said that as soon as she heard that the carrier was grounded, she immediately called United Airlines and was assured that United Airlines passenger planes would carry the mail.

According to an FAA statement, the suspension order was issued “after the company failed to produce records showing that the two individuals who provide proficiency checks for company pilots were properly trained and qualified for the past two years.”

According to the FAA and as reported

by news sources, “The FAA notified Asia Pacific in December that it was in apparent non-compliance with the regulations and urged the carrier to suspend operations until the matter was resolved.” But the Guam-based airline continued to operate.

Asia Pacific Airlines told Air Cargo News that it had challenged the suspension and is currently in talks with the FAA to resolve issues.

“Moreover, the records FAA was requiring the airline to provide were not required to be retained by the

airline under the FAA’s own rules as they were retained by the employer of those pilots.

“Asia Pacific has today challenged the suspension in a filing with the National Transportation Safety Board as it is in full compliance with all training record requirements and is working to return to service as quickly as possible.”

USPS Cargo service to the FSM should not be significantly impacted by the grounding.

Yap DHS seeing cases of suspected Chickenpox and Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease in children

Yap Department of Health Services

February 07, 2023

KENG, Weloy—The Yap Department of Health Services (DHS) doctors are seeing cases of suspected Chickenpox and Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in children. Based on public information, specimens have been sent off island for confirmation by lab test. The alert indicated that anyone can

get the HFMD disease but it is more common in children under the age of 10 years old.

Hand, Food, and Mouth disease is a viral infection easily spread from person to person through direct body contact. The main symptoms for Hand, Food, and Mouth disease are sores that form in the mouth and on the hands, feet, buttocks, and sometimes genital

areas and they look like small flat red spots. These small flat red spots create sores in the mouth making eating and swallowing painful and difficult. They also can make the hands and feet painful to touch and can sometimes cause fever.

In the meantime, everyone is advised to take necessary precautions by practicing good hygiene. Wash your

hands regularly with soap and clean water, keep your home clean and disinfect regularly used or touched surfaces and do not go to school or work if you are having fever. The Division of Public Health of the Yap Department of Health Services can be reached on telephone number 350-2114 for more information regarding this alert.

Yap announces upcoming 2023 Census of Population and Housing

Yap Media

February 02, 2023

COLONIA, Yap—The Office of the Governor wants the public to know that the FSM Department of Resources and Development in collaboration with the Yap State Government, will be conducting the 2023 Census of Population and Housing (CPH). Based on a release, unlike previous censuses, the 2023 CPH will be utilizing tablets to conduct the interviews and the data collection period will span over 2 months. The release indicated that this change is to assure data quality and quick turn-around time of the data.

2023 - April 15, 2023.

The information you provide the census workers visiting your home will be kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. As stated in FSM Public Law 5-77, all responses are kept in strict confidence and only persons who have sworn to uphold the confidentiality of census data can see your answers. The law only permits aggregated tabulation of the data gathered to be released. The law also prohibits release of survey information that would in any way identify individual identification and further prohibits use of the information in legal proceedings.

Consequently, the census result is fundamental to the planning and provision of services to the people of Yap and the entire FSM. It will provide the essential baseline information needed for planning in the next 10 years after the census. Your honest response is essential to assure best direction of Yap’s future economic growth.

The interviewing of households for this census round will begin on 12 February 2023 and will conclude mid-April 2023. All households in Yap will be interviewed and all households are kindly asked to allow the enumerators to visit their homes and interview them sometime during the enumeration dates (from February 12,

The Free bi-weekly publication
KASELEHLIE PRESS

Are you looking to advertise with the Kaselehlie Press?

We have over 20 years of experience serving the FSM, with readers around the globe. Let us serve you!

Climate Change remains the single greatest threat for Pacific—new Pacific Security Report

Pacific Islands Forum

February 7, 2023

Suva, Fiji- The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat has released the Pacific Security Outlook Report 2022 -2023, highlighting key regional security issues and trends.

By comparing the challenges and projections outlined in this report, regional decision makers can then consider which issues require most attention and prioritisation, both regionally and in their own national context.

As Leaders reaffirmed when they launched the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and as this report highlights, climate change remains the region's single greatest security threat.

Gender based violence and natural disasters are other key priority focus areas, together with illegal, unreported,

and unregulated fishing (IUU), cybercrime and transnational organized crime.

Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Henry Puna said 'to achieve the Forum's vision of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, it is important to have regional security mechanisms that help address traditional and non-traditional issues in the Pacific region.'

"We must not allow new issues to distract us from action to address the most pressing threats to the peace and security of Pacific peoples," said Puna.

The report states that the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the Pacific's health system vulnerabilities, which are long standing, and difficult to overcome, and highlighted the importance of a continued efforts to strengthen border and health security.



The Pacific Security
Outlook Report
2022-2023

Employment Opportunity NORMA Executive Director



Application Submission Deadline:
January 31, 2023- March 02, 2023

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) seeks well qualified individual to fill the position of Executive Director at National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA), FSM National Government, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941.

The Position

Responsible to NORMA Board of Directors for the implementation of Title 24 and all other regulations and obligations of NORMA; Responsible for overall management of NORMA including the budget; Ensure all NORMA staff execute the duties listed in their position descriptions; Ensure all Divisions follow NORMA policy and procedures including reporting on the strategic and Corporate Plans in collaboration with the Deputy Director; Determine the appropriate value for fishing rights in FSM Exclusive Economic Zone; Lead all fishery negotiations along with the NORMA Board of Directors; Administer all foreign and domestic fishing agreements including revenue, management and penalties including the Vessel Day Scheme; Liaise with the states and national government in their development program to provide information and data on NORMA's fisheries management and development work; Testify to Congress committee, State Legislatures and others on behalf of the activities and programs of the Authority; Represent NORMA at national, regional and sub-regional meetings as needed; and Performs other duties as assigned by the NORMA Board of Directors.

The Incumbent

Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Management, Public Service or equivalent. Specialized training and/or certification in various fisheries management system; at least 10 years of senior level experience in public or private sector management; and experience in fisheries and/or Pacific Island administration are desirable.

Benefits

A salary \$60,000 per annum depending upon the qualification of the applicant. Housing, travel, and relocation will be provided if applicable.

To apply

Submit applications/resumes by mail or email to the following addresses:

Officer of Personnel, FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA).

P.O. Box PS-35 P.O. Box PS-122

Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941 Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

Email: personnel@personnel.gov.fm Email: mail@norma.fm

The Office of Personnel will be accepting applications/resumes from **January 31, 2023, to March 02, 2023**

Appellate panel upholds decision that Esmond Moses is an FSM citizen and may run for Congress

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 7, 2023

FSM—On February 7, an FSM Supreme Court Appellate Panel consisting of Acting Chief Justice Bealeen Carl-Worswick, Associate Justice Larry Wentworth, and Specially Assigned Justice, Chief Justice of the State Court of Yap, Cyprian Manmaw upheld the trial court’s ruling that Esmond Moses is a citizen of the FSM and therefore qualified to be a candidate in the upcoming Congressional Election.

The trial court entered its judgment on December 21, 2022. On December 23, Erick Paul filed an appeal of that decision. Paul claimed that the trial court erred:

“1) in fact and law when it ruled that Esmond Moses registered his intent to remain an FSM citizen and renounced his U.S. citizenship because Moses’s

testimony was self-serving and unreliable;

2) when it did not rule that the Certificate of Citizenship signed by Attorney General Noket was solely to affirm that Moses was an FSM citizen in 1995 and not evidence that he had renounced his U.S. citizenship and retained his FSM citizenship;

3) when it did not rule unconstitutional Public Law No. 19-91, which created a rebuttable presumption that a citizen who has renewed his FSM passport twice in a row has renounced the citizenship of another nation and is solely an FSM citizen;

4) by relying on the Public Law No. 19-91 presumption to confirm Moses’s citizenship because that law was enacted in 2016 and thus cannot apply to Moses’s situation;

5) by relying on *Vance v. Terrazas*, 444 U.S. 252, 100 S. Ct. 540, 62 L. Ed. 2d 461 (1980) as an example to support its decision when the dual citizen, in that case, took much more prominent

steps than Moses did to renounce his U.S. citizenship; and

6) by holding that Attorney General Noket was the President’s designee for the purpose of receiving registrations of intent to remain an FSM citizen and for receiving renunciations of foreign citizenship.”

FSM Election Director Ausen Lambert argued that the appeal should not be granted due to a number of technical errors in the form of the appeal and to whom the appeal’s document was submitted. The Appellate Panel disagreed on all points, saying, essentially, that the intent of the submitted document was clear whether or not it had typographical errors and whether or not the Appellant specifically listed the court docket number of the trial court. Moses’ attorney made no arguments against the appeal. The Appellate Panel continued with its deliberations.

The Appellate Panel upheld all of the trial court’s rulings in the matter and stated its legal reasons for having done so, which essentially upheld the logic and rulings of the trial court previously discussed.

“Esmond Moses was an FSM citizen by birth under Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution, and he retained that citizenship past his 21st birthday through his compliance with Article III, Section 3 and 7 F.S.M.C. 203. His current FSM citizenship makes him eligible to be a candidate for election to Congress. Accordingly, we affirm the trial court decision denying a preliminary injunction barring Moses from a place on the March 7, 2023 ballot.”

The Appellate Panel also said that “Esmond Moses may tax his costs against appellant Erick Paul.”



Australia Awards

Make a difference with an Australia Awards Scholarship.

Do you want to be a leader in your field and join an inspiring network of changemakers? Apply today for your opportunity to gain a world-class education and become a leader for development.

Apply today

oasis.dfat.gov.au



Bid Announcement

The Governor of Kosrae State, FSM invites interested and qualified contractors to submit sealed bids for construction of the Arthur P. Sigrah Memorial Hospital Urgent Repairs Phase 1 project.

Work includes repair and replacement of approximately 6,000 square feet of metal roofing. Estimated cost \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The bid opening date will be on March 7, 2022 at 10:00 am Kosrae time. All bidding documents may be accessed at <https://www.tci.gov.fm> PMU section. Additional information may be obtained by written request from Mr. Bruce Howell, PE, Manager, Kosrae Project

Management Office at email: pmo@kosrae.gov.fm.

Biden-Harris administration announces move to reduce financial burden on U.S. Territories

Grant-Matching requirement to be waived for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands

U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON — Today, the Biden-Harris administration announced new efforts to reduce the financial burden on the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has directed all federal agencies and departments to waive local cost share requirements under \$200,000 for grants for the four U.S. territories. For local matching funds \$200,000 and greater, agencies and departments may waive the matching requirement for these four territories.

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act are providing once-in-a-generation climate and infrastructure resources to the U.S. territories, including investments in ecosystem restoration and climate resilience. Today's announcement will help ensure U.S. territories have the investments they need to develop a long-term plan to facilitate conservation, resiliency and economic growth.

At the Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) annual conference for territorial governors, members of Congress and other federal government officials today, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced that the Interior Department will extend the waiver of all match requirements, regardless of amount.

"Accelerated by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, the Interior Department is making coordinated investments in the U.S. territories to conserve public lands and ecosystems, bolster climate resilience, and safeguard the environment for future generations," said Secretary Haaland. "In implementing this new policy, territorial governments will have greater flexibility to access

these funds, further equipping them to upgrade critical infrastructure and invest in climate resilience."

Secretary Haaland and Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Julie Chávez Rodríguez serve as the IGIA co-chairs and delivered remarks at today's event, which was moderated by Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. Senior Advisor to the President and White House Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu and Interior Department Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Coordinator Winnie Stachelberg also participated.

"President Biden is committed to expanding access to federal programs and breaking barriers for disadvantaged and underrepresented communities," said Director Chávez Rodríguez. "This policy will help level the playing field and enable access to new resources for the territories."

At today's IGIA meeting, representatives from the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency shared updates related to ongoing implementation of these historic laws. They highlighted how these resources are helping assist the territories in upgrading critical infrastructure and bolstering resilience against climate change and extreme weather events.

Established by Executive Order 13537, the IGIA convenes the leadership of the U.S. territories to advance key issues such as climate change, economic development, energy and infrastructure, health, education, public safety, justice and other issues as prioritized.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PO BOX PS-69

Palikir, Pohnpei 96941 Phone: (691) 320-8814/8815 Fax: (691) 320-8936



Request for Expressions of Interest

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Specialist "ESIA Study for revetment project at Mosral and Paal"

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received a grant from the Adaptation Fund to implement a project, entitled, "Enhancing The Climate Change Resilience of Vulnerable Island Communities in the FSM". A portion of the grant will be used to fund the construction of a coastal protection revetment in the community of Malem in Kosrae State. The proposed revetment will be about 2000 feet.

The FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM) now invites qualified environmental and social impact assessment specialist to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the assignment. EOI's should include a letter of application supported by a Curriculum Vitae, and at least three (3) references.

The Services (as detailed in the Terms of Reference) include the review of existing reports and delivery of required studies to inform all parties of the design, organization and supervision of all survey work, the preparation of designs and bidding documents for construction, technical support for the supervision of construction. The Consultant will be based in the Department of Transport and Infrastructure (DT&I) in Kosrae State, FSM. The duration of the assignment will be for an initial period of 70 days (renewable).

An eligible applicant should have at least a master's degree in a relevant discipline such as Environmental Engineering, Environmental Sciences or Environmental Management. Or a Registered/Licensed Engineer, with professional qualifications that meet the requirements of an APEC Engineer and should have experience of a minimum of 10 years' experience on environmental and social assessment which include specific experience in undertaking environmental impact assessments on coastal protection works.

Interested Applicants can submit questions no later than 2 weeks before the deadline.

To obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference for the assignment or to submit questions or to obtain further information, please contact the person below.

Mr. Richard Moufa
Adaptation Fund
Project Management Unit
FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management
Email: richard.moufa@gov.fm
Telephone: (691)320-8814/8815

Interested consultants may also download a copy of the Terms of Reference here:

<https://fsm-data.sprep.org/resource/terms-reference-annex-eia-ksa-coastal-protection>

Expressions of Interest should be submitted electronically to Mr. Richard Moufa at the email address given above no later than **March 13th, 2023 at 1600 hours, local (Pohnpei) time.**



College of Micronesia-FSM

Yap | Chuuk | Pohnpei | Kosrae

Follow us online:



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Financial Aid Office

The director of Financial Aid Office (FAO) reports to the VPEMSS and serves as administrator for the college's student financial aid program. The director of FAO plans, organizes, and supervises the college's division of financial aid to administer federal, state, and institutional aid funds and services in an effort to promote access to higher education and student success as part of the college's mission and strategic outcomes.

Accountant V

Handles the preparation and presentation of financial statements including recording, classifying and analyzing financial transactions particularly the accounts related to cash and equivalents, and payables. Handles the treasury activities and other related responsibilities and accountabilities in the administration and management of cash receipt and collections.

Student Life Coordinator

Under the administrative supervision of the Director of Student Life, Student Life Coordinator is responsible for the effective coordination, delivery, evaluation and refinement of student support services, including but limited to: student government, students' organizations, student events and activities, student discipline, residence life, sports and recreation, and health services. The Student Life Coordinator will work closely with the Director of Student Life and student services staff college wide, to ensure that all programs and activities are in alignment with outcomes for student success as identified by the college.

The College of Micronesia - FSM is an equal opportunity employer. FSM Citizens are encouraged to apply

Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 179, 180, 181

VISIT US AT:

<http://www.comfsm.fm>

<http://www.comfsm.fm/?q=hr-jobs>

Programs Offered:

Bachelor of Science in

- Elementary Education
- Business Administration with emphasis in Accounting

Third Year Certificate of Achievement in

- Accounting
- General Business
- Public Health
- Teacher Preparation-Elementary

Associate of Science in

- Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- Business Administration
- Computer Information Systems
- Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Marine Science
- Nursing
- Public Health

Associate of Arts in

- Health Career Opportunity Program
- Liberal Arts
- Micronesian Studies
- Pre-Teacher Preparation
- Associate of Applied Science in
- Building Technology
- Telecommunication Technology
- Electronic Technology

Certificate of Achievement in

- Agriculture and Food Technology
- Basic Public Health
- Bookkeeping
- Cabinet Making
- Career Education: Motor Vehicle Mechanics
- Carpentry

Certificate of Achievement in

- Community Health Services
- Construction Electricity
- Electronic Engineering Technology
- Nursing Assistant
- Refrigeration and Air conditioning
- Secretarial Science
- Trial Counselor

For more information, please contact

Office of Admissions,
Records and Retention
Phone (691) 320-2480 ext 133, 137,
135, 136

We look forward to hear from you!

National Campus
P.O. Box 159
Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
Phone: (691)320-2480
Fax: (691)320-2479
E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
P.O. Box 879
Chuuk, FM 96942
Phone: (691)330-2689
Fax: (691)330-2740
E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm

FSM-FMI
P.O. Box 1056
Colonia Yap, FM 96943
Phone: (691)350-5244
Fax: (691)350-5245
E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.fm

Kosrae Campus
P.O. Box 37
Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944
Phone: (691)370-3191
Fax: (691)370-3193
E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm

Pohnpei Campus
P.O. Box 614
Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
Phone: (691)320-3795
Fax: (691)320-3799
E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm

Yap Campus
P.O. Box 286
Colonia Yap, FM 96943
Phone: (691)350-2296/5149
Fax: (691)350-5150
E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm



JOB VACANCY

Position: Coral Resilience Director
Closing Date: February 24, 2023

Who we are:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking a Coral Resilience Director for its Micronesia and Polynesia Program. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Grounded in science, we develop innovative solutions to the world's toughest environmental challenges so that people and nature can thrive. Our work is guided by our values, which include a commitment to diversity; respect for people, communities, and cultures; and a collaborative, bipartisan approach. Thanks to more than 1 million members, over 400 scientists, and the dedicated efforts of our staff and partners, we impact conservation around the world.

What we can achieve together:

The Coral Resilience Director leads, manages, coordinates and supports The Nature Conservancy's diverse portfolio of initiatives in Micronesia (the Federated States of Micronesia, Republics of Palau, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) and Polynesia (American Samoa and French Polynesia) aimed at ensuring that coral reefs are managed, protected and restored across the region and support the sustainability and resiliency of local communities. They negotiate complex and innovative solutions with government agencies, partners and communities to conserve and protect coral reef ecosystems and develop and implement conservation strategies. Frequent travel domestically and/or internationally, evening and weekend hours. May work in variable weather conditions, at remote locations, on difficult and hazardous terrain, and under physically demanding circumstances.

What you'll bring:

- BA/BS degree and 7 years' experience in conservation practice or related field or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Fundraising experience, including identifying donor prospects and donor cultivation
- Experience managing complex or multiple projects, including managing finances and coordinating the work of other professionals and partners.
- Supervisory experience, including motivating, leading, setting objectives and managing performance.
- Experience in partnership development with non-profit partners, community groups and/or government agencies.
- Experience negotiating

TO APPLY:

To apply for job ID 52842, submit your materials (resume and cover letter) online by using the Apply Now button at <https://careers.nature.org/> by 8:59 PM PST on 24th February 2023. Need help applying? Visit our recruitment page or contact applyhelp@tnc.org.

Do you have military experience? Visit our U.S. Military Skills Translator to match your military experience with our current job openings!

TNC is committed to offering accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities and disabled veterans in our job application process. If you need assistance or an accommodation due to a disability, please send a note to applyhelp@tnc.org with Request for Accommodation in the subject line.

Where legally permissible, TNC requires all new employees to be fully vaccinated and willing to keep up to date with vaccines that protect against COVID-19. By accepting an offer of employment, you agree to comply with this requirement, unless you are entitled to a legally mandated exemption.

U.S. Embassy Kolonia Chargé d'affaires Bibb hosts religious leaders for National Religious Freedom Day



U.S. Embassy Kolonia

U.S. Embassy Kolonia Chargé d'affaires Alissa Bibb and her spouse Andrew Dana hosted religious leaders, their spouses, and state and national officials to celebrate National Religious Freedom Day on February 4 at the Chief of Mission Residence. National Religious Freedom Day is celebrated in the United States each January 16 and highlights the freedom of religious expression Americans have enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and maintain to this day.

In her opening remarks in which she thanked attendees, Chargé Bibb acknowledged the work of spouses of religious leaders, who often play a

substantial, often unpaid, yet essential role in each ministry. She further noted: "Every person, everywhere has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and belief, including the freedom to change their beliefs or not believe. So important is this freedom that it is not enough to maintain freedom to practice religion just in the United States, but it remains a bedrock of our foreign policy engagement."

In addition to a celebration of religious freedom, the event provided an opportunity for community leaders to meet and share about the issues facing their congregations, open new lines of communication, and explore areas of cooperation.



iPhone 14 Pro
Pro. Beyond.

NOW AVAILABLE!

www.fsmtc.fm/wireless/phones



www.fsmtc.fm



customerservice@fsmtc.fm



320-2740



[@FSMTelecommunicationsCorp](https://www.facebook.com/FSMTelecommunicationsCorp)



[@fsm_telecom](https://www.instagram.com/fsm_telecom)

NORMA, Blue Prosperity Micronesia & SeaSketch Demo and Tutorial at the College of Micronesia

NORMA

On January 20th, 2023, NORMA Staff Alfred Lebehn Jr. and Partners Blue Prosperity Micronesia and Seasketch met with the College of Micronesia students to talk points on the FSM Maritime Boundary (MB) & Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) Projects and SeaSketch on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for FSM Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Students enclosed an interactive session on the importance of maritime boundaries and the accomplishments of the FSM concerning ECS. Leading discussion based on the joint submission on the limit of the continental shelf made in 2009 concerning the Ontong Java Plateau to full submission and a presentation to the Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) in respect of the Eauripik Rise on March 14th, 2014, as well as present work on an additional extended continental shelf submission covering the North of Yap



area, which was successfully lodged with the CLCS on April 22nd, 2022.

Students also had the opportunity to learn first-hand from SeaSketch Director McClintock about SeaSketch and its newly launched survey feature. The SeaSketch platform is a digital survey tool that puts powerful tools into the hands of ocean planners, stakeholders,

and the public that were once limited to Geographic Information System (GIS) professionals. Data gathered through SeaSketch surveys represent how individuals and communities use and value ocean space; ocean users can identify significant and valuable areas (for fishing, diving, and other traditional uses). The feature generates a comprehensive, evidence-based understanding of the

coastal and ocean environment. Pushing forward with Blue Prosperity's initiative to optimize ocean uses and support the sustainable growth of marine resources. Planners, stakeholders, and the public can all benefit from this information, as it allows them to identify critical areas for conservation and management. Thank you, COM students, for a fun interactive session.

Results on Nominees for Directorships in Yap State, FSM

Yap Media

February 02, 2023

COLONIA, Yap— Governor Chieng's formal nominations for directorships were entertained by the 11th Legislature on its second day, First Regular Session on Friday, January 27, 2023 and Monday, January 30, 2023. With the ten members of the legislature, two were excused being out of state during the Regular Sessions. As a result, TH Speaker Nicholas Figirlaarwon convened with eight members present and successfully acted on several various resolutions on Executive Directorships and Legislative positions before the body.

1. Resolution 11-01 confirming Mrs. Leelkan Pongliyab Southwick as Director for the Department of Resources and Development was passed with eight (8) Yesses.

2. Resolution 11-02, confirming Mr. Thomas Foruw as Director for the Department of Health Services passed with eight (8) Yesses.

3. Resolution 11-03 confirming Mr. Peter Rebeuluch as Director of the Department of Youth and Civic Affairs did not pass with three (3) No's and five (5) Yesses.

4. Resolution 11-04 confirming Mr. Joseph Giliko as Director for the Office of Administrative Services passed with eight (8) Yesses.

5. Resolution 11-06 confirming Mr. John Waayan as Director for the Office of Planning and Budget did not pass with three (3) No's and five (5) Yesses.

6. Resolution 11-08 confirming John Tamngin as Director for the Department of Public Works and Transportation did not pass with three (3) No's and five (5) Yesses.

The Legislature also entertained on the floor its Legal Council position for Genevieve Mangefel on Resolution 11-06 and Chief Clerk, Dee Libyan on Resolution 11-07 and confirmed both with eight (8) Yesses each.

The 11th Yap State Legislature reconvened its Regular Session on Monday, January 30, 2023 and also took action on reconsidering John Tamngin as Director of Public Works and Transportation alas it still did not pass on the second attempt with another three (3) No's and five (5) Yesses. Chieng's nomination on Mrs. Pamela Legdesog as Director for the Department of Education was also taken into account and acted upon during the Session with an outcome of three (3) Yesses and five (5) No's which did not pass for confirmation. Given that Mrs. Pamela Legdesog was Director of DOE in the past Administration and being re-

nominated by the new administration for the same position, the Legislature decided to forgo a Public Hearing on her Nomination and proceeded in acting on her nomination during the Regular Session that day.

Astodate, the only confirmed Directors by the 11th Yap State Legislature on Governor's Nominations are Mrs. Leelkan Pongliyab Southwick, Mr. Joseph Giliko and Mr. Thomas Foruw who were all Sworn-In by the Chief Justice of Yap State Court, TH Cyprian Manmaw, at the Governor's Conference Room on Wednesday, February 01, 2023 at 04:00pm. In the meantime, Governor Chieng has nominated Mr. Dominic Fanasog as the Director of the Department of Education to the Legislature and has been acted on with a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 01, 2023 at 10:00am.

...Officer-involved shooting

Pohnpei village.

Continued from front page

An as yet unnamed officer then drew his weapon and shot Ikelap. The bullet struck him in the right shoulder and continued out the other side.

Pohnpei State Fire Department provided first aid to the victims and the alleged perpetrator. They transported them to the Pohnpei State Hospital, where the victims were treated and released. Ikelap, however, at press time, is still at the Pohnpei State Hospital, where he is under a doctor's care.

No alcohol was involved in the incident. Police are looking into reports that Ikelap has previously demonstrated mental health issues, though he had not previously had any run-ins with State Police officers since he arrived from Oneop, Chuuk in 2014. Lt. Martin said that Pohnpei State Mental Health Services has no record of Ikelap ever having received treatment at their clinic. He said that police have reached out to Chuuk's Department of Health and to their Department of Public Safety to see if any incidents had been recorded before he migrated to the Nanmadap, Palikir,

At press time, Ikelap was still under in-patient doctors' care. Though he is under police guard, he has not yet been arrested for the incident on February 15.

There have been several incidents of police officers having drawn their weapons in the line of duty, and one in which an off-duty Pohnpei State Police officer who was intoxicated fired his weapon several times during a fight at Club Flamingo in March of 2007. That incident resulted in one bystander receiving shrapnel in the face.

National Police drew their weapons during a confrontation in Udot, Chuuk, in the early part of the first decade of 2000, but according to Joses Gallen, who was not the FSM's Attorney General at the time, no shots were fired during that confrontation to the best of his knowledge. National and Pohnpei State police have drawn their weapons during confrontations more recently, most notably during confrontations at Pohnpei's Port Authority. But again, to Secretary's knowledge, Wednesday's incident may have been the first time that a National police officer has fired a shot in the line of duty in FSM history.

...Micronesian Presidents' Summit

Continued from front page

chose and seated a Secretary General from a South Pacific country, former Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna.

The journey back to membership in PIF has been a long one, which is not yet quite complete, though the legally binding agreements should take place at a meeting next week in Nadi, Fiji. Concessions were made between the parties, including promises that the next chair would come from among the countries of the Micronesian region, and that certain offices would be situated within that region rather than in the Melanesian or Polynesian regions.

During the opening session of the MPS, which was public, FSM's President David W. Panuelo was seated as the chair. The new President of Nauru, Russ Kun, by virtue of his new position, was the de facto chair when he succeeded Lionel Aingamea, who had been the chair until September 29, 2022.

President Panuelo thanked the leaders for

taking the time and making the arduous journey to the FSM for the MPS. The Presidents of Kiribati, Taneti Maamau; Palau, Surangel Whipps, Jr.; and Nauru Russ Josephy Kun were physically present at the summit. RMI's President David Kabua attended the summit virtually. RMI's Foreign Minister Kitlang Kabua physically attended the summit on behalf of President Kabua.

The theme of the summit was "Paddling together for a stronger Micronesia", and all of the Presidents, during their addresses, indicated that is the current and ongoing intention. President Whipps of Palau, during his remarks, spoke candidly in the public setting, providing a history of previous MPSes that had not been publicly known before his speech. There was every indication that the Micronesian countries had not all been paddling together since the region made the decision to leave the PIF. He expressed disappointment with the fact that Kiribati's leader was unreachable by the rest of the nations when they were trying to negotiate what became known as the Suva Agreement. He alluded to other instances of the countries' having worked separately with only their own country's interests in mind. However, all, including

Click here for continuation



H.E. David W. Panuelo meets T.H. Kishida Fumio; FSM-Japan Kizuna further strengthened over dialogue on the importance of a free & open Indo-Pacific

FSM Information Services

February 3, 2023

Tokyo, Japan--PALIKIR, Pohnpei— On February 2nd, 2023, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—was received by the Honorable Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, at the Office of the Prime Minister in Tokyo. Over the course of a productive bilateral discussion between the two leaders and a follow-up working dinner, President Panuelo and Prime Minister Kishida emphasized their commitment to further develop the traditional, friendly, and cooperative relationship between the FSM and Japan i.e. the FSM-Japan Kizuna (special bond). Joining President Panuelo included the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the 22nd FSM Congress, as well as members of the President's Cabinet.

During their bilateral engagement, President Panuelo and Prime Minister Kishida reaffirmed their commitment to realize a Free & Open Indo-Pacific. They committed to opposing all forms of military, economic, and political coercion, and reaffirmed the critical importance of respecting international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight. In this regard, Prime Minister Kishida briefed President Panuelo on Japan's National Security Strategy, wherein the President relayed the FSM's genuine understanding and total support.

"Micronesia supports Japan's National Security Strategy," President Panuelo said, "and [we] proudly stand with Japan in support of the rules-based international economic order, and ensuring that the Indo-Pacific region remains secure, stable, peaceful, and prosperous."

President Panuelo congratulated Japan for its current membership in the United Nations Security Council, and reaffirmed the FSM's long-held position that Japan ought to become a permanent member of the Security Council after the Council undergoes necessary reforms.

In view of the cross-cutting impact between traditional security and economic security, President Panuelo and Prime Minister

Kishida agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the promotion of economic security. The President and the Prime Minister expressed concern, and strong opposition to, economic coercion to achieve political ends.

President Panuelo was both explicit and direct in asserting the FSM's views on its close familial relationship with the People and Government of Japan. "The People and Government of Japan are one of our Nation's closest friends, allies, and development partners," President Panuelo said. "We share common values, such as a commitment to democracy and democratic principles...we share 35 years of diplomatic relations and more than 100 years of traditional relations. Micronesia is proud that we share a Kizuna, or special bond, with one another."

The President described at length the FSM's appreciation, across administrations, for Japan's in-depth and wide-ranging support to the FSM across virtually every sector. "The People and Government of the [FSM] appreciate Japan's transparency and support on the issues that are important to our people. We were humbled and proud that the Japanese Ambassador residing in our Nation attended every COVID-19 Task Force meeting to keep us informed on how the Pandemic was impacting your country, which improved decision-making for policy makers in Micronesia."

As an outcome of the bilateral engagement, the Honorable Kandhi A. Elieisar—Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs—and His Excellency Michigami Hisashi, Ambassador of Japan to the FSM, signed an exchange of notes, wherein the FSM will receive approximately \$2,700,000 of medical equipment, such as x-ray machines and infusion tubes.

The meeting also covered Japan's forthcoming donation of four small patrol boats to the FSM. This cooperation is expected to strengthen the FSM's maritime security and law enforcement systems, thereby contributing to the Nation's economic and social development through social stabilization. Originally agreed upon in June 2022, the specific applications to be provided, and the capabilities required for them, will be determined in future

discussions between the FSM and Japan Governments. It is projected that the patrol boats, which will be deployed mainly for activities in the FSM's territorial waters near its coastline, will not reach the FSM until 2024 at the earliest.

"I am also personally appreciative to Japan for its transparent and substantive briefings on the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS)-treated water; our country is no longer fearful or concerned about this issue as I relayed at the United Nations General Assembly, and now has a deep trust in Japan's intentions and technological capabilities in not harming our shared oceanic assets and resources," President Panuelo said.

In a Joint Statement signed by President Panuelo and Prime Minister Kishida, the FSM and Japan—among many other topics—shared their intention to maintain high-level mutual visits and dialogues, as well as to promote exchanges between the two countries' Parliamentarians, including friendly parliamentary leagues. The President and Prime Minister additionally reaffirmed that people-to-people exchanges should be facilitated in various fields, including further dispatch of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteers, such as in the area of mathematics teaching at the FSM's public schools.

"There is much our People and Government are thankful for," President Panuelo said. "We thank you for providing mathematics teachers who volunteer in our schools, improving the education of our children, and for financial support for our Fisheries & Maritime Institute. We thank you for providing infrastructure support, such as the expansion of our commercial and fisheries dock in Pohnpei, and the East Micronesia Cable Project in partnership with the United States of America and Australia. We thank you for providing medical equipment and training. We thank you for sharing information that impacts our decisions. But most of all, we thank you for being our friend."

Mindful that missile testing and the abduction of citizens by the People's



Pictured Above: H.E. David W. Panuelo & T.H. Kishida Fumio

Republic of Korea (i.e. "North Korea") is one of Japan's most sensitive and important security issues, President Panuelo promised Prime Minister Kishida that the FSM "will always support Japan in this area however we can. We will co-sponsor and/or vote for any resolution at the United Nations, or join with Japan in any other bilateral or multilateral action deemed necessary and important, to show solidarity on this issue."

"It is the objective of the [FSM] to extend to all peoples and nations that which we seek," President Panuelo said. "Peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity. We hope that the People of Japan feel this peace, friendship, cooperation, and love. And I conclude my remarks by confirming, without any doubt, that the People of Micronesia feel this peace, friendship, cooperation, and love from Japan."

On February 3rd, 2023, President Panuelo and his delegation—inclusive of Members of Congress and officials, both elected and public service, from the State Governments—celebrated 35 years of diplomatic relations with Japan through the opening of the FSM's new Embassy building. Following the opening of the Embassy, the President engaged numerous media outlets through a Press Conference and one-on-one interviews, as well as entertained courtesy calls from representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan among others.

The FSM-Japan Kizuna celebrates 35 years of formal diplomatic relations, and more than 100 years of traditional relations.

Pacific Islands Forum High-Level Delegation meets with Japan PM Fumio

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

February 7, 2023

Tokyo—On 7 February 2023, a High-Level Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Delegation met in Tokyo with the Prime Minister of Japan, the Honourable Fumio Kishida. The PIF Delegation was led by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands and Incoming Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Honourable Mark Brown, and supported by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Honourable Kitlang Kabua, and the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Henry Puna.

Prime Minister Brown highlighted the long partnership shared through the PIF between Pacific Islands and Japan, and welcomed further opportunities for strengthened engagement based on trust and friendship. In this context, and in the spirit of honest dialogue, Prime Minister Brown conveyed the concerns and requests of Pacific Leaders for deferral of Japan’s plans to discharge over a million tonnes of treated nuclear wastewater from Fukushima into the Pacific.

This was also in pursuit of PALM9 commitments and the strong concerns by PIF Leaders at their 51st PIF Meeting regarding the significance of the potential threat of nuclear contamination to the health and security of the Blue Pacific, its people and prospects. Foreign Minister Kabua emphasised that nuclear contamination continues to be a real and grave threat to the Pacific, one which the Pacific takes seriously and is legally bound to prevent. Transboundary harm and intergenerational impacts remain serious concerns, particularly for small islands that depend on the ocean for their livelihoods. Foreign Minister Kabua highlighted the continuing realities of nuclear contamination, and the intergenerational nature and permanent impacts on Marshallese homes and on Marshallese peoples’ health and livelihoods.

Highlighting the importance of the ocean to the livelihoods of Pacific peoples, Prime Minister Brown, while respecting the decision of Japan, reiterated the PIF’s concern with the implications of such a decision beyond Japan’s maritime space and into the maritime space of other states including PIF states.

Recalling commitments at the PALM9, Prime Minister Brown emphasised the independent scientific assessments and advice that PIF have undertaken on the data. After extensive work, including exchanges with Japan and IAEA experts, the PIF panel of independent experts advise that the quantity and quality of the data is insufficient and incomplete to support an assessment of safety, and a decision to release the TEPCO tank waters into the Pacific. Prime Minister Brown reaffirmed PIF requests for more time and data to enable the PIF independent panel to complete its assessment and provide advice to Forum Leaders on the safety or otherwise of the ocean discharge proposal.

Prime Minister Brown stressed that PIF was seeking a common solution to safeguard the future of the Blue Pacific Ocean and One Blue Planet for all humanity. In this UN 2 Decade of the Ocean, Japan can show global leadership in protecting our ocean for generations to come. Prime Minister Brown and Prime Minister Kishida agreed on the need for further intensive dialogue both at the scientific and political level, particularly facilitated exchange of information and dialogue between Japan and PIF experts, and the importance of science and data to guide the political decision on the discharge. As part of these intensive dialogue, PIF also sought Japan support for IAEA experts to meet with the PIF panel of experts.

The PIF Delegation welcomed Prime Minister Kishida’s assurance that Japan will not discharge the ALPS treated nuclear wastewater until such time that that it is verifiably safe to do so and based on a relationship built of trust and in the spirit of friendship. Prime Minister Brown emphasised that this matter will be discussed at the upcoming Special Session of PIF Leaders.

Prime Minister Brown congratulated the Government of Japan on its planned announcement of support for the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise, recognising the permanency of maritime zones under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Both Leaders looked forward to the PALM 10 meeting in 2024, and to further discussing issues of mutual interests.

Incoming PIF Chair PM Mark Brown and Japan Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayash meet in Tokyo

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

February 6, 2023

Tokyo—The incoming Forum Chair and Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, the Honourable Mark Brown, is leading a Forum delegation to Tokyo this week to convey concerns and requests of Pacific Leaders for deferral of Japan’s planned discharge of treated nuclear wastewater into the Pacific.

Prime Minister Brown met today with the Japan Foreign Minister, Yoshimasa Hayashi. PM Brown was accompanied by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Henry Puna. Recalling related commitments at the PALM9, PM Brown emphasised ongoing Pacific concerns with the proposed plans for ocean release, based on PIF independent scientific assessment of the data.

The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister confirmed the importance of ensuring no harm to the environment and human health. PM Brown reiterated the need for assurance that release will not be undertaken without further exchange of information and satisfaction of all parties. Prime Minister Brown emphasised that he will provide a report to Pacific Leaders on this matter at their upcoming Special session. He reaffirmed the current

position of the PIF on the issue, and the importance of working together towards a common understanding on the scientific basis and implications of the release.

Prime Minister Brown and Foreign Minister Hayashi agreed on the need for further intensive dialogue, particularly between Japan and PIF experts, and the importance of science and data to guide the political decision on the discharge. Prime Minister Brown welcomed the Foreign Minister’s recognition and strong support for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

These included the need for enhanced cooperation in an increasingly complex geopolitical and security environment, the need to accelerate efforts moving forward, climate change emissions reductions, the transition to net zero by 2050, and the opportunities for closer collaboration afforded by the PALM process. Prime Minister Brown and Secretary General Henry Puna congratulated the Government of Japan on its planned announcement of support of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise, recognising the permanency of maritime zones under UNCLOS.



Samoa outlines vision as new AOSIS Chair

SPREP

At a special Plenary meeting on Monday 30th January, 2023 featuring the official handover ceremony, the reigns of leadership of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) were handed over by the Caribbean island of Antigua and Barbuda, to the Pacific Island of Samoa. This culminates four years of AOSIS Chairmanship within the Caribbean region, with Belize serving prior to Antigua. The regional rotation of Chairmanship ensures fully inclusive representation among all Caribbean, Pacific, African, Indian Ocean and South China Seas members.

AOSIS plays an integral role in international climate and sustainable

development negotiations, and has been central to the advancement of small island developing States' priorities. Significantly, AOSIS has been a key figure in the milestone achievement of a loss and damage fund establishment at the recent COP27 in November, 2023.

As new Chair, Samoa Prime Minister the Honourable Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa vowed to continue the excellent work of the previous Chairs, particularly by amplifying marginalized voices and advocating for the Alliance's interests on the global stage and to secure global commitments and agreement. She outlined the Chair's new vision, which will focus on Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and the Ocean,

including issues such as food security, energy, ocean's health, and more ambition on finance to support the achievement of agreed targets under the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the SAMOA Pathway.

"For 2023, we will continue the work to advance our collective interests in climate change especially with respect to climate financing and the achievement of the 50/50 split between mitigation and adaptation," Prime Minister Fiamē said. "We will continue to keep the Loss and Damage flame burning and inject urgency into our efforts aimed at concluding BBNJ negotiations."

"Sustainable development is a key strategic priority. Economic recovery is an enormous challenge and responsibility. To this end, the importance and effective implementation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) cannot be over-emphasized. The MVI is a tool to assist SIDS in addressing the economic recovery challenge, especially in relation to access to concessional financing, debt regime sustainability and ODA eligibility and effectiveness. AOSIS has been at the forefront of this strategic process, and we must now over the coming 12 months

complete what remains to be done."

"Ocean is the lifeblood for most of our countries. But whilst its sustainable use provides a core pathway towards our future development and livelihoods, like the climate emergency, we must also urgently address the associated risks." Prime Minister Fiamē highlighted the ocean-climate nexus, plastic pollution negotiations, the Blue Economy, and the Global Biodiversity Framework as key issues.

In his congratulatory address, Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda noted he was placing the Chairmanship in most capable hands, and that his country looked forward to working with the new AOSIS Chair in preparation for the 4th UN International Conference for SIDS in 2024.

Representing the Prime Minister, Ambassador Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru emphasized that the AOSIS Chair would accelerate advocacy for concrete outcomes to ensure not just the survival, but the prosperity of small island developing States.

Audit staff gather in Fiji to hone their media and communications skills

Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions

7 February 2023

Nadi, Fiji: The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is delivering Communications and Media training to 24 staff (16 female, eight male) from 16 public audit offices in the Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM National, FSM Pohnpei, FSM Yap, Guam, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

From 7 to 10 February 2023, participants will learn how to draft media releases, prepare a spokesperson for a media interview, maximise their impact with social media content and incorporate multimedia into audit reports and related communications material.

Participants will also have the chance to work with training facilitators to prepare for their next stakeholder engagement event and develop an annual communications operational plan that supports their offices' strategic priorities.

PASAI Director Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting, Annie Subactagin-Matto, and her team are facilitating the training and explained, "We aim to improve our members' ability to

effectively communicate audit findings, increase the impact of their work and demonstrate their value to the lives of citizens in the Pacific."

PASAI Director (South Pacific), Meresimani Vosawale-Katuba; Communications Advisor, Luke Eaton; and eLearning Specialist, Danial Sadeqi, will also facilitate the training at the training venue in Nadi, Fiji.

The workshops build on previous training in PASAI's Communications Programme delivered online over the last three years, including developing and implementing a communications strategy, stakeholder engagement, report writing and multimedia use. Facilitators and participants will still benefit from using PASAI's online Learning Platform before, during and after the in-person training.

"That so many audit staff are willing to travel from all around the Pacific shows the strong demand for this kind of training, customised to the needs of each audit office," Ms Subactagin-Matto added.

PASAI acknowledges the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

INVITATION TO BID

for

Construction of Two Lagoon Dispensaries (Parem and Sapore), Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia

NOTICE

The Project Management Office (PMO) of the Chuuk State Government is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to interested contractors for the *Construction of Two Lagoon Dispensaries (Parem and Sapore), Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia*.

It is the Chuuk State's intent to evaluate the problems and concerns that the interested bidders may be confronted with, precluding them from participating in the bidding process. With this as the objective, and for Chuuk State to ascertain what measures can be taken to help prospective bidders to work around such concerns, a pre-bid meeting is being scheduled on **Friday, February 24, 2023** at the Conference Room, Project Management Office, 3rd Floor, Administration Building, Chuuk State Government, Weno, Chuuk, FSM 96942. For out of State contractors who wish to participate, a Zoom conference will be arranged, for which they are advised to send their names and email addresses to Mr. Sanjata Basu, Project Manger, PMO at email sanjata.basu@gmail.com, latest by **Tuesday, February 21, 2023**. Local contractors are requested to confirm their desire to participate through email.

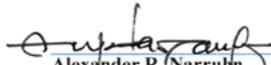
A site visit following the meeting is encouraged.

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to the Project Manager at P.O. Box 1659, Weno, Chuuk, FSM 96942 or at the email address cited above, with the subject heading:

"Construction of Two Lagoon Dispensaries (Parem and Sapore), Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia"

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work, bills of quantities, technical specifications, drawings and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the website of Department. of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure at <https://www.tci.gov.fm/>, in the PMU section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is **Friday, March 17, 2023 at 4.00 PM**.


Alexander R. Narruhn
Governor, Chuuk State & Contracting Officer

February 03, 2023
Date

UOG gallery to display GDOE students' creative works through Art-a-Thon

University of Guam

The Isla Center for the Arts at the University of Guam announces the 24th Annual Art-a-thon Exhibition, themed "My Colorful Future," which is opening this week.

The opening reception for the exhibit will be from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, at House No. 15, Dean's Circle, on campus at UOG. The exhibit will continue through March 3, 2023.

The exhibit is open to the public and free of charge.

The exhibit will showcase more than 46 works selected from the artwork of 717 students from 16 Guam Department of Education Schools who participated in this school year's Art-a-thon.

Students from elementary, middle, and high schools produced these impressive works using a variety of media including crayons, pastels, colored pencils, ink, collage, mixed media, pastels, markers, watercolor, ink, acrylics, cardboard, and digital media, according to Velma Jean Yamashita, Associate Professor of Art, and Coordinator at Isla Center for the Arts.

This year's Art-a-thon raised nearly \$38,000. Forty percent of the funds raised will be distributed back to the participating schools to support student art programs. Isla retains 40 percent of the funds raised for programming,

and the remaining 20 percent is used for art supplies and prizes for the participating students.

This project is sponsored by the UOG College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Da Local Grind House, Infusion, Meskla Guam, Pacific Islands Club, Pay-Less Supermarkets, and Tango Theaters.

The project is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, the Government of Guam, and the Office

of the Governor.

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more information, call (671) 735-2965 or email islacenter@triton.uog.edu.



2023-art-highschool

This artwork submitted by Jamie Poblete, from Simon Sanchez High School, won first place in the high school category, 24th Isla Art-A-Thon



2023-art-elementary

This artwork submitted by Brix Malagayo, from Harry Truman Elementary School, wins first place in the elementary school category, 24th Isla Art-A-Thon



2023-art-middleschool

This artwork submitted by Iris Nicole Romero, from Astumbo Middle School, won first place in the middle school category, 24th Isla Art-A-Thon

Forum Secretary General, Henry Puna on the Kiribati announcement of return to the Pacific Islands Forum

Statement by Henry Puna, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum on the Kiribati announcement of return to the Pacific Islands Forum:

Pacific Islands Forum

01 February 2023

I am delighted at the announcement on 30 January, from the Office of the President of Kiribati, confirming their intention to return to the Pacific Islands Forum.

This follows the successful meeting earlier this month between His Excellency Taneti Maamau, President of Kiribati, and the Prime Minister of Fiji and Forum Chair, the Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka.

I am grateful to all who have worked tirelessly to restore the Pacific Islands Forum to its full solidarity. This is a profound moment in the history of Pacific regionalism and as we move

forward together, I hope that we can look on the last 24 months as a reflection of our collective will to protect and uphold the unity of our Forum Family.

I acknowledge the statesmanship of Prime Minister Rabuka and the spirit and willingness of President Maamau in bridging this way forward. It is a moment of celebration as we continue to weave our Pacific story of resilience and solidarity, underpinned by our own Pacific Way.



Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety suspends two of its Police officers

Department of Public Safety

February 6th, 2023

The Department of Public Safety issued two preventive suspensions on February 6th, 2023 to Police Officers Roney Pablo and Savier Edwin of the Pohnpei State Division of Police & Security for alleged violation of department policies, regulations and State Law.

Allegations involving Police Officer Roney Pablo that he was driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) on early morning of January 14th, 2023 when his vehicle ran off road and collided to the Bank of Guam sign causing damages to property. The Fire Division and police

arrived on scene where Pablo was later transported to the Pohnpei hospital for medical treatment. No serious injuries were sustained but he was admitted thereafter for doctors' observation.

As for Police Officer Savier Edwin, a criminal complaint was filed against him on January 16th, 2023 for assault, assault & battery and domestic violence. Victim was medically examined and did not sustain serious bodily injuries as a result of this incident.

Both officers are currently being suspended on preventive suspension. Preventive Suspension stipulated under Part 13-5 of the Department Rules &

Regulations is not a punishment for misconduct in office but is considered to be a preventive measure. Management concerned may preventively suspend any Member under pending an investigation or administrative case, if the charge(s) against such officer or employee involves: dishonesty, oppression, grave misconduct, negligence in the performance of duty and if there are reasons to believe that the respondent is liable to charges which would warrant his or her removal from the Division. If members are found liable to the allegations, actual penalty of disciplinary action (suspension/termination) will be imposed upon the member.

All members are sworn under oath to serve and protect the people of Pohnpei and to uphold the laws of the State. The Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety will not tolerate any violation and misconduct for any member of the Department and will ensure that professional practices and public service are adhered to at all times. The Department encourages the public to report any signs of misconduct by members to the Department's Human Resource Office at telephone 320-3910, email publicsafety@mail.fm or Professional Standards Officer at pohpeipoliceps@gmail.com or you may directly contact the Pohnpei Police Commission Office at 320-2803.

IAEA Team visit Fiji, update Pacific on Japan nuclear wastewater issue

Pacific Islands Forum

09 February 2023

Suva-Fiji: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) updated Pacific nations on its work to review plans by Japan to release over a million tonnes of treated nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean, in the coming months. The wastewater, treated under a process known as ALPS, comes from storage tanks at the damaged TEPCO Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima from the nuclear disaster following the great earthquake and tsunami event of 11 March 2011.

The IAEA team, led by Director and Coordinator of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, Gustavo Caruso, were part of the hybrid session at the Secretariat as part of a two-day visit to Fiji. IAEA presented to Forum Members on its safety standards and its work to review safety related aspects of the wastewater and of the ocean discharge plan.

In his opening remarks, Acting Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dr Filimon Manoni, thanked the IAEA for appreciating the magnitude of the issue to Pacific Islands, noting the concurrent High-Level political mission in Japan taking Pacific concerns to the highest level of political leadership.

"The unfortunate accident of March 2011 does remind us of the challenges of nuclear safety and so we constantly strive for higher standards in terms of safety to

lives, as well as to the environment and human health", Acting SG Manoni said. "Many of us in the region do not need to be reminded about the seriousness of the issue. We live with the legacy of nuclear contamination as a result of the post-WW2 nuclear testing programmes, and have the actual lived experience as well as the moral authority to speak on this issue".

In a frank question and answer session, Pacific officials raised questions and concerns regarding Japan's ocean release plan, including the adequacy of

the data, the safety of the wastewater, its alternative uses, and the need for full transparency and strengthened information sharing between IAEA and PIF in order to address information gaps and help the work of the PIF independent experts reviewing the data.

The IAEA reaffirmed its commitment to ongoing dialogue with Pacific states and experts, and reiterated the importance of science-based, independent, impartial and transparent engagement.

Acting SG Manoni reiterated the need for

more meaningful exchanges with the IAEA moving forward in view of the urgency of this issue.

*Created in 1957, the IAEA is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. There are currently 9 Pacific Members of the IAEA: Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa, and Tonga who recently joined in 2022.



UOG MARC and Guam-based think tank form a partnership

University of Guam

The Richard Flores Taitano Micronesia Area Research Center (MARC) at the University of Guam has partnered with a new Guam-based think tank whose advisory group includes former presidents of island nations, a former representative to the U.S. Congress, and a Pacific Islands Studies professor.

MARC and the Pacific Center for Island Security (PCIS) formed the partnership to promote independent research on geopolitical developments in the Pacific, with a focus on the Micronesia region.

The MARC-PCIS partnership also aims to promote the UOG as a preferred choice for advancing geopolitical knowledge in the region.

'From an island perspective'

UOG President Emeritus Robert Underwood, who served as Guam's delegate in the U.S. Congress, is the chairman of PCIS who hopes the partnership with the University will foster discussions centered on how Guam and the rest of the Micronesia region view geopolitical events that affect the islands.

"In the ongoing discussion about the military strategic competition between

China and the U.S., there are no shortages of think tanks and advocates about the nature of this competition on a global level. There is no think tank that studies the topic from an island perspective. PCIS aims to fill that gap," Underwood said.

"This collaboration can potentially expand knowledge about geopolitical issues in Guahan and the region beyond the press releases of officials. Questions need to be asked and research conducted from a regional point of view. This cooperation will make that possible," according to Underwood.

Open dialogue, balanced analysis

Monique C. Storie, Dean of University Libraries at UOG, described some of the potential benefits of the partnership.

"By partnering with the PCIS, the University of Guam further strengthens its role within the community by serving as a platform for open dialogue and balanced analysis. We also envision that this partnership will offer our students some unique opportunities to be involved in research that will not only impact but also help our Pacific region," Dr. Storie said.

Dr. Carlos Madrid, MARC Director of Research, added: "Geopolitical issues,



Robert Underwood



Monique Storie



Carlos Madrid

particularly aspects related to political status, are among the research priorities for the Micronesia Area Research Center. This partnership with PCIS covers a gap in that field and expands the scope of our active disciplines."

The PCIS Advisory Council members are:

- Former President Hilda Heine, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Former President Emmanuel Mori, Federated States of Micronesia
- Former President Thomas Remengesau Jr., Republic of Palau
- Former President Anote Tong, Republic of Kiribati
- Former Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who also served as the CNMI resident representative to the U.S. Congress
- Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, Professor, Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Council

About MARC: The University of Guam's Richard Flores Taitano Micronesia Area Research Center (MARC) is the primary repository of Micronesia history, knowledge, and cultural preservation in the region. Its full-time research faculty covers different fields ranging from anthropology, history, and archaeology. MARC has a research library that contains over 40,000 volumes of resource materials on Guam and Micronesia, and 800 unpublished theses and dissertations. <https://www.uog.edu/marc/#Welcome>

About PCIS: PCIS is a Guam-based foundation (501c3), whose mission is to provide independent analysis of the foreign policy and military-strategic activities between and among the actors in the emerging Great Power Competition in the Asia-Pacific region. For more information see www.pacificcenterforislandsecurity.com

UOG Guam Green Growth program launches Art Corps, artists invited

University of Guam

The Guam Green Growth program at the University of Guam is launching its first Art Corps this month.

The program is looking for eight artists who will collectively design, plan, and paint murals in Guam. The public murals will reflect the island's journey toward achieving sustainability by 2030 as guided by the Guam Green Growth Action Framework and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Joseph Certeza, an outreach coordinator, said the Guam Green Growth Art Corps is groundbreaking for Guam and the region.

"Our goal is to grow the capacity of our talents on island and, at the same time, to share experiences with other artists around the Pacific," he said.

The eight selected artists will receive a stipend in return for participating in capacity-building activities and creating the mural in collaboration with the team. Arts Corps members can receive up to \$4,000 for attendance of 14-Day sessions and the design and completion of one assigned mural between March 2023 and June 2023.

Seventeen murals will be painted in two years by two batches of Art Corps members.

The arts and culture are at the core of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, according to Director Austin Shelton of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant Program.

"It is important to mobilize community support and public engagement for the SDGs by disseminating the messages of these goals through a creative vehicle,

such as music, the written word, or the visual arts," he added.

The Art Corps project is made possible through funding administered by the U.S. Department of Education CARES Act utilizing Education Stabilization Funds (ESF). The UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Guam Green Growth received the funds as part of the Governor's Education Assistance and Youth Empowerment Grant Program.

For more information and to apply for the program:

<https://guamgreengrowth.org/g3artcorps/>

GUAM GREEN GROWTH ART CORPS

Calling all artists!

Get Involved and Create Change!

Raise awareness on the UN Sustainable Development Goals through collective action. Be part of the first Guam Green Growth (G3) Art Corps. G3 is looking for eight (8) artists who will collaboratively design, plan, and paint murals on Guam.

Visit guamgreengrowth.org to apply!

Application Deadline
February 24

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBERSIDAD GUAMAN

GUAM GREEN GROWTH

...Micronesian Presidents' Summit

Continued from page 11

Whipps agreed that was all in the past and that they were set to move forward en bloc.

President Maamau of Kiribati had said during his statement that his country's reservations had nothing to do with the Micronesian leaders but with the Pacific Islands Forum who, he said, seemed to be ignoring the concerns of the Micronesian leaders. He said that Kiribati has always been united with the Micronesian leaders. The country only recently announced that it would continue with PIF.

Suva's Prime Minister Stiveni Rabuka, who is the current PIF chair, addressed the MPS members virtually. His statement talked of "Pacific Solidarity". "In the Pacific, we share common underlying values that are built around our people, our communities, our cultures, and our traditions, which form our very identity as Pacific people," Prime Minister Rabuka said. "These values underpin our solidarity as a family; our collective efforts as a region; and our shared vision for our people." He said that he regretted that more political effort was not invested in resolving the PIF impasse with the Micronesian region when it first occurred.

Rabuka's first State visit was to Kiribati to meet with President Maamau to discuss a way forward for the region.

During his address, President Whipps outlined an entirely different historical plan than what the leaders ultimately agreed upon. One of those plans was for the FSM to be the seat of a regional PIF's office and for an RMI candidate as the next Secretary General. The communique that the leaders ultimately signed last evening said that the next Secretary General of PIF would be a candidate from Nauru and the location of the PIF sub-regional office to be located in the Republic of Kiribati. The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner would be in Palau and agreed to support the candidacy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the post of Pacific Ocean Commissioner. They also agreed that the office of the MPS Secretariat would be in the FSM and the office would be given an elevated status. It would be headed at a level of a Secretary General, inclusive of membership fees.

Though the recent history in the region has not indicated a sense of solidarity within the Micronesian region, the MPS clearly



President David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia



President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. of the Republic of Palau



Kitlang Kabua, Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Marshall Islands



President Taneti Maamau of the Republic of Kiribati



President Russ Joseph Kun of the Republic of Nauru



Saudi Arabian delegation



Australian Ambassador Jo Cowley, Japanese Ambassador Hisashi Michigami, U.S. Charges de'Affaires Alissa Bibb, Rear Admiral Benjamin Nicholas, Chinese Charge de'Affaires ZHANG Weitao, UN MCO Resident Coordinator Jaap van Hierden

showed that time is in the past and that all have agreed to move forward, leaving the past where it belongs, as a lesson to build on.

During a lunch session, several entities briefed the MPS on issues of regional importance. The communique expressed its thanks to Rear Admiral Benjamin Nicholson for an in-depth security briefing on matters impacting the Pacific, including Climate Change; Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing activities; and maintaining peace across the Blue Pacific Continent.

Presidents also received a briefing from the Resident Coordinator for the United Nations Multi-Country Office located in Pohnpei, including information about a planned new One UN Micronesia House, which will house 19 international agencies and over 100 staff members eventually joining the office.

Saudi Arabia sent a delegation to the MPS to make presentations, particularly Saudi Arabia's interest in hosting the World Expo 2030. Several of the Micronesian

countries expressed support for that effort. They also solicited Saudi Arabia's financial help in establishing the UN One Micronesia Office in Pohnpei.

MPS leaders also welcomed U.S. President Joe Biden's planned visit for a Leader's Summit in the Pacific Region.

The Presidents also welcomed Kiribati's offer to host the 22nd Micronesian Presidents' Summit.