

Massive marlins and plentiful yellowfin steal the show at Pohnpei Fishing Club event

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 29, 2024

Pohnpei—Three good-sized marlin were boated during the third tournament of the Pohnpei Fishing Club on Saturday. Westcott Panuelo landed a monstrous 334.8-pound marlin, winning the \$1,000 first prize in the big fish category. His catch was followed by a 284.6-pound blue marlin landed by Wilmar Aquino, who won the \$600 second-place prize. The third-place \$400 prize was awarded for a marlin just qualifying at 103.4 pounds, caught by Bernolina Hedson.



It was a beautiful day for fishing, and the catches of the 18 boats that signed up to participate in the tournament showed it. Apparently, yellowfin tuna were running, with some boats single-handedly taking as many as 14 yellowfin ranging in size from 40 to 80 pounds.

Fourth place in the big fish category went to Nile Panuelo with an 80.2-pound yellowfin. That prize was \$250. The ubiquitous and prolific Marvey Spencer Jr. took the \$200 fifth prize for a 67.2-pound yellowfin.

[Click here for continuation on page 5](#)



FSM again receives Tier 2 rating for Anti-Human Trafficking efforts, U.S. State Department report says

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 30, 2024

Washington D.C.— "Human trafficking is a stain on the conscience of our society. It fuels crime, corruption, and violence. It distorts our economies and harms our workers. And it violates the fundamental right of all people to be free," said U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in the opening words of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report. "Around the globe, an estimated 27 million people are exploited for labor, services, and commercial sex. Through force, fraud, and coercion, they are made to toil in fields and factories, in restaurants and residences. Traffickers prey on some of the world's most marginalized and vulnerable individuals – profiting from their plight."

Each year, the U.S. State Department, in an effort to build global partnerships to eventually eliminate the crime of human trafficking, rates individual nations' efforts to combat the crime and to support the victims of it—the "3P Paradigm" of prevention, protection, and prosecution.

This year, the theme for the report is technology and how it can be used to combat human trafficking through sharing information, providing support services for victims, aiding in prosecution and investigation efforts, and identifying tech companies.

According to the United Nations, "Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and

children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world."

A victim need not be physically transported from one location to another for the crime to fall within the definition of human trafficking. In point of fact, a victim can even be trafficked in their own home or in that of loved ones.

The State Department ranks the Human Trafficking prevention efforts of individual countries on a three-tier rating system. Tier 3 is essentially a failing grade indicating that a country is making little to no effort to prevent or contain the crime or support its victims.



Secretary Blinken speaking during the release of TIP Report 2024

Tier 2 has been described as something equivalent to a "C" grade in school. It indicates that a country does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. A Tier 1 rating is given to a country that meets all of the requirements for the elimination

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

2024 FSM Finance Conference kicks off in Chuuk State

FSM Information Services

June 25, 2024

WENO, Chuuk—Key finance personnel from throughout the nation are gathering in Chuuk this week for the 2024 FSM Finance Conference, co-chaired by the FSM Dept. of Finance and Administration and the host state Chuuk State Dept. of Finance. Convening under the theme of “Strong Public Finance Driving Inclusive Sustainable Development” the conference sets out to bring all state and national finance personnel together to share and discuss key updates, information and challenges in order to better synergize for more efficient delivery of services.

Setting the tone for the first day was a presentation from the Office of Compact Management to discuss the requirements and financial processes to access the economic provisions under the recently passed amended “Compact 3”.

Other highlights on the week’s agenda include presentations from the Green



Climate Fund’s FSM team, focused on enhancing access and managing climate finance for resilience. The conference also featured a showcase presentation to the nation on the new cloud-based Financial Management Information System (FMIS) which will support redesigning the current Public Financial Management (PFM) system and provide the national and state governments with a unified government technology platform and new tools to manage a wide-range of fiscal procedures including Budget Preparation, Compilation, Adoption & Execution, Bank and Treasury Management, Payroll and Personnel Management, Fixed Asset and Inventory Management, Project, Grant and Fund Management and enhanced access for citizens to information on how public funds are used, which will complement the FSM Dept. of Finance and Administration’s FSM Citizens Budget initiative launched earlier this year.

Central to driving the conference’s priorities and discussions were hearing presentations from each of the state department of finance Directors and heads of delegations. As highlighted in the T.H. Vice President Palik’s keynote remarks, “The Simina-Palik administration is committed to reforming and strengthening public finance. We are focused on strengthening our institutions and processes at the national level that align budgets with policy priorities, delivering quality public services efficiently and affordably. In this effort, we must collaborate with the States...we envision a financial ecosystem that empowers each state and enhances our collective capacity to manage resources effectively.”

The rest of the week’s sessions will hear on progress of the FSM Strategic Development Plan and practical sessions on the procedures for Reconciliation of Federal Grants Reimbursements between the National Government and the States including Clearing of Encumbrances, Drawdown and Reporting Procedures, the Financial Management Regulations on Procurement and Procurement Contracting as well as updates on World Bank and Asian Development Bank projects. Other topics to be addressed include Insurance Matters, Audit Findings and Recommendations, Customs and Tax matters, initiatives around increasing Transparency and Citizens Engagement and an update on the FSM Trust Fund.

At the outset of the conference and in encouraging all participants to fully engage, T.H. Rose Nakanaga, Secretary of the FSM Dept. of Finance & Administration said, “The agenda for this Conference has something for everyone whether it is making ourselves ready for implementation of the new Compact, taking stock of our ongoing PFM Reforms or further developing our local capacities through effective implementation of our projects funded by our development partners and other trainings that are on offer. It is important that we take advantage of the opportunities provided by this annual gathering.

“Being away from our workstations allows us to look up from our daily work and look at the bigger picture without distractions.”



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
phone: (691) 320-6547
email: Kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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

July 17, 2024

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

Monday, July 15, 2024

FSM to host first National Energy Forum to address energy challenges and goals

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 30, 2024

FSM—On July 8 and 9, the FSM’s utility CEOs, state and national leaders, and representatives of FSM development partners will gather for the first-ever National Energy Forum to outline short-term (2030) and long-term (2050) action plans for improving energy affordability, access, and sustainability. The forum, with the theme "Energizing FSM - Affordability and Beyond," has been organized by the Government of FSM with support from the European Union (EU), Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, and the Pacific Community

(SPC).

The FSM has long faced energy sector challenges that the forum intends to discuss and address. The FSM has some of the highest energy tariffs in the region, posing significant development constraints. Current national electrification is at 82 percent, with a goal to achieve 100 percent by 2030. Additionally, the stated goal to increase the renewable energy share in FSM’s electricity mix from 13 percent to 70 percent by 2030 will require substantial investment.

The background materials for the upcoming forum state that there are

key objectives to address. Discussions will focus on creating an independent regulatory authority, procuring independent power producers (IPPs), and potentially adopting a national IPP bill. The forum aims to develop strategies to electrify unelectrified islands, including the establishment of a donor fund. Lastly, the forum will align with Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) and update FSM's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to ensure significant reductions in carbon emissions and increased renewable energy use.

Organizers say that achieving the FSM’s energy goals will require an estimated

\$300 million. The forum will discuss resource mobilization and the need for a long-term human resource strategy to address the low absorptive capacity and shortage of skilled engineers.

At the end of the forum, it is hoped that the outcomes will memorialize and mobilize the commitments made during the meetings. These outcomes include validating the 2024-2050 National Energy Policy and implementation plan, strengthening the National Energy Workgroup and supporting resource mobilization, and fostering real collaboration among national and state leaders, utility representatives, and development partners.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy appoints new Micronesian student



U.S. Embassy to the FSM

June 25, 2024

Colonia, Yap—Ms. Stasia Fugog from Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) officially presented her appointment letter to attend the United States Coast Guard Academy on June 13, following her high school graduation on May 25. The ceremony took place at Yap State Governor’s Office where she was joined and celebrated by her family, mentors, government officials, and visiting military personnel.

her new position as the sixth FSM student to be accepted into the U.S Coast Guard Academy. Congratulations on your well-deserved achievement!



Ms. Fugog flies out to New London Connecticut on June 23 to report to

Governor Joseph and Lt. Governor Ioanis lead strategic cabinet meeting

Pohnpei Public Information

June 17, 2024

Nett, Pohnpei—Governor Joseph and Lt. Governor Ioanis chaired the monthly cabinet meeting at the Department of Health’s conference room on Monday, June 17, 2024, to review and advance the administration’s planning priorities. The meeting emphasized the need for an Executive Retreat for the Governor and cabinet members to align on strategic goals and strengthen collaborative efforts.

The cabinet discussed Pohnpei’s Strategic Development Plan, highlighting the urgency to complete consultations by August 2024. Additionally, they introduced the Infrastructure Planning and Implementation Committee to address and prioritize Pohnpei’s critical infrastructure needs. This initiative underscores the administration’s commitment to enhancing the state’s development and addressing essential projects efficiently.

Pohnpei State EPA Executive Officer, Mr. Francisco Celestine, provided an update on the Dump Site Task Force and Clean Up Task Force. He shared progress on consultations with USAID regarding the current dump site and plans for a new site. Governor Joseph will

sign an executive directive to advance this initiative. The upcoming Pohnpei Clean Up Day was also discussed, emphasizing community involvement in maintaining a clean environment.

Governor Joseph sought input on forming an economic advisory committee and shared his vision of establishing high schools in each municipality. PUC representative Mr. Trevayne Esiel announced that a new power plant would be operational by September 2025, with a temporary containerized backup unit available in the interim. Other discussed priorities included acquiring a Field Trip Ship for the Outer Islands and collaborating on the UN One Micronesia House. Governor Joseph and Lt. Governor Ioanis urged the cabinet to present potential solutions alongside challenges to foster proactive governance.



...TIP

Continued from front page

of trafficking. It does not at all indicate that trafficking doesn't exist within the country but that the country vigorously prosecutes "HT" violators and supports victims of the crime once they are identified.

There is also a Tier 2 Watchlist rating which has been described as something equivalent to the grade of "D" indicating that a country is not outright failing in its efforts but it should "wake up" and start doing the work it needs to do for its people. The FSM Government at one time several years ago was rated at Tier 2 Watchlist. This year, the FSM was again given the Tier 2 rating for its efforts, which though, substantial, weren't enough to meet minimum requirements.

The Trafficking in Persons report does not merely assign a rating and leave it at that as happens with academic grades. It provides a narrative report of what specific events and efforts led to the rating and makes recommendations for improvement.

"The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so," the report concluded. "The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period; therefore, Micronesia remained on Tier 2. These efforts included administering training to its law enforcement officials, conducting awareness-raising activities, initiating a trafficking investigation, and training shelter staff on shelter management. The government initiated development of an updated NAP (National Action Plan). However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. Authorities did not assist any trafficking victims. For the second consecutive year, the government did not initiate any trafficking prosecutions or convict any traffickers."

Recommendations

The State Department's recommendations were for the FSM to:

- Adopt and implement victim identification and referral SOPs, train stakeholders on their use, and proactively increase victim identification and screening, including

among individuals in commercial sex, migrant workers, school-aged children, LGBTQI+ individuals, and provide them protection services.

- Investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes, including those involving family members and complicit officials, and seek adequate penalties for convicted traffickers, which should involve significant prison terms.
- Institutionalize anti-trafficking training for immigration officials, prosecutors, and state-level judges, including on how to implement a victim-centered approach.
- Expand efforts to raise awareness on all forms of human trafficking, particularly among traditional leaders, healthcare professionals, and vulnerable populations, including school-aged children and FSM citizens who might migrate for work overseas.
- Establish an MOU between the national government and state governments to ensure trafficking victims identified by state governments can access services at the national level.
- Improve coordination and communication between national and state government agencies and NGOs by regularizing national and state task force meetings and allocating resources to their activities.
- Increase resources for protection services and collaborate with, and provide financial or in-kind support to, NGOs who assist trafficking victims.
- Update and implement the NAP and state-level plans.
- Monitor foreign labor recruitment for trafficking indicators, including the coercive use of debt.
- Take steps to eliminate recruitment or placement fees charged to workers by labor recruiters and ensure any recruitment fees are paid by employers.
- Provide legal alternatives to the removal of foreign trafficking victims to countries where they may face hardship or retribution.

Prosecution Efforts

According to the report, over the past year, the FSM government initiated only one trafficking investigation, mirroring the previous period, and did not secure any new prosecutions or convictions. Progress on ongoing cases, including those against a former government official, remained stalled.

Efforts have continued to enhance

law enforcement capabilities included appointing a specialized human trafficking investigator in each state and providing comprehensive training to judges, immigration officers, and police. However, widespread customary justice practices, social stigmatization, resource limitations, and insufficient training continue to hinder effective enforcement.

The FSM's small, insular communities often protect traffickers, complicating investigations. Despite these challenges, the government collaborates with international counterparts to improve its anti-trafficking measures. Increased resources and public awareness are crucial for more effective action against trafficking.

Victim Protection Efforts

The report said that the FSM made efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims but faced several challenges. In the past year, the government identified two potential victims, compared to three the previous year. However, it did not finalize or implement the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for victim identification and referral developed earlier. These draft SOPs also lacked adequate measures to screen for trafficking indicators among LGBTQI+ individuals, leading to potential deportations of unidentified victims.

It said that authorities struggled with recognizing trafficking indicators and assisting foreign victims, lacking SOPs for referring self-identified victims to care. No victims were assisted or referred to services this year, a decrease from the previous year's one assisted and three referred victims. While the government could offer various support services, it did not provide funding or resources to NGOs for additional services.

Dedicated trafficking shelters operated in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap, with shelter staff receiving training in July 2023. Despite these efforts, there was no update on the SOPs for shelter management. Victims faced challenges accessing services, especially on outer islands, and the lack of an MOU between national and state governments hindered service accessibility.

Victim participation in investigations or prosecutions was not mandatory, and no victims participated this year. Some state judicial systems did not maintain victim confidentiality due to court testimony requirements. Additionally, there were no legal alternatives for foreign victims facing retribution in their home countries.

Prevention Efforts

On prevention efforts, the TIP report said that the FSM continued anti-trafficking prevention through the Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTD), with a \$125,000 annual budget. National and state anti-trafficking task forces included government agencies, healthcare professionals, and civil society members. The FSM implemented its 2014 National Action Plan (NAP) and started developing an updated version.

Challenges included poor information sharing between agencies and a lack of awareness among some officials. The government conducted public awareness campaigns targeting various groups. A policy required labor recruiters to register with the government, but enforcement was inconsistent. Restrictions on migrant workers changing employers without special permissions risked exploitation.

The AHTD operated a multilingual trafficking hotline, but no investigations or victim identifications resulted from calls. The government did not monitor foreign labor recruitment, inform nationals about safe migration, or prohibit worker-paid recruitment fees, which could lead to debt-based coercion. Efforts to reduce demand for commercial sex acts were also lacking.

Trafficking Profile

As a summary of its findings, the last section in this year's TIP report included an FSM Trafficking Profile. It said that human traffickers exploit both domestic and foreign victims in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and FSM nationals abroad. About 50% of workers are in the informal economy, lacking labor law protections, which increases their vulnerability. Climate-induced displacement, especially on low-lying outer islands, further heightens this risk.

Traffickers use social media and online ads to recruit victims. Micronesian women and girls are often exploited in sex trafficking by family members and traffickers in hotels, restaurants, and on fishing vessels. Many cases go unreported due to social stigma and fear of repercussions. Vulnerable groups include LGBTQI+ individuals, the unhoused, and those in commercial sex.

Forced labor on fishing vessels is common, with language barriers preventing foreign victims from seeking help. Traffickers also lure FSM citizens to the United States with false job promises, forcing them into commercial sex, domestic servitude, or forced labor.

...Tournament

Continued from front page

The tournament was sponsored by Pohnpei LP Gas, Pohnpei Metal Works, Seven Stars Inn, Riverside Restaurant, Seven Stars Store, Hot Plate, and Snowii's.

Prizes were awarded for the biggest fish of each qualifying species as well. First-place prizes were \$150, and second-place prizes were \$100. Marvey Spencer Jr. won the top prize for his 66.2-pound yellowfin, followed by a 66.2-pound example of the species caught by Hilarko David.

Yoma Edward had the largest skipjack tuna at 17.4 pounds, followed by Rohspein, whose skipjack was 14.6 pounds.

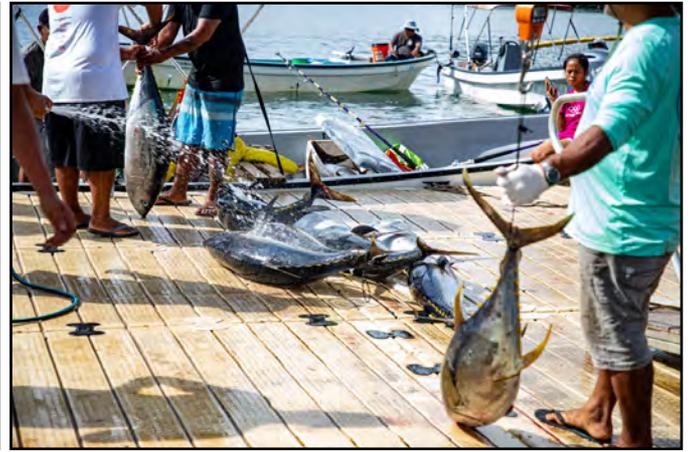
Casiano Mawal landed the only wahoo caught during the tournament at 17.2 pounds.

The top lady angler was Rohspein, who landed an 18-pound skipjack for the top lady angler prize of \$250. Bernolina Hedson won the second lady angler prize of \$150 for a 12-pound barracuda.

A 64.2-pound yellowfin tuna, one of many caught aboard his father's boat, won Dave Spencer the \$25 junior angler prize.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club has been on a campaign to ensure that all club members are safe on the water by each having an EPIRB aboard. They may well have completed that campaign during this tournament with two EPIRBs presented to members. Rickson Martin was awarded the EPIRB donated by the Pohnpei Fishing Club, and Sonny Mark was awarded the EPIRB donated by the Australian Embassy.

Though the marlin caught during the tournament were large, none were large enough to beat the 450-pound record for the fishing club's jackpot which now stands at \$10,000. Neither were any yellow fin tuna larger than the 140-pound record setting tuna which now carries a jackpot of \$1,800.



Gathering honors Konrad Englberger for over 25 years of service to Pohnpei

Pohnpei Public Information

June 28, 2024

Kolonia, Pohnpei—A special gathering was held at the Division of Agriculture, Botanical Gardens to honor Konrad Englberger for his outstanding contributions to the people and State of Pohnpei. On behalf of Governor Joseph, Director of the Department of Resources and Development, Mark Kostka, presented Mr. Englberger with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his many years of dedicated service in agriculture, invasive species management, resource management and conservation, and numerous community projects spanning over 25 years.

Leaders from local conservation societies, including Mr. Roseo Marquez from the Micronesia Conservation Trust and Eugene Joseph from the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, alongside representatives from



government entities such as Francisco Celestine, Executive Officer of the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency and Mr. John Wichep FSM R&D, and newly confirmed Administrator of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Jorg Anson, attended the event to pay tribute to Mr. Englberger's mentorship, guidance, and invaluable knowledge. Mark Kostka,

Director of the Pohnpei Department of Resources and Development, recounted his initial experience working with Mr. Englberger when the false sakau appeared in Pohnpei, a challenge that was successfully managed with Konrad's expertise and advice.

Mr. Englberger expressed his gratitude to all attendees and encouraged them

to continue the important work they have started. He said he had some good times and bad times, but will only take and remember the many good times he had. He was especially proud of the work done on invasive species in Pohnpei and promised to stay in touch with the Invasive Species team to offer advice and guidance via email.



GEM High School graduates from Ebeye welcomed by Governor Stevenson A. Joseph

Pohnpei Public Information

June 19, 2024

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph warmly welcomed the recent graduates of GEM High School from Ebeye, along with their principal, parents, Pastor Noble Ned, and Mr. Douglas Bolkeim, during a special breakfast at Riverside Restaurant. This visit marks a significant moment of connection and celebration for the students as they embark on their next chapter in life.

Governor Joseph greeted the graduates and expressed his gratitude for their visit to Pohnpei. He took the opportunity to share insights into the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of Pohnpei, highlighting the unique attractions that make the island a special place. His remarks were aimed at encouraging the young visitors to appreciate and explore the wonders of Pohnpei during their stay.

Throughout the breakfast, Governor Joseph engaged with the students, offering words of encouragement and advice for their future endeavors. He emphasized the importance of pursuing passions over monetary gains, advising the graduates to seek careers that align with their interests and values. Governor Joseph also spoke on the virtues of public service, urging the young graduates to consider giving back to their communities as a rewarding and fulfilling path.

The event concluded with Governor Joseph's heartfelt parting words, leaving the graduates inspired and motivated to follow their dreams with a sense of purpose and dedication. The visit to Pohnpei and the memorable breakfast with Governor Joseph will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on the GEM High School graduates as they step into the future.



POHNPEI'S #1 RADIO

PARADISE RADIO

FM 89.5 V6WI

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!

Contact us today at kpress@mail.fm



College of Micronesia-FSM

Yap | Chuuk | Pohnpei | Kosrae

Follow us online:



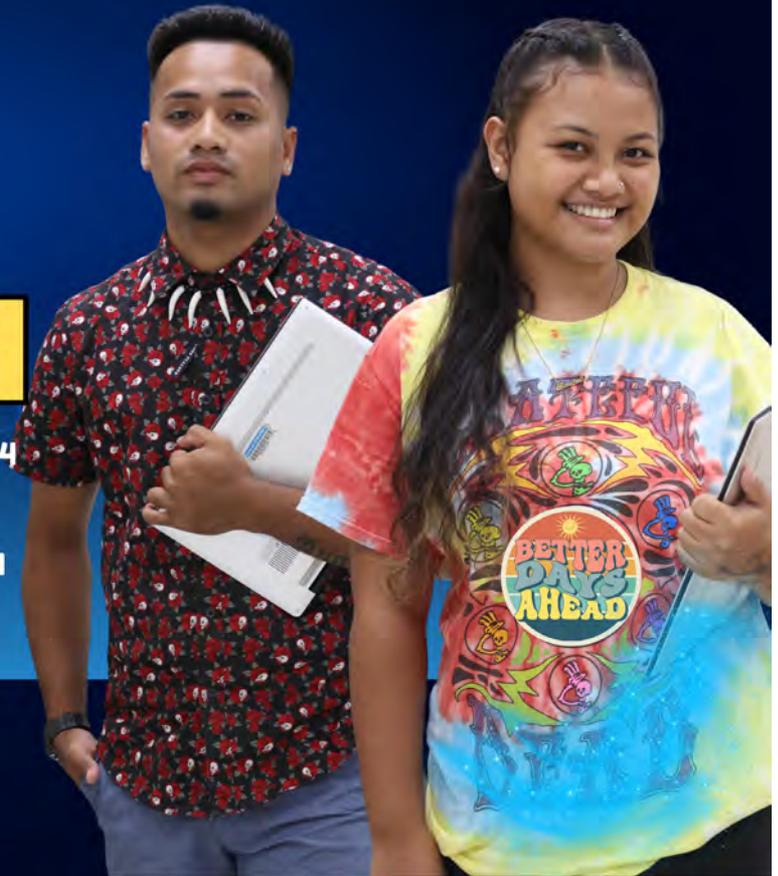
2024 FALL SEMESTER REGISTRATION

Early Registration:	July 1 - July 5, 2024
Orientation for New and Transfer Students:	August 8, 2024
Registration for New and Transfer Students:	August 9, 2024
Regular Registration (All Students):	August 12-14, 2024
First Day of Instruction:	August 19, 2024
Last Day to Add/Drop:	August 21, 2024

CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS:

691-320-2480 /1065/ 3795

www.comfsm.fm



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

Ambassador Susaia presents credentials to the Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva

FSM Information Services

June 13, 2024

GENEVA, Switzerland—On June 13, 2024, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) marked a significant milestone in its international relations as His Excellency Akillino Harris Susaia presented his credentials to Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office, as the FSM's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

This appointment underscores the FSM's growing commitment to international diplomacy and multilateral cooperation. Ambassador Susaia's extensive

diplomatic career includes serving as Ambassador to the United States (2017-2023), Ambassador to the People's Republic of China (2010-2015), and Consul General in Hawaii (2008-2010). He has also held key roles within FSM's government, including Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (2005-2008) and Secretary of the Department of Transport, Communications and Infrastructure (2002-2005). His public service began at the state level in the Pohnpei State Government, where he served from 1978 to 2000.

Ambassador Susaia holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Oregon. He is married and has two sons and two daughters.

With this new mission, the FSM joins the ranks of 181 of the 192 United Nations member countries and becomes one of six Pacific Island Forum members to establish a permanent presence in Geneva. This strategic move enhances the FSM's capacity to engage on global issues and further integrates it into the international community.



H.E. Ambassador Wu Wei meets with T.H. Kummer S. Biza, Mayor of Kolonia Town

Chinese Embassy to the FSM

June 21, 2024

Palikir—On June 21, 2024, H.E. Wu Wei, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the FSM, met with T.H. Kummer S. Biza, Mayor of Kolonia Town of Pohnpei State, and exchanged views on friendly cooperation of local governments between China and the FSM.

Ambassador Wu Wei said the Chinese side would actively implement the important consensus between H.E. President Xi Jinping and H.E. President Wesley W. Simina. On the basis of one-China principle, China would like to improve friendly exchange between local governments between China and the FSM, deepen cooperation in various fields, and benefit people of both countries.

Biza said Kolonia would firmly support one-China principle, and would like to establish Friendly Cooperative Relationship with Chinese cities, improve practical cooperation and make contribution to the bilateral relations.



Australia sponsors legal development course

Australian Embassy to the FSM

June 21, 2024

Chase Whitfield and Sophie Russell from Australia's Attorney-General's Department were here in Pohnpei

to deliver a two-day Legal Policy Development course.

The course aims to improve capacity to develop, consult on and implement successful policies, and promotes more

effective collaboration, particularly in policing and criminal law and justice.

Participants included staff members from the FSM National Department of Justice and representatives from each

of the FSM states Attorneys General offices.

Kalahngan lap to Chase and Sophie and congratulations to all participants of the workshop.



Pohnpei Soccer Association (PSA) receives a donation from the States

Pohnpei Soccer Association

June 30, 2024

Pohnpei—On Sunday, the Pohnpei Soccer Association held the first annual Pohnpei Soccer Association (PSA) Football and Futsal day. The day was filled with football fun for all ages. The kids' group (under 13) was coached by Mana and Sefa Petrini and they played inside at the PICs gym while the older international mix of youth and adults from Pohnpei, America, Fiji and Brazil braved the hot sun all day to give the young ones some respite.

The morning started with some stretching led by the Australian Ambassador and then soccer games and matches for all ages. With thanks to the Red Cross, there was a session teaching the children the basics of first aid. Mr Giulio Biddau who was one of the organizers of the day indicated that it is important for children to learn about basic first aid especially for those playing sports. We were so happy the Red Cross could donate their time for this event.

At midday there was a potluck where the families who joined brought food. It was nice to share food together and enjoy each other's company. Also, with thanks to Simon's and Ace hardware we have plenty of water and additional food.

During the lunch break there was a handover ceremony where Mana Petrini from the United States handed over 29



pairs of cleats and other soccer equipment to the PSA. Mana organized a drive for soccer equipment at Cardigan Mountain School where he attends with support from the Athletics Director, Mr. Frost. The equipment was donated from the students and faculty of the school. Mana brought it over in suitcases, as he traveled here for the summer to be with his dad who works for UNDP and he was happy to hand over good quality cleats today. The cleats will help the team to be fully outfit for their upcoming games.

During Mana's speech, he thanked Mr. Alex Panuelo, President of PSA and FSM Football Association as well as Mr. Giulio Biddau for organizing the event. Further, he thanked Ms. Liz Turk and Kevin Mudong for their trust in him and his twin brother, Sefa, for coaching the kids group this summer. He also thanked the students and faculty of Cardigan Mountain School for their generous donations of cleats and other equipment.

Mana's speech was followed by a heartfelt speech from Mr. Alex Panuelo, President of PSA and FSM Football where he reminisced about when he was young and working with passion like Mana to raise resources for Soccer in the Federated States of Micronesia.

A day like this only happens with the support of the community including the kid's families. We would like to thank all those who came out for the fun day and participated. Please note that Kids soccer for 8-13-year-olds continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 throughout the summer at PICs field.



Yap Governor's courtesy meeting with FSM Vice President

DYCA PIO

June 18, 2024

Colonia, Yap—On June 12, 2024, from 3:00 pm to 4:10 pm, The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Honorable Governor of Yap, Charles Chieng, Lt. Governor Francis Itmai, and other key officials convened a courtesy call meeting to address a range of critical issues impacting Yap State and the FSM.

The discussions covered several important areas, including improvements to logistical and operational aspects of the airport, the Vice President's visit to the Yap High

School graduation as the guest of honor, and ongoing responses to the drought emergency. In addition, the meeting addressed economic concerns related to FSM's COFA agreement and discussed strategies for economic development in Yap State.

A significant portion of the dialogue focused on enhancing the relationship between the state and national governments. Another topic addressed was US military activities in Yap and the FSM related to the Yap airport project and the importance of coordinated



efforts to manage its activities. The Governor reiterated Yap State's commitment to collaborating with the National Government, highlighting initiatives to assess land values accurately. Vice President Palik stressed the necessity of precise land evaluations

and effective communication to support these efforts.

The conversation also extended to current international matters, emphasizing the need to build capacity and develop a national security policy to address cybersecurity threats. Looking ahead, an upcoming roundtable exercise is planned in Pohnpei to prioritize state needs and actions, particularly in infrastructure, transportation, and financial sectors. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of ongoing cooperation and support between the FSM National Government and Yap State Government.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomes German Researcher Jakob Claus, unveils historic photos of Pohnpei

Pohnpei Public Information

June 28, 2024

Kolonia, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph of Pohnpei State had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Jakob Claus, a private researcher from Germany, during a courtesy visit to the Governor’s Office. Mr. Claus shared a collection of historical photographs taken in Pohnpei around 1910, just before the Sokehs Rebellion, providing a rare and valuable glimpse into the island’s past.

The photographs, which are housed at the Archive of the MARKK in Hamburg, Germany, depict various aspects of life in Pohnpei over a century ago. Some photos are meticulously labeled with the names of Pohnpeian men and women, while others lack specific information. This collection is a significant addition to the understanding of Pohnpei’s history, offering a unique visual documentation of the island’s cultural and social landscape during that period.

Governor Joseph expressed his deep appreciation and enthusiasm for the historical insights provided by Mr. Claus and strongly encouraged Mr. Claus to continue his collaboration with both our State and National archives. Mr. Claus’ efforts in

unearthing and sharing more of Pohnpei’s history are commendable and greatly appreciated.

The Governor emphasized the importance of preserving and documenting Pohnpei’s historical artifacts and encourages local scholars and researchers to actively participate in these efforts.

The Pohnpei State Government remains committed to supporting initiatives that enhance the understanding and preservation of the island’s history. This collaboration with Mr. Claus and the is a testament to the enduring importance of historical research and cultural exchange.



Now available!

In Chuuk
Blue Lagoon Resort

In Kosrae
HT & Sons
Senny’s Enterprises

In Pohnpei
7 Stars Inn
Ace Office Supplies
AMCRES Service Station
Black Sand Stores
Blue Nile Store
FSM Postal Services - Philatelic Bureau
Isamu Nakasone Store
Joy Hotel
Mangrove Bay Hotel
Nihco Store
Panuelo Enterprises
Yoshie Enterprises

In Yap
Yap Cooperative Association

For wholesale inquiries, please email islanesia@fsmc.com







President Simina welcomes JICA President Dr. Akihiko Tanaka to the Federated States of Micronesia during historic visit

FSM Information Services

June 24, 2024

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) hosted Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in a historic visit to the FSM. This visit marks the first occasion a sitting President of JICA has visited the FSM, underscoring a significant milestone in the bilateral relationship between FSM and JICA.

The meeting began with President Simina officially welcoming Dr. Tanaka to the FSM and expressing gratitude for his visit. Dr. Tanaka reaffirmed the robust ties between JICA and the FSM, emphasizing JICA's commitment to aligning its initiatives with President Simina's vision and the FSM Government's priorities. Dr. Tanaka requested President Simina to share the national plans and strategic focus areas of the FSM to ensure coherent collaboration.

President Simina articulated his vision of unity for the FSM, highlighting that "through unity, we gain strength and prosperity." He acknowledged the timely nature of Dr. Tanaka's visit to build on the "Kizuna" (bonds of friendship) between the FSM and Japan. President Simina expressed appreciation for JICA's contributions to the FSM's infrastructure development, including docks and runways, and noted the ongoing need for JICA's support in these areas. He emphasized that the FSM's National Government acts as a conduit to the State Governments, acknowledging the collaborative efforts of all four states in the nation's development endeavors.

Dr. Tanaka commended President Simina's concept of unity, recognizing its importance in guiding JICA's collaborative activities. He highlighted the significance of human capacity development in enhancing unity, stressing the need to cultivate capable administrators across various sectors, including communication, fisheries, and

education.

Addressing the issue of "brain drain," President Simina expressed hope that FSM students who pursue education in Japan would return to contribute to their home country. He pointed to the need for improved infrastructure and strategic development plans to retain and utilize the skills of FSM's young citizens. Dr. Tanaka suggested that enhancing higher education within the FSM, similar to JICA's support for the University of the South Pacific, could help in retaining talent and attracting both local and international students, including those from Japan.

Dr. Tanaka also raised the issue of solid waste management, a common challenge for island nations. He mentioned JICA's J-Prism scheme, which supports the design and management of waste sites in island nations through capacity building

and site design measures.

Concluding the courtesy call, President Simina proposed a follow-up meeting with key staff from both parties to further discuss and refine the topics raised during their conversation. Both leaders expressed their eagerness for continued dialogue and collaboration, looking forward to their next meeting in Japan at the upcoming PALM 10 meeting which President Simina will be attending as well as the Japan Expo.



Governor Stevenson A. Joseph meets with President H.E. Hilda Heine in Majuro

Pohnpei Public Information

June 25, 2024

Majuro, RMI—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph of the State of Pohnpei made a courtesy call on H.E. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, while attending the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro.

During this brief yet meaningful visit, Governor Joseph and President Heine engaged in broad discussions on mutual interests vital to the well-being and future of both regions. Key topics included renewable energy initiatives, strategies for ensuring food and water security and addressing the continuing epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Governor Joseph expressed his gratitude to President Heine for her hospitality and reaffirmed Pohnpei's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and partnership.



FSM UN representative calls for stronger ocean protection

FSM Information Services

June 20, 2024

FSM Ambassador to the FSM Permanent Mission to the United Nations H.E. Jeem Lippwe emphasized the FSM's position on stronger ocean protection at the Thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Ambassador Lippwe argued that while transitioning away from fossil fuels is crucial, it should not result in poorly regulated exploitation of marine areas, potentially causing a new form of pollution.

"Replacing one form of harm to the marine environment with another is not a responsible approach to Ocean management," he said, citing Article 195 of the Convention which prohibits transforming one form of marine pollution into another.

The needs of the present generation must not come at the expense of future generations," he said.

The FSM welcomes new German ambassador

FSM Information Services

June 28, 2024

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Yesterday on June 27th, 2024, His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina warmly welcomed His Excellency Andreas Pfaffernoschke, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the FSM, during a ceremony for the presentation of credentials.

In his remarks, President Simina celebrated the strong and friendly diplomatic relations between the FSM and Germany, which were formalized on April 21, 1992. He emphasized the shared values and interests that have underpinned this partnership, including a mutual commitment to regional and global security, respect for the international rules-based order, and concerted efforts to address the existential threat of climate change.

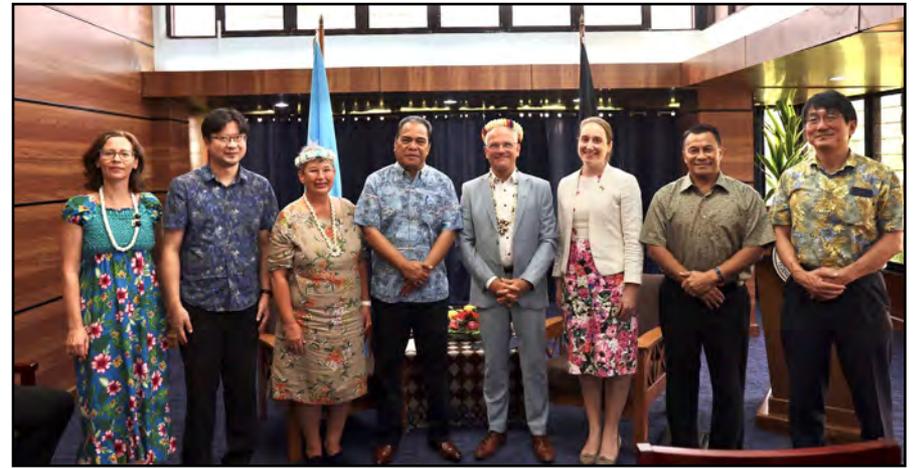
"I extend my personal congratulations to you, Mr. Ambassador," President Simina stated. "Our nations have enjoyed a cordial relationship, collaborating

on crucial issues that affect both our regions and the broader international community."

President Simina acknowledged Germany's significant contributions to global development and its support for small island states, particularly in international climate discussions such as the COP process. He expressed optimism for future dialogues aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation, especially in human resource development, health and education sectors, cultural preservation, and community development.

"Your country's ongoing support in these areas is invaluable," the President noted. "We look forward to exploring a more integrated and mature bilateral portfolio, including the possibility of a Memorandum of Technical Cooperation to streamline our exchanges."

President Simina also proposed the consideration of establishing an Honorary Consul of Germany in the FSM, which would further strengthen the ties between the two nations. He highlighted the potential benefits of



such a role, given the presence of other European Honorary Consuls in the FSM and the existing ancestral ties to Germany among local families.

On regional cooperation, President Simina expressed appreciation for Germany's engagement as a Post Forum Dialogue Partner and anticipated further bilateral exchanges at the upcoming 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Tonga.

"Germany's role in the European Union and its contributions to global initiatives

are commendable," the President remarked. "We reiterate our interest in hosting a European Union Mission in the FSM, a step that would enhance our interactions with the EU and broaden its strategic presence in the Pacific."

Concluding the ceremony, President Simina thanked Ambassador Pfaffernoschke and Madam Marina Pfaffernoschke for their visit and conveyed his hopes for a fruitful and cooperative relationship moving forward.

FSMTC's PACIFICA TV is the home of LIVE TV for sports, news, learning, and entertainment. **Sign up now and get your first month FREE OF CHARGE!**

Pacifica TV
www.fsmtc.fm/tv

FSMTC We Are You

Yap to explore political options after referendum passes

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 30, 2024

Yap—According to Yap’s Department of Social and Youth Affairs, which handles press releases for the Yap State Government, the Yap State voters decided that Yap should begin a review of its political status. The announcement of the unofficial results for that referendum vote came on June 22, 2024. While the government has not published further confirmation with “official” results of that election, Yap State Attorney General Quintina Lataweripy said that the referendum has passed.

The June 22 announcement stated that out of an overall total of 2,045 votes cast, 1,072 of the ballots contained a “yes” vote, 943 ballots contained a “no” vote, and 30 ballots were spoiled.

A previous Yap State Attorney General said that according to Yap’s Constitution, only a simple majority was required for affirmation or denial of the question by voters, even if by just a small margin.

A voter-called official review of Yap’s political status is not necessarily a call for Yap to secede from the FSM, though the pros and cons of that option will certainly be discussed. What will result is a hopefully honest evaluation of all political options available to Yap and their relative merits.

Pohnpei also has a political status commission and has had one for over a year. So far, no recommendations have publicly been made available from that commission, which was established without voter consideration.

Yap State Government receives \$203K dividend boost from FSM Bank

DYCA PIO

June 25, 2024

Colonia, Yap—On Monday, June 24th, 2024, Sylvia P. Fanasog, representing the Bank of FSM, met with the Honorable Governor Charles S. Chieng at the Office of the Governor to deliver a dividend check of \$203,000.00 to the State of Yap Government. Also in attendance were Yap State Treasurer Michelle Chugen from the Office of

Administrative Services and DYCA PIO Jovanna Nabetam. This dividend, stemming from FSM Bank shares owned by the Yap State Government, will be deposited into the general funds managed by the Yap State Treasurer. This exemplifies the collaborative efforts between government and private sector in fostering mutual relationships and enhancing financial stability for the State of Yap.



FSMTC HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMMISSIONED THE WONE CELL-TOWER

This site will support 2G, 3G & 4G services.

- >Sector 1, **Red**: Coverage is easterly to Rehntu area.
- > Sector 2, **Yellow**: Coverage is southerly to Wone Elementary School & surrounding area.
- > Sector 3, **Blue**: Coverage is westerly to Kitti Municipal Office & Kitti Dispensary.



FSMTC
We Are You
FSM Telecommunications Corporation
Kaselehlie Street, P.O. Box 1210, Pohnpei, FM 96941
p: 691-320-2740 | e: customerservice@fsmtc.fm

U.S. Marines and Sailors to conduct Koa Moana 24 in Pacific Island Countries

I Marine Expeditionary Force Communication Strategy and Operations

June 21, 2024

POHNPEI, Micronesia – Koa Moana 24, a mission involving U.S. Marines and Sailors from I Marine Expeditionary Force, has commenced its annual rotational deployment to the Indo-Pacific Island countries of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and Papua New Guinea. This deployment, running until the end of September, aims to strengthen relationships with Pacific Island partners through bilateral and multilateral theater security cooperation and community engagements.

Combat Logistics Battalion 13 will maintain a presence in the region as they conclude their support of exercise Valiant Shield 24 in Palau and will lead the execution of exercise Koa Moana 24. This expeditionary force, comprising approximately 150 Marines and Sailors, is organized into specialized detachments based on specific mission tasks.

Koa Moana 24 includes community engagement events, subject matter expert exchanges, key leader engagements, and engineering projects. These efforts bolster maritime security in line with the Compacts of Free Association, addressing regional security challenges and fostering cooperation among Pacific Island nations, and governs defense and economic assistance, strengthening bonds with the nations of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Reflecting on the upcoming deployment, Koa Moana’s commanding officer, Lt. Col. Brian McCarthy, stated, “As we embark on exercise Koa Moana 24, we are honored to continue the legacy of cooperation and friendship with our partners in the Pacific as exercise Valiant Shield 24 concludes. This deployment represents a unique opportunity for our Marines and Sailors to not only enhance our collective security efforts but also to

immerse ourselves in the rich cultures and traditions of the region. Our mission embodies the values of cooperation and resilience, as we work alongside our Pacific Island allies and partners to address emerging security threats and uphold regional stability.”

Koa Moana 24 underscores the enduring partnership between the United States and the Pacific Island nations, particularly Micronesia, highlighting the importance of collaboration and mutual respect in ensuring a secure and stable region.

For access to approved imagery content, visit our KM24 DVIDS page. For inquiries regarding this release, please contact the point-of-contact provided above. Media queries regarding KM24 should be directed to 1st Lt. John Carter at john.l.carter@usmc.mil or via WhatsApp at (615) 203-4280.



Former Governor Johnny P. David pays courtesy call to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph

Pohnpei Public Information

June 18, 2024

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph warmly welcomed former Governor Johnny P. David at the Governor's Office today. Governor Joseph expressed his profound gratitude and honor to receive the former Governor of Pohnpei State. The meeting highlighted the strong ties and mutual respect between current and past leadership, fostering a sense of continuity and shared commitment to the state’s progress.

Recently returned from abroad, former Governor David shared his positive experiences regarding the services provided at the Pohnpei House referral in Hawaii. He praised the efforts and dedication of the staff, noting their exceptional service to Pohnpeian citizens in need of medical assistance. Governor David's feedback underscores the importance of maintaining high standards in the support services extended to our citizens abroad.

In addition to discussing the Pohnpei House, former Governor David spoke about his current role as a member of the Board of Directors for the Caroline Fisheries Corporation. He expressed enthusiasm for the corporation's initiatives and potential to contribute

significantly to Pohnpei’s economic development. His involvement with the corporation reflects his ongoing dedication to the state's prosperity.

The conversation between Governor Joseph and former Governor David was friendly and encouraging. They exchanged insights on the challenging and paramount leadership role of the Governor's seat, emphasizing the importance of steadfast commitment and collaborative efforts to navigate the complexities of governance. Governor Joseph conveyed his appreciation for the wisdom and experience shared by former Governor David, reinforcing the value of collective leadership in driving Pohnpei State forward.



The Honorable Governor Charles Chieng convenes monthly cabinet meeting

DYCA PIO

June 20, 2024

Colonia, Yap—On Thursday, June 20, 2024, the Honorable Governor Charles Chieng convened a cabinet meeting with his esteemed cabinet members to review and discuss various plans, projects, and reports about their respective departments and offices. The meeting commenced promptly at 10:00 AM and concluded at 11:30 AM.

Attendees included five department and office representatives and two directors, marking this as the end-of-the-month cabinet meeting. Each department provided comprehensive updates on their ongoing and upcoming agendas, fostering a collaborative environment where members could stay informed about each other's progress and initiatives.

Key discussions during the meeting included:

Department of Administrative Services: No updates or reports were made during the meeting.

Department of Youth and Civics Affairs: HPO projects are set to finish before the fiscal year ends, FestPAC delegation has returned, Japan Exchange Group is preparing for their visit, and the Election Office scheduled a tabulation for June 21, 2024, regarding the recent voting on reviewing Yap's political status.

Department of Planning and Budget: The 2024 budget is complete, with discussions ongoing for the FY25 budget. The JEMCO is scheduled for June, with a focus on health and education. The Ganir Bridge faces finance and CTIS issues.

Department of Resources and Development: The department is focusing on marine resources, land resources, workforce enhancement, ANG Program, DYCA Training, job announcements, agriculture,

business regulation, foreign assistance, media updates, website organization, and consumer protection. They are moving into a new location, surveying land, and implementing programs like ANG. They are also monitoring waste and promoting sustainable practices. Plans for agricultural development, including new farming techniques and sustainability projects. Initiatives for environmental conservation, waste management improvements, and renewable energy projects

Department of Education: The director is in Pohnpei, preparing for registration and teacher workshops, with funding for Coastguard students. The annual AA Outlook predicts high temperatures. Reports on teacher workshops happening in the summer and a newsletter being put out at the end of the month.

Department of Public Works & Transportation: Progress on infrastructure projects, including

road maintenance and new construction plans. Sea transport, airport handling, dredging projects, contract and engineering, ARFF training, Wolei Airport hazard stage, and tilting certification are all ongoing tasks with Chuuk and Yap involved.

Department of Health Services: Updates on public health initiatives, vaccination drives, and hospital upgrades. Funding shortfall affects services, pending referrals. Eight staff members, including part-time doctor, treat 1,243 outpatients in May. Outpatient treatment is ongoing, with ongoing data management training.

The meeting concluded with a briefing by the Lieutenant Governor, who provided crucial updates from the national government, ensuring alignment and coordination with broader governmental policies and strategies.



WE ARE HIRING! JOIN OUR TEAM!

FSM Development Bank is seeking a suitable candidate to fill the position of Executive Assistant at FSMDB HQ in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

Open Date: 6/24/24. Close Date: 7/24/24.

For more information: call 320-2840/5300 or email to info@fsmdb.fm or visit our website (www.fsmdb.fm)

Ambassador Kagomiya attends Madolenihmw Women's Day

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

June 23, 2024

Madolenihmw—On June 23, 2024, Ambassador Kagomiya attended the ceremony for Women's Charter Day of Madolenihmw (Pwihn en Minimin en Lien Madolenihmw). This day has been dedicated to all women of Madolenihmw. People are expected to reflect the accomplishments and challenges for advancement for the benefit of all the females and their families in Madolenihmw.



Opinion Editorial

10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10)



Japan is going to host the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, from July 16th to 18th, 2024. The meeting has been known as "PALM."

In retrospect, Japan launched the first PALM in 1997 to enhance mutual understanding between Japan and the Pacific island countries and regions (PICs) and to tackle various problems facing the PICs on the belief that Japan and PICs are important, longstanding partners, sharing the Pacific Ocean and addressing common challenges. In order to further enhance this partnership with PICs, Japan has continued hosting the summit-level meeting every three years since 1997. I think that PALM10 will be a milestone to review the history of cooperation between Japan and PICs, confirm "KIZUNA (Bond)" that Japan and PICs have long forged, and herald the advent of partnership between Japan and PICs to respond to bilateral, regional and global issues in line with the 2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific Continent announced by PIF leaders in 2022.

In February, the Ministerial-level meeting was held in Suva, Fiji in

preparation for PALM10 where participants reviewed the results of PALM9 in 2021 and exchanged views on the agenda to be discussed at PALM10 this year, in particular on the priorities deemed as important and urgent in line with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. H.E. Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan highlighted Japan's cooperation having been implemented since PALM9 in the area of (1) COVID-19 Response and Recovery, (2) Sustainable Oceans Based on the Rule of Law, (3) Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, (4) Strengthening Foundation for Sustainable and Resilient Economic Development and (5) People to People Exchange and Human Resource Development.

President Simina has committed himself of attending PALM 10 and contributing to the success of this important engagement between Japan and PICs. At PALM10, the Leaders of Japan and PICs will make a fruitful discussion on the future cooperation between Japan and PICs with the priorities articulated in the 2050 Strategy kept in a big picture such as climate change and disaster, ocean and environment, resources and economic development, technology and connectivity, people-centered development and so on. I am

expecting to see with pleasure the discussion among and final commitments by the Leaders at the forthcoming PALM.

I am all convinced that the participation of Mr. President in PALM 10 will be conducive to a lot of great achievements to be made at PALM10 and also demonstrate "KIZUNA" between Japan and the FSM which helps further strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries. As you know, Japan has stridden together with the FSM in building social and economic infrastructure as well as improving the living condition of the people in the spirit of cooperation fostered through the PALM process. In this sense, as Japanese Ambassador to the FSM, I am looking forward to seeing how the FSM will benefit from PALM10 and where Japan and the FSM will stride forward together in the future. Last but not least, taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate my commitment to work closely with Mr. President and his Government to help deliver resilient and sustainable development to the people of the FSM in ways commensurate with a reliable development partner bound by "KIZUNA" of this wonderful country.

KAGOMIYA Nobuo
Ambassador of Japan to the FSM



Opinion Editorial

Sharing the Blue Pacific Continent: JICA's enduring commitment from the past to the future

Japan has strong ties with the people of the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), through our shared history and cultural commonalities. We are all island nations and our livelihoods are closely interlinked with the Pacific Ocean.

Respecting the Pacific Way

We at JICA have deep admiration for the 'Pacific Way' mentioned by Prime Minister Mara at the UN General Assembly in 1970: respecting the region's rich and traditional cultures; its value on the cohesion and solidarity of communities; and creating unity based on cooperation among island nations. We also appreciate the PICs' shared aspiration to decide regional matters peacefully through respectful, consultative, and inclusive discussions. That has contributed to building resilience in the region. These locally imbedded practices are well regarded as the original development model in the Pacific Way.

The 2050 Strategy and the Kuranari Doctrine

Japan has been closely working with PICs for their nation building since the 1970s. In 1987, then-Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari declared five principles of Japan's cooperation with the Pacific that would later be recognized as the Kuranari Doctrine: (i) respect for independence and autonomy; (ii) support for existing arrangements for regional cooperation; (iii) assistance in preserving political stability; (iv) the provision of assistance to make the region more prosperous; and (v) the promotion of people-to-people exchanges.

The "2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent", the PICs' first long-term development strategy issued in 2022, sets the principles that all partners must adhere to.

Yet, the principles outlined in this

strategy are not new to Japan, as they share common values with the Kuranari doctrine. Thus, our respect and engagement with PICs will remain steadfast and unwavering.

Kizuna – nurturing mutual trust Based on these principles, JICA has supported various development initiatives and projects in the region for the improvement of health and education, and, more recently, for environmental protection and climate change adaptation. Our long history of people-to-people cooperation in the region has generated solid results in its development, alongside forging mutual understanding and 'Kizuna' (bonds) between people in the Pacific Islands and Japan.

People-to-people connection

Our cooperation in the Pacific region started with the initial dispatch of volunteers to Samoa in 1972. Since then, early 5,000 Japanese volunteers have lived and worked in the region. They have shared their knowledge and expertise with people in various fields and workplaces; in turn, they have learned the deep-seated values of the region. These volunteers have strong and enduring attachments to their respective Pacific communities and countries.

Furthermore, many officials from government and public organizations of the PICs have come to Japan for JICA's knowledge-sharing and training courses, including scholarship programs. We are delighted that graduates of these programs are now playing key roles in their respective governments and are actively contributing to their



national development.

JICA has a long history of contributing to the development of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) through various projects such as harbor extensions in Yap and Chuuk, Pohnpei International Airport, road improvements in Yap and Pohnpei, and the power station in Kosrae. JICA also works in sectors including fisheries, health, education, tourism, and waste management in the four states. This work is conducted through technical experts, 451 volunteers dispatched since 1989, and more than 750 participants of the training scheme since 1979.

Beyond traditional security: commitment to human security

Recently, in the midst of a changing geopolitical environment, much of the world's attention in the Pacific focuses on conventional security challenges. However, as stipulated in the 2050 Strategy, the definition of security must adapt to encompass a more inclusive approach to security issues including human, economic, environmental, and cyber securities as well as resilience to disasters and climate change. This concept is compatible to the Japan's ODA guiding principle and JICA's mission of human security. Human security is a state in which people,

as individuals, are free from fear and want and can live with dignity. JICA has supported our partner countries to ensure human security, which is threatened by various sources of complex global challenges. Based on such shared concepts of human security, we are committed to work with the PICs for development in the region.

Shared pride and shared voice – we, islanders

Islanders of the Pacific, including the people of Japan, have historically experienced the vulnerabilities that island life can present. However, we all have also overcome those difficulties courageously by living with the ocean. Based on the challenges we have jointly faced as island nations, JICA will fully utilize our knowledge of the Pacific context to engage in the 2050 Strategy for further development of FSM and the region. Always keeping JICA's vision of 'Leading the World with Trust' in mind, JICA will be a trusted partner of the people of FSM in working together in the Pacific way, for its betterment of people's life, human security, and sustainable nature. We look forward to projecting our voices across the world – together with empathy, resonance, and the shared pride of all Pacific islanders.

Finally, I am sincerely grateful for the warm welcome I received from the FSM government and people during my visit to FSM on June 22-25.

Dr. Akihiko TANAKA
JICA President

Courtesy call of JICA President Akihiko Tanaka on Acting Governor Francisco L. Ioanis

Pohnpei Public Information

June 25, 2024

Pohnpei—Acting Governor Francisco L. Ioanis warmly received Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Akihiko Tanaka during a brief courtesy call at the Governor's office. Acting Governor Ioanis expressed his deep gratitude for President Tanaka's visit and JICA's longstanding contributions to Pohnpei, particularly in providing technical assistance and volunteers. He also shared a personal anecdote about a close friendship his father had with a Japanese man, who was considered a father-figure in their family, highlighting the deep and personal connections between the people of Pohnpei and Japan.

President Tanaka expressed his pleasure in visiting Pohnpei and meeting Acting Governor Ioanis for the first time. He shared his experiences visiting the historical site of Nan Madol, and his meetings with President Wesley W. Simina and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Lorin Robert. President Tanaka also discussed his visit to the air and seaport where he engaged with Pohnpei Port Authority officials regarding the upcoming port expansion project. He noted that this significant project still requires further approval before implementation and emphasized the need for the full support and assistance of both the FSM National Government and the Pohnpei State Government.

During the meeting, Acting Governor Ioanis underscored the importance of JICA's assistance over the years. President Tanaka echoed this sentiment, affirming that the relationship between Japan, FSM, and Pohnpei has a "quite promising future." He also mentioned Japan's anticipation of hosting the upcoming Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 10) in Tokyo, where leaders from Pacific Island nations will convene to discuss

mutual interests and collaboration.

The conversation also touched upon the ongoing efforts to address the landfill situation at Dekehtik, with Acting Governor Ioanis confirming the formation of a solid waste task force under Governor Joseph's executive directive. Additionally, the priority of acquiring a field trip ship for Pohnpei was confirmed by Resident Representative Yamauchi. The meeting concluded with mutual expressions of gratitude for the enduring partnership between JICA and Pohnpei, and both parties looking forward to a fruitful and productive future.

Joining Acting Governor Ioanis was Executive Liaison Mr. Denson David.

Joining President Tanaka and Resident Representative Yamauchi was Mr. Takuya Otsuka, Chief Secretary, Office of the President, Mr. Shinya Tamio, Senior Director, Pacific and Southeast Asia Division, Southeast Asia and Pacific Department, Ms. Haruna Tsuyuguchi, Program Officer, Mr.



Toshikazu Nonaka, Project Formulation and Administrative Officer, Ms. Trish Billen, Program Officer.



Visit of JICA Resident Representative and announcement of JICA President's arrival

Pohnpei Public Information

June 20, 2024

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Government was honored by a visit from Mr. Kunihiro Yamauchi, the Resident Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who met with Acting Governor Francisco L. Ioanis to convey the upcoming visit of Mr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of JICA, to Pohnpei. This significant visit marks President Tanaka's first official trip to Pohnpei, underscoring the growing partnership between JICA and the Pohnpei State Government, through the Federated States of Micronesia.

Acting Governor Ioanis expressed his regret that Governor Joseph would be unable to meet President Tanaka personally due being off-island for the Micronesian Games in Majuro. Nevertheless, he warmly welcomed President Tanaka through Mr. Yamauchi, highlighting the importance of JICA's ongoing support and collaboration in various developmental projects within Pohnpei. The Acting Governor conveyed the State's enthusiasm for President Tanaka's visit, seeing it as a pivotal moment to strengthen bilateral ties and explore new avenues of cooperation.

During their meeting, Acting Governor Ioanis and Mr. Yamauchi discussed the array of projects JICA has successfully

implemented in Pohnpei. These include infrastructure development, education, and capacity-building initiatives that have significantly contributed to the State's progress. They also explored future opportunities for collaboration, particularly focusing on sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for Pohnpeian residents.

One key priority that Acting Governor Ioanis highlighted was the need for improved connectivity and support to the Outer Islands of Pohnpei. He emphasized the importance of a dedicated field trip ship to ensure consistent and reliable transportation and supply routes for these remote areas. This priority, along with other developmental goals, will be further deliberated with the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs and JICA, aiming to align them with the broader national development strategies. The Pohnpei State Government looks forward to a productive dialogue with President Tanaka and anticipates continued cooperation with JICA in driving the State's development agenda.

Accompanying Mr. Yamauchi was Mr. Toshikazu Nonaka, Project Formulation and Administration Officer Haruna Tsuyuguchi, Program Officer, and Trish Billen, Program Officer.

With Acting Governor Ioanis was Attorney General Belsipa Mikel-Isom and Executive Liaison Denson David.



U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officials meet with Pohnpei State Government officials

Pohnpei Public Information

June 21, 2024

Pohnpei—Pohnpei State welcomed officials from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, who are currently on the island to engage in important meetings and collaborative projects. Lt. (jg) Meredith Goergen and Chief Petty Officer Sarah Hedge from the U.S. Navy Seabees unit on the island, have been actively involved in the construction of a schoolhouse in Sapwalap, Madolenihmw. Their efforts underscore the continued support and commitment of the U.S. Government to enhancing local infrastructure and education facilities.

Accompanying the Navy officials were Lt. Brock and Gunnery Sgt. Morris from Task Force Koa Moana, along with Petty Officer Feiler and

Staff Sergeant Harper from U.S. Embassy Kolonia. This task force is at the forefront of a U.S. Marine Corps initiative aimed at strengthening relationships between the United States and partner nations in the Indo-Pacific region. Task Force Koa Moana focuses on theater security cooperation activities, enhancing interoperability with local security establishments, and fostering peace and security. The task force will be fully deployed to Pohnpei later this year, marking a significant step in bolstering regional collaboration.

During their visit, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officials met with Daniel Isaac, the Administrator of Transportation and Infrastructure, along with members of his staff and Executive Liaison, Denson David. The meeting served as a platform to discuss how the expertise of the visiting personnel can be utilized in various local projects. Key topics included the safe disposal of remaining unexploded ordnance, the removal and repurposing of quarantine containers, and other potential collaborative initiatives.

The Pohnpei State Government expresses its gratitude to the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps for their continued support and partnership. These engagements not



only enhance the local infrastructure but also strengthen the bonds between Pohnpei and the United States. The collaborative efforts are poised to bring significant benefits to the community, promoting safety, security, and development across the region.

Former FSM President Manny Mori, College of Micronesia-FSM Executive Director, strengthening ties with Pohnpei State Government

Pohnpei Public Information

June 18, 2024

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph expressed his sincere gratitude and honor in welcoming the former President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Mr. Manny Mori, to the Governor's Office. Now serving as the Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs at the College of Micronesia-FSM, Mr. Mori's visit signifies a promising collaboration for the betterment of Pohnpei, especially as the state capital. Both leaders pledged to work closely in their respective capacities to advance shared goals and initiatives. Mr. Mori was accompanied by Alumni Relations Coordinator and Development Officer, Mrs. Amy J. Arpona.

Governor Joseph highlighted his recent participation at the 26th Micronesian Islands Forum in Guam, where workforce training was a central topic among Micronesian leaders. He emphasized the College of Micronesia-FSM as the premier training institution in the nation, asserting that any successful workforce development must integrate the College's vast experience and knowledge. This sentiment was

wholeheartedly echoed by Executive Director Mori, reaffirming the College's pivotal role in national training programs.

In their discussion, Governor Joseph and Executive Director Mori agreed that effective vocational training requires robust cooperation and collaboration with the private sector. They underscored the need for a strategic shift towards vocational courses and training, alongside an increase in the minimum wage. This approach aims to retain local talent and reduce dependency on foreign nationals for employment. Both leaders recognized that such initiatives are crucial in addressing the state's economic challenges and promoting sustainable development.

The conversation also covered plans for a new building dedicated to the College of Micronesia Land Grant, previously discussed with the COM Land Grant Director Mr. Lorrenij, and Governor Joseph. Both leaders expressed optimism about Pohnpei's future, highlighting the state's vast opportunities and the potential for significant progress through continued collaboration between the state government and educational institutions.



Courtesy call of H.E. Mike Ketchen, New Zealand Ambassador, to Acting Governor Francisco L. Ioanis

Pohnpei Public Information

June 25, 2024

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Government warmly welcomed H.E. Mike Ketchen, the New Zealand Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), during his courtesy call to Acting Governor Francisco L. Ioanis. Accompanying Ambassador Ketchen was Second Secretary Matt Broome and Policy Officer Megan Fell. The visit, held at the Pohnpei State Governor's Office, underscored the strong ties and collaborative spirit between New Zealand and Pohnpei State.

Acting Governor Ioanis extended a warm welcome on behalf of Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and the Pohnpei State Government. In his address, Acting Governor Ioanis highlighted the significance of Ambassador Ketchen's visit, emphasizing the value of international partnerships in addressing local challenges and fostering development. The cordial meeting provided an excellent platform for both parties to exchange insights and strengthen bilateral relations.

During the discussions, Ambassador Ketchen expressed his eagerness to understand the priorities and

challenges facing Pohnpei State. He inquired about the Compact of Free Association and its implications for the region. Ambassador Ketchen also shared various opportunities offered by the New Zealand Government, including tertiary or university/college level scholarships, short-term training courses in governance, and grants for community groups up to USD 50,000. These initiatives reflect New Zealand's commitment to supporting the development and capacity-building efforts in Pohnpei.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with Acting Governor Ioanis thanking Ambassador Ketchen for his visit and the productive dialogue. Both leaders affirmed their dedication to continuing the collaboration and exploring further avenues for partnership. The Pohnpei State Government looks forward to leveraging the opportunities presented by New Zealand to enhance the welfare and development of its communities.

Ambassador Ketchen and staff are based out of the New Zealand Consulate in Honolulu, HI. Ambassador Ketchen is also the New Zealand Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.



U.S. Department of State releases 2023 International Religious Freedom Report



U.S. Embassy Kolonia

June 28, 2024

The U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken released the Department's 2023 International Religious Freedom (IRF) Report on June 26, 2024. This release was livestreamed at www.state.gov.

Promoting and protecting the freedom of religion or belief is a foreign policy priority for the Biden Administration. Mandated by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the annual IRF Report describes the U.S. Government's actions to advance religious freedom around the world while advancing human rights, democracy, national security and providing a comprehensive review of religious freedom conditions in nearly 200 countries and territories.

While this report also documents actions and abuses of religious freedom, it also shows that positive change is possible. It illustrates that countries whose constitution, laws, policies, and practices protect the right to freedom of religion or belief, as well as other human rights, are more secure, stable, and prosperous. Civil society organizations, foreign governments, religious groups, and others also use these reports to advance religious freedom.

U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide prepare drafts of country chapters based on information from government officials, religious groups,

nongovernmental organizations, journalists, human rights monitors, academics, media, and others. The Office of International Religious Freedom, based in Washington, then collaborates in collecting and analyzing additional information, drawing on its consultations with foreign government officials, domestic and foreign religious groups and nongovernmental organizations, multilateral and other international and regional organizations, academic experts, community leaders, and other relevant U.S. government institutions. "This report advances our vision for a future where everyone is able to choose and practice their beliefs, including the right not to believe or ascribe to a faith," Secretary Blinken remarked at the release of the report. "Respecting religious freedom reinforces other rights, like the right to speak freely, to assemble peacefully, the ability to participate in politics. Protecting this universal right empowers people to express themselves, to live up to their full potential, to contribute fully to their communities," Secretary Blinken remarked at the release of the report in Washington DC.

Every year, the release of the IRF Report provides U.S. embassies and consulates some opportunities to highlight issues pertaining to freedom of religion with governments, media, and civil society organizations of host countries. Despite this annual

Click here for continuation on next page

...Religious Freedom

Continued from previous page

commitment, freedom is still not respected, and governments continue to target individuals, shatter worship places, forcibly displace communities, and imprison people because of their religious customs. Some countries still place restrictions on wearing certain types of religious clothing while others continue to enforce it. In almost every region of this world, people continue to face religious-based violence and religious-based discrimination.

This makes progress or improvement in advancing international religious freedom sometimes hard to measure. Nonetheless, the IRF Report manages to make some impacts by inspiring some governments to track this information for themselves, making it a crucial progress. This report also encourages foreign governments to change their behaviors and protect their people including those within their borders by reporting and documenting injustices, giving a voice to the voiceless.

Secretary Blinken said the United States will continue to stand and work with its partners to advance religious freedom around the world. "Since 2021, we've dedicated more than \$100 million to this effort. We've supported initiatives to prevent religious-based violence.

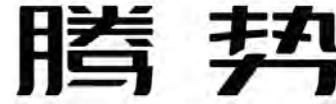
We've provided legal assistance to people who are facing religious persecution. We've trained thousands of human rights defenders who are helping to document abuses. We've also continued hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to support those fleeing religious oppression."

He added that over generations, the United States has welcomed hundreds of thousands of refugees facing religious persecution. "We work relentlessly to secure the release of people in prison for exercising their right to religious freedom around the globe. Just over the last year alone, 47 of those prisoners were freed, and we'll continue advocating for the many who remain unjustly detained." The department's guiding principle is to ensure that all relevant information on the IRF Report is presented fairly, spotlighting examples of government and societal actions that illuminate issues reported by each country including the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Department of State submitted this annual IRF Report to U.S. Congress in compliance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, section 102 (b) as amended. This report covers the period between January 1 and December 31, 2023 and is available here: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/>

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **BYD Company Limited** of No.1, Yan'an Road, Kuichong Street, Dapeng New District, Shenzhen, People's Republic of China, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:



which is used in connection with the following goods:

Class 12: Automobiles; Motor cars; Cars; Motor coaches; Trucks; Lorries; Motor buses; Forklift trucks; Automobile bodies; Automobile chassis; Motors, electric, for land vehicles; Brake pads for automobiles; Autonomous cars; Self-driving cars.

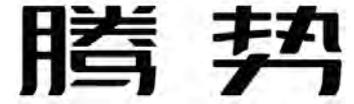
BYD Company Limited claims all rights in respect to the above trade mark and will take all necessary legal steps against any person, firm or corporation counterfeiting, imitating, violating or otherwise infringing its rights in the Federated States of Micronesia.

MUNRO LEYS
Lawyers & Notaries Public, Pacific House, Butt Street, PO Box 149, Suva, Fiji
Email: trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj
www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **BYD Company Limited** of No.1, Yan'an Road, Kuichong Street, Dapeng New District, Shenzhen, People's Republic of China, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:



which is used in connection with the following goods:

Class 37: Motor vehicle maintenance and repair; Vehicle cleaning; Anti-rust treatment for vehicles; Vehicle washing; Charging of electric vehicles; Vehicle polishing; Vehicle maintenance; Vehicle battery charging; Vehicle breakdown repair services; Vehicle greasing; Vehicle lubrication.

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

MUNRO LEYS
Lawyers & Notaries Public, Pacific House, Butt Street, PO Box 149, Suva, Fiji
Email: trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj
www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

Governor Joseph welcomes Dr. Robert Shan Fan Tsai from Wonder Health

FSM Public Information

June 28, 2024

Kolonia, Pohnpei—Governor Joseph recently had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Robert Shan Fan Tsai, a distinguished medical consultant from Wonder Health in Taiwan, during a courtesy call. The meeting was an opportunity for Dr. Tsai to present the range of services provided by Wonder Health, a renowned private healthcare organization dedicated to advancing medical care and enhancing healthcare systems. During their brief discussion, Dr. Tsai provided an overview of Wonder Health's specialized medical services

and innovative healthcare solutions. He emphasized the importance of integrating more specialists into Pohnpei's healthcare system and outlined strategies to increase the overall capacity and efficiency of healthcare services in the state.

The Governor noted the significance of having a more comprehensive report and profile on Wonder Health before making any further decisions. He acknowledged the importance of careful

consideration and thorough evaluation to ensure that any potential partnership aligns with the state's healthcare goals and objectives.

Governor Joseph agreed with Dr. Tsai's recommendations on incorporating more specialists and expanding the capabilities of the Pohnpei State Healthcare system. He emphasized that such improvements are essential for providing better healthcare services and addressing the diverse medical needs of the Pohnpeian community.

The Governor's office looks forward to receiving detailed information from Wonder Health and exploring ways to work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people of Pohnpei.



The upcoming scientific expedition to the Palau National Marine Sanctuary

The Palau International Coral Reef Center

June 24, 2024

Palau's deep sea expedition team established (PNMS) through a partnership with the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has provided a unique opportunity for professionals in the fields of research, education, and traditional knowledge and best practices. One such opportunity was the inclusion of Palauans and locally-based professionals and interns to join the expeditions, which are scheduled for October 28 thru November 7 and November 10 thru November 21, respectively.

The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) congratulates the team and looks forward to collaborating with them and other partners in the important work that will be undertaken. Members of the team are:

Researchers:

Elsei Tellei
Greta Sartori
Mereng Andres
Piera Bondi

Educators:

Adeeshia I. Tellei
Blodak Quichocho
Elchung Hideyos
Lucy Dickie

Cultural Liaisons:

Joe Reklai
Manzel Ngirmeriil

Ocean Science Interns:

Meangeldil Azuma Malsol
Vicente Abedneko



The expedition team and key partners are developing a schedule of activities and will be engaging with the community and important stakeholders leading up to the expedition dates. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the team members and for them to share their respective roles and responsibilities during the expedition while coordinating more meaningful live ship-to-shore interactions when they set sail. To find out more, visit <https://nautiluslive.org/expeditions/2024>.

U.S. Coast Guard strengthens relationships with FSM under Pacific Partnership

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

June 25, 2024

POHNPEI, FSM—The U.S. Coast Guard continued its support for regional and Department of Defense efforts by bringing its expertise in search and rescue, disaster response, and maritime safety and security to partners in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the week of June 3, 2024.

This support included processes education, coaching and mentoring, joint exercises, and sharing best practices by U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam and District 14 personnel, including Lt. Kira Adams, Ms. Dee Cruz, and Mr. George Butler.

The leadership and expertise of Lt. Kira Adams, the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-Center chief, and Ms. Dee Cruz, emergency manager, were instrumental in this initiative. Both women have significant roles in enhancing the region's maritime safety, security, and disaster response capabilities. Mr. Butler, a maritime emergency response and planning specialist from District 14, also brought a

wealth of Incident Command System and mass rescue operations experience to the conversation.

"Our partnership with FSM's response and maritime forces is vital for effective search and rescue operations. By joining forces, we can respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies, ensuring the safety of everyone at sea. The dedication and expertise of our teams truly make a difference, allowing us to save lives and protect our shared maritime community," said Lt. Kira Adams.

Pacific Partnership is an annual mission led by USINDOPACOM to strengthen regional relationships and improve preparedness, response, resiliency, and security across the Indo-Pacific. As part of this mission, the U.S. Coast Guard, in partnership with INDOPACOM's Center for Excellence in Disaster Management (CFE-DM), recently led a three-day Humanitarian And Disaster Assistance (HADR) Workshop. The workshop focused on enhancing the participants' understanding of Mass Rescue Operations (MRO), Incident Command System (ICS)/Emergency Operation Center (EOC), and EOC fundamentals.

The workshop included:

- Search and Rescue and Mass Rescue Operations

- Incident Command System/Emergency Operation Center
- Breakout groups on EOC fundamentals, setup, staffing, activation, demobilization, and ongoing recovery efforts post-disaster.

Ms. Dee Cruz highlighted the impact of disaster response and humanitarian assistance, "In emergency management, our goal is to provide swift and effective disaster response and humanitarian assistance. Our ongoing partnership with FSM enables us to share best practices, improve readiness, and ensure we are well-prepared to respond to crises. Together, we are building a resilient and secure future for our communities."

Since 2021, the U.S. Coast Guard has been actively engaged in various activities to support FSM, making a significant impact. These include signing an expanded shiprider agreement on behalf of the United States to combat illicit maritime activities, conducting operations to promote security and economic prosperity, organizing search and rescue exercises, enhancing maritime law enforcement education, coaching, and mentoring, supporting community engagement, and participating in port visits and subject matter exchanges. These efforts underscore the U.S. Coast Guard's dedication to enhancing maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship



in the Pacific region through robust partnerships and collaborative efforts with FSM.

Born from the response to the 2004 tsunami in South and Southeast Asia, the Pacific Partnership has grown into the most extensive annual multinational HADR relief preparedness mission in the Indo-Pacific. Now in its 19th year, the mission enhances regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities and fosters enduring friendships, underlining the importance and relevance of the U.S. Coast Guard's activities alongside DoD partners in the region.

For more information about U.S. Coast Guard activities, please contact CWO Sara Muir, Public Affairs Officer, at sara.g.muir@uscg.mil or uscgforcesmicronesia@gmail.com.

Yap State reports 27 criminal cases in May, highlighting law enforcement's commitment to justice

DYCA PIO

June 25, 2024

Yap, FSM—In the last month, May 2024, the State of Yap jurisdiction witnessed a total of 27 criminal cases, encompassing offenses such as DUI, disturbing peace, contempt of court, malicious mischief, and others. Additionally, 2 juvenile cases have been identified, involving charges of illegal consumption. Furthermore, there have been a total of 9 disposal cases during this period. These statistics underscore the ongoing commitment of law enforcement agencies to uphold public safety and administer justice within the community.

Yap delegation visits FSM Embassy in Japan, presents carved stone money

DYCA PIO

June 27, 2024

Tokyo, Japan—On Wednesday, June 26th, as part of the ongoing Micronesian Children Exchange program in Japan, the delegation from Yap comprising 12 children and 2 chaperones visited the newly opened FSM Embassy in Japan. This visit marked a significant occasion as Yap became one of the first delegations to tour the Embassy's new building, inaugurated just last



month. During the visit, the delegation had the honor of meeting with His Excellency Ambassador John Fritz. Another highlight of the visit was the delegation's viewing of the first stone money discovered in Japan, now prominently displayed at the Embassy's entrance.

As a gesture of goodwill and cultural exchange, Mr. Constantine Gilbeengin, one of the chaperones of the Yap delegation, presented Ambassador Fritz with an intricately carved stone money as a token of appreciation. More details and updates to follow.

Yap health professionals enhance skills in data-driven decision-making

DYCA PIO

June 21, 2024

Colonia, Yap – On Wednesday, June 19th, 2024, the Department of Health Services (DHS) has successfully completed the Data for Decision Making (DDM) class, part of the Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific (SHIP) and Post Graduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology (PGCFE) program. Participants in the class included Anthony B. Minginfel (Medical Supply Supervisor), Nikita Lesawelrang (Clinical Nurse OPD Supervisor), Lorenzo Haleyaluo (Clinical Nursing Supervisor), Bernolina B. Sog (Quality Assurance Assistant), Danilee B. Giltug (Laboratory Quality Assurance), Catherine Gootinngin (Laboratory Technician), Santus Bugomal (Electronic Health Record Technician), Godwin Etineisap (Surveillance Officer), Glenda Waitog (Surveillance Officer), Dr. Cindy Lefagopal (Dentist), Shannon Yolrus (Dental Hygienist), Truleen Manna (Public Health PREP Educator), Roxsan Thigthen (WCHC Data Clerk), and Charlene Laamtal (PHHEP-Yap Coordinator).

The DDM class is a program through PIHOA and CDC in partnership with Fiji National University. The program began in February 2024 and concluded with its final module on June 10-14, 2024. Its primary objective was to teach participants how to effectively manage, analyze, and disseminate data to drive planning and decision-making within the health sector. The class covered five modules over five months, equipping participants with the skills to improve the quality of data and facilitate data-driven decisions. Projects completed by the students addressed key issues within the DHS, including reducing medicine stockouts, antimicrobial resistance, and improving patient tracking for non-communicable diseases. More details on the course outcomes and capstone projects will be shared in future updates.

Yap's little ambassadors showcased their performance before leaving home

DYCA PIO

June 24, 2024

Rull, Yap—On June 20, 2024, in Talgow, Rull, the Japanese Exchange Group representatives presented the culmination of their efforts by performing the Sabureg dance outside the Media building. The Sabureg dance explains how Yapese navigators used the stars to find their destinations. Twelve children, six boys and six girls aged 10-14 were selected from various schools across mainland Yap to perform this special five-minute dance. The students have diligently practiced and will showcase the Sabureg in Japan as part of their cultural display during the immersive intercultural exchange program.

A delegation of twelve Yapese youths, along with their chaperones Youth Sports Coordinator Constantine Gibeengin and Youth Awareness Officer Ursula Luchuu from the Youth Division, departed for Japan as part of the ten-day-long Children Exchange Program with the Micronesian Islands on early Sunday morning, June 23rd, via UA. The group will visit historic landmarks, engage with local youth groups, and participate in educational workshops. This journey aims to strengthen the international and cultural exchange between the Micronesian region and Japan, fostering global understanding, cultural appreciation, and lasting friendships. The youth group has been preparing to learn more about Japanese culture, language, and etiquette to make the most of their experience.

Preserving indigenous rights while protecting the planet

At the EWC International Media Conference in Manila, renowned oceanographer Sylvia Earle and several Indigenous leaders urge new perspectives on climate and the environment

East-West Center

June 29, 2024

Manila, PI—In a world grappling with escalating climate crises, the way forward can include both modern scientific knowledge and traditional wisdom, according to several expert speakers who took the stage this week at the 2024 East-West Center International Media Conference during several sessions devoted to “New Climate Perspectives.” The presenters, including world-renowned oceanographer and explorer Sylvia Earle, urged the audience of more than 400 journalists and media professionals from 30 countries to explore holistic solutions that include affected communities and to hold everyone to account, even those pursuing alternative energies to fossil fuels.

In a video message, Nainoa Thompson, leader of the Hawai'i-based Polynesian Voyaging Society, told the group that it is vital to integrate actionable science and data with “not just Indigenous knowledge, but the practices, the views, and the values that Indigenous people have learned over thousands of years of taking care of one’s place,” he said. “It’s the definition of stewardship.”

Joeli Veitayaki, a strategic adviser at Blue Prosperity Fiji, noted that Indigenous peoples of the Pacific have long practiced sustainable methods of living that conserve natural resources. Today, community-led initiatives remain strong in Fiji, where the country’s “largest marine assessment undertaken in over the last hundred years” was just completed, Veitayaki said, and momentum is building around reclaiming beaches and replanting mangroves, among other projects. “We are using a combination of Indigenous and traditional knowledge and science-based methods to adapt to the existential threat that is affecting all aspects of our lives,” he said.

The Ocean’s vital role
Such efforts are crucial, since only



Sylvia Earle and Joeli Veitayaki at the EWC media conference

three percent of the world’s oceans are considered fully protected from exploitation, said Earle, the founder of Mission Blue, an organization that is working to build a worldwide network of protected marine areas called “Hope Spots.” She detailed how the ocean plays a crucial role in maintaining the earth’s climate through what is called “blue carbon,” a term coined to convey the fact that more than half of all biological carbon kept out of Earth’s atmosphere is captured by living organisms in the sea.

Pollution, habitat destruction, overfishing, deep sea mining, and other harmful practices are degrading natural ecosystems in the water and, in turn, on land, she told the journalists. “Are we going to protect what remains of the natural fabric of life that keeps earth habitable? Or are we going to sacrifice it to developments like deep sea mining that are questionable in terms of whether we really need to do this for future prosperity?” she asked.

Earle pointed out that “humans have become the greatest predators of nature that there has ever been. What we’re putting into the ocean, as well as what we’re taking out of it, is having a magnified impact on those cycles of life.” Still, she remained optimistic that new technologies will lead to creative solutions to protect the planet. “This is our time, and as we have pointed out, the future is really with the next generation,” she said.

Green energy isn’t always ‘clean’
One facet of climate reporting that is often overlooked, according to Joan Carling, the executive director

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **BYD Company Limited** of No.1, Yan’an Road, Kuichong Street, Dapeng New District, Shenzhen, People’s Republic of China, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:

比亚迪

which is used in connection with the following goods:

Class 12: Automobiles; Motor cars; Cars; Motor coaches; Trucks; Lorries; Motor buses; Forklift trucks; Automobile bodies; Automobile chassis; Motors, electric, for land vehicles; Brake pads for automobiles; Autonomous cars; Self-driving cars.

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

MUNRO LEYS
Lawyers & Notaries Public, Pacific House, Butt Street, PO Box 149, Suva, Fiji
Email:
trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj
www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **BYD Company Limited** of No.1, Yan’an Road, Kuichong Street, Dapeng New District, Shenzhen, People’s Republic of China, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:

比亚迪

which is used in connection with the following goods:

Class 37: Motor vehicle maintenance and repair; Vehicle cleaning; Anti-rust treatment for vehicles; Vehicle washing; Charging of electric vehicles; Vehicle polishing; Vehicle maintenance; Vehicle battery charging; Vehicle breakdown repair services; Vehicle greasing; Vehicle lubrication

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

MUNRO LEYS
Lawyers & Notaries Public, Pacific House, Butt Street, PO Box 149, Suva, Fiji
Email:
trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj
www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

of Indigenous Peoples Rights International based in Baguio, Philippines, is the fact that a global push to shift to renewable energy has the potential to do more harm than good, particularly in areas where Indigenous peoples’ land is exploited. “Journalists can also play a crucial role by conducting more in-depth investigative reporting on the abuses and injustices faced by Indigenous peoples in the name of climate action,” Carling said. “This includes uncovering land grabs, forced evictions, environmental degradation, and human rights violations perpetrated by corporations and state authorities.”

Certain renewable energy projects may require the mining of metals and rare-earth minerals, which poses huge ecological challenges as well

as a human cost, she said, criticizing hydropower and liquid natural gas projects in particular for displacing people from their homes and degrading land in Indigenous territories. These kinds of projects are often approved without the local population’s informed consent, she noted.

More funding needs to be directed to proven community-based renewable energy projects that involve Indigenous communities so they may have a greater sense of ownership, Carling said: “What we need to do is look for other options ... and there are other options that have already been proven, like bio-gas or community-based solar and renewable micro-hydro projects. These are the ones that have actually worked on the ground, if only they are supported.”