

Pacific Partnership 24-1 concludes third mission stop in Pohnpei

by *Ensign Lacy Burkett*
Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific

Pohnpei--Pacific Partnership 24-1 (PP24-1) concludes 10 days of medical, humanitarian and disaster response and host nation outreach efforts in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, closing out its third mission stop Dec. 21.

This mission stop hosted a fly-in only team of 76 Pacific Partnership 24-1 (PP 24-1) personnel. Due to the size of USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), the ship was unable to anchor off the coast of Pohnpei. This was Pacific Partnership's third time to visit Pohnpei.

"Pacific Partnership's Mission Team has done an amazing job in their short time in the state of Pohnpei," said U.S. Embassy Kolonia Ambassador Jennifer Johnson. "Their presence has been felt across communities here through cultural events, no-cost dental and optical care, training of health care personnel, community service, and disaster management preparation, adding to our already deep and enduring partnership and ties with the FSM."

Pacific Partnership fosters enduring



More Pacific Partnership Articles inside!

friendship and cooperation among many nations. During the mission stop, personnel from the U.S. Navy and Army collaborated with Pohnpei professionals and U.S. military veterans in Pohnpei to enhance capabilities across medical, humanitarian assistance disaster relief and host nation outreach lines of effort.

"I would like to thank the government and people of Pohnpei for welcoming the Pacific Partnership team into their country," said Capt. Jeffrey Feinberg, commanding officer of USNS Mercy. "I am inspired by the collaboration between our team and the community

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



Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Jacob Allison

Pohnpei's Acting Governor declares winners of Governor and Lt. Governor runoff election

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 21, 2023

Pohnpei—Acting Governor Francisco Ioanis, serving as Pohnpei's Lt. Governor, declared the winners of the gubernatorial runoff election through an

executive order on December 21.

The Election Commissioner, Heinrich Stevenson, officially certified the results on December 13. No election irregularities were reported challenging the outcome by December 21. As a result, Stevenson A. Joseph is set to

assume the position of Pohnpei's new Governor, displacing incumbent Reed B. Oliver. Francisco L. Ioanis retains his seat as Pohnpei's Lt. Governor over challenger Brian Etscheit.

Unofficial sources indicate that inaugural ceremonies for both the Executive and

Legislative branches are scheduled for January 7 and 8. The festivities will commence with an interdenominational service on January 7. Subsequently, the inauguration ceremony will take place on January 8 at the College of Micronesia FSM, followed by the inaugural ball later that evening.

FSM welcomes Pacific Partnership 2024

FSM Information Services

Pohnpei-- The Pacific Partnership has kicked off its mission in the FSM, through an Opening Ceremony that took place at the US Ambassador's residence yesterday afternoon.

The Pacific Partnership is a multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief initiative led by the United States Pacific Fleet in collaboration with partner governments in the Pacific region, and last visited the FSM in 2015. This year, it is set to conduct two mission stops in the FSM, in Pohnpei and in Chuuk. This marks the 19th iteration of the Pacific Partnership initiative, following the devastating December 2004 "Boxing Day" tsunami that wreaked havoc on parts of South and Southeast Asia, leading to the United States mobilizing military resources and personnel to aid the relief efforts. Recognizing the chance to expand upon the positive outcomes and insights gained from that initial mission, the U.S. Navy strategized and executed the inaugural Pacific Partnership (PP) mission in 2006. Its primary objective was to proactively prepare for more efficient responses to natural disasters while simultaneously strengthening relationships with partner nations.

At the top of the program H.E. Jennifer Johnson, US Ambassador to the FSM shared a quote from President Biden in her welcoming remarks, stating, "As President Biden has said, "We envision an Indo-Pacific that is open, connected, prosperous, resilient, and secure—and we are ready to work together with each of you to achieve it." while Rear Admiral Mark Melson highlighted "strengthening capacities and building trust" as an integral aim of the mission.

On behalf of the FSM government, T.H. Vice President Palik delivered closing remarks where he highlighted Title III of the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the US as it continues to "...reinforce, strengthen and enhance the friendly and unique relationship that exists between the FSM and the United States." He added, "While the conventional defense and security dimensions are often in the forefront of our Title III bilateral engagements, this Partnership Mission highlights another side of the US Armed Forces. In particular, it highlights the many humanitarian and civic activities that the US Military undertakes with its closest allies and friends."



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:

January 10, 2024

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

Monday, January 08, 2024

Matson supports delivery of monthly books to children across Yap

Habele

Young Island Readers is a monthly book donation program that provides a new age-appropriate book each month to children from birth to age five. A generous investment from the Matson Foundation will cover the cost of distributing 500 of these books to children throughout Yap State in early 2024.

The process of Young Island Readers is simple. When a baby is born in Yap State, the mother receives a signup form at the Yap State Hospital. She provides the name of the child, their birthdate, and the family's PO Box number. Those residing in the Outer Islands indicate the specific atoll and island where they live.

The opportunity to enroll is also extended when new mothers come to the Hospital for well-baby visits, and forms will soon be available at all five of the Community Health Centers on Yap Proper. Health aids in the Outer Islands also collect and send in details of newborns via radionet.

Each month, every registered child receives a new book. Specific titles depend on their age and stage of development. Books are sent using USPS mail rates, individually packaged and addressed to the recipient child.

Distribution in the outer islands is achieved through a collaborative partnership between the Yap State Department of Education's Neighboring Island Coordinator, the State's Sea Transportation Office, and the Pacific Missionary Airline, a faith-based ministry which delivers the books to enrolled children living on those outer islands with serviceable runways.



The backbone of Young Island Readers is the renowned Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL). Imagination Library was founded in 1996 by songwriter, musician, actress, author and entrepreneur Dolly Parton in her hometown of Sevierville, Tennessee. She envisioned a community program that would provide free books to children from birth to age five, delivered to their homes each month. Habele is a "local partner" in Micronesia and DPIL's "boots on the ground".

Founded by former Peace Corps volunteers, Habele is a US-based non-profit organization that has been investing in the future and potential of Micronesian students since 2006. Despite the DPIL's effectiveness and financial efficiency, as the local affiliate Habele still contributes a portion to the costs of those books headed to Micronesia. The Matson Foundation generously contributed to this effort with a grant at the end of 2022.

"Matson's world-class logistic services provide an essential lifeline between the Islands of Micronesia and the rest of the world. Investments made by the Matson Foundation show just how deep their commitment to community involvement and quality of life improvements runs," explained Habele Executive Director Neil Mellen. "Matson's support is an investment in these children's budding, lifelong love of reading."

...Pacific Partnership

Continued from front page

of Pohnpei that demonstrates bonds of friendship and enduring trust between our nations.”

Pacific Partnership is an enduring mission that focuses on multinational cooperation and host nation capacity building in order to ensure a more secure Indo-Pacific.

Throughout their 10-day stay in Pohnpei, PP24-1 forces conducted more than 51 medical engagements, including 737 dental procedures. The optometry team distributed more than 685 prescription glasses and 777 pairs of sunglasses. Additionally, the Pacific Partnership medical team conducted 29 side-by-side surgeries at Pohnpei State Hospital.

The mission’s humanitarian assistance and disaster response leads conducted 2 workshops, which included Pohnpei first responders. U.S. Army personnel, along with U.S. Coast Guard members from United States Coast Guard Sector Guam, hosted one search and rescue exercise in order to increase host nation capability during disaster relief.

Part of the host nation outreach line of effort, U.S. Pacific Fleet Band members performed seven concerts for local schools and the local community around Pohnpei. These concerts contributed to enhancing strong bonds of friendships with U.S. members and the local community.

“Playing music around Pohnpei during Pacific Partnership has been a truly remarkable experience,” said Petty Officer First Class Paul Tomson. “Pohnpei inspired us with hospitality, and we hope that we’ve inspired Pohnpei through music. We look forward to continuing our partnership by making music together in the future.”

As part of Pacific Partnership 24-1, U.S. Navy divers from Task Group 73.6 removed and disposed of MV Micro Glory, a derelict cargo vessel, from Dekehtik Harbor. This operation was at the request of the Micronesian Government in coordination with Transportation, Communications,

and Infrastructure Department, Environmental Protection Agency, and Pohnpei Port Authority. The disposal reduced the risk of future environment and economic impacts in Pohnpei.

Now in its 19th iteration, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Pacific Partnership works collaboratively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific.

For more information about Pacific Partnership and USNS Mercy, visit www.facebook.com/pacificpartnership, www.facebook.com/USNSMERCY, or <https://www.msc.usff.navy.mil/ships/mercy>



FSM’s Australian Awards recipients celebrate graduation milestones”

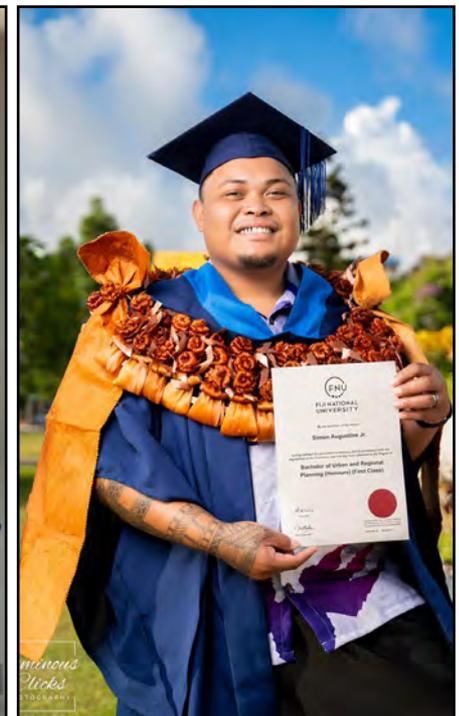
By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 21, 2023

FSM—Mr. Simon Augustine Jr. and Mr. Tedesin Telsin Kephas, both recipients of the prestigious Australia Awards, have recently marked a significant academic achievement. Graduating from Fiji National University, Augustine and Kephas received Bachelor degrees through this esteemed program.

Augustine completed his Bachelor's in Urban and Regional Planning, while Kephas achieved his Bachelor's in Medicine and Surgery. Their academic successes stand as a testament to their dedication and commitment to their respective fields.

The Australian Embassy to the FSM extends heartfelt congratulations to Augustine Jr. and Kephas for their commendable accomplishments as part of the Australia Awards program.



**TUNE IN TO
POHNPEI'S #1 RADIO**

PARADISE RADIO

FM 89.5 V6WI



College Celebrates 78th Commencement Exercises and Graduation Ceremony

Palikir, Pohnpei - The College celebrated its 78th Commencement Exercises and Graduation Ceremony on

December 15, 2023, at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center in Palikir. The Fall graduation had about 266 total graduates including the first graduating cohort of the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. This is one of two COM-FSM bachelor degree programs, the other being in Elementary Education. For this Fall graduation, three graduated as Valedictorian and four graduated with **Summa Cum Laude**

Honors as listed below:
Valedictorian Class of 2023

1. CharlynRose Arriola
2. Grace Lynn Pangelinan
3. Ian Latorres Perman

Summa Cum Laude, BS in Business Administration

1. Arrio A. Abello
2. Jaymar Dannis Anderson
3. Isabel Emrhedrose Payaya Garcia
4. Darling Panuelo

COM-FSM President, Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono warmly welcomed everyone with her remarks. Dignitaries, government officials, community leaders, with families and friends of the graduates were among the present during the commencement exercise. She shared, "Graduates, you are an orchestra of traditional

melodies and cultural rhythms resonating with modern Micronesian harmonies like your COMFSM educational experiences and

achievements. You learned that even where it might be difficult to find a path

to follow, you can create one using both traditional and modern techniques. Embracing the future is not

just a necessity; it is an opportunity to redefine our successes and embrace tomorrow with confidence, agility and courage."

The commencement speaker was FSM President, His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina who shared his own experience during his time as a student in the U.S. during the 1970's, "From the outer island of Oneop to Weno; I got on a 727, and left for the unknown. I ended up in Jackson, Mississippi, of all places. No Micronesians, no Chuukese. There, I witnessed first-hand the marches of the Ku Klux Klan. I found the social and political issues of that place driven by racial issues mostly. They spoke differently. I was neither black nor white, which put me in an even more difficult position."

The President encouraged the graduates to welcome the challenges that go along the way and emphasized to the graduates that the FSM needs them for its nation building efforts. On this commencement the COM-FSM Choir gave a stunning performance that received a warm applause from the crowd.

For photos of the 78th Commencement Exercises and Graduation Ceremony visit the College's [Official Facebook Page](#).



Top: Graduates of the 78th Spring Commencement Exercises.
Bottom: This year's Commencement speaker His Excellency, President Wesley W. Simina .

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA - FSM
YAP | CHUUK | POHNPEI | KOSRAE

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

All College of Micronesia-FSM campus sites will be closed commencing December 22, 2023 to January 03, 2024. All campus site operations will resume on January 04, 2024.

The COM-FSM Family wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Kalahngan, Kinisou Chapwur, Kammagar, and Kulo Mulalap!

<p>National Campus P.O. Box 159 Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone: (691)320-2480 Fax: (691)320-2479 E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>Chuuk Campus P.O. Box 879 Chuuk, FM 96942 Phone: (691)330-2689 Fax: (691)330-2740 E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>FSM-FMI P.O. Box 1056 Colonia Yap, FM 96943 Phone: (691)350-5244 Fax: (691)350-5245 E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>Kosrae Campus P.O. Box 37 Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944 Phone: (691)370-3191 Fax: (691)370-3193 E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>Pohnpei Campus P.O. Box 614 Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone: (691)320-3795 Fax: (691)320-3799 E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm</p>	<p>Yap Campus P.O. Box 286 Colonia Yap, FM 96943 Phone: (691)350-2296/5149 Fax: (691)350-5150 E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm</p>
--	--	--	---	---	---

U.S. Navy Divers complete ship removal operation in Pohnpei

by *Ensign Lacy Burkett*
Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific

December 15, 2023

Pohnpei—Mobile Diving and Salvage Company 1-8, U.S. 7th Fleet's deployed salvage force, completed the at-sea disposal of a derelict cargo vessel in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, as part of Pacific Partnership 24-1 Dec. 15th, 2023.

At the request of the Micronesian government, U.S. Navy divers from Task Group 73.6 (CTG 73.6), in cooperation with the Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure Department (TC&I), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA), towed MV Micro Glory out of Dekehtik Harbor to a designated disposal site and sank her to a depth of more than 2000m.

The vessel, launched in 1978, had been moored pier-side and exposed to the elements for years. Prior to the start of pre-disposal preparations, the 185-foot long, 790-tonne Micro Glory was sitting on her keel with an 11-degree starboard list and had active leaks in her shaft seals.

Micro Glory's disposal reduces the risks of future environment and economic impacts in Pohnpei that could have resulted from the vessel capsizing in a storm, said Lt. Cmdr. Max Cutchen, salvage officer for U.S. 7th Fleet.

Task Group divers and personnel from TC&I cleaned Micro Glory of

any potential environmentally hazardous waste and removed bulk petroleum, oil and lubricants from the engines and fuel tanks prior to the disposal operation.

"The vessel was covered in the detritus of decay, necessitating a concerted effort by the disposal team to remove thousands of pounds of garbage and debris, in addition to immense quantities of fuel, oil and lubricants," said Ens. Christopher Greene, Task Group 73.6 Commander. "U.S. Navy divers have been working side-by-side with Pohnpeian locals for over a month to ensure Micro Glory was well prepared for an at-sea disposal while prioritizing the protection of the marine environment."

Micro Glory was ultimately sunk at a pre-designated site, approved by the Pohnpei Governor's office, located approximately 5 nautical miles northwest of Pohnpei.

The disposal of Micro Glory provided the opportunity to enhance strong relationships and enduring trust between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"This operation is one of many ways our countries continue to develop strong diplomatic ties, and cooperatively endeavor to protect our oceans and marine life for future generations," said Greene. "The disposal of Micro Glory was a successful operation for CTG 73.6, but more importantly, it represents a big step toward the ultimate protection and preservation of the stunning Micronesian waters."

MV Micro Glory was one of six Japanese-built cargo vessels procured by the government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) under a Japanese grant aid scheme between 1976 and 1978. The vessels were used by FSM to ferry passengers and cargo between the outer islands of the country.

CTG 73.6 is currently deployed to Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia in coordination with Pacific Partnership 24-1. Renowned as the U.S. Seventh Fleet's premier maritime emergency response and salvage force, CTG 73.6 exemplifies the U.S. Navy's commitment to aiding communities in need and providing swift assistance during times of crisis.

Pacific Partnership, now in its 19th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jacob Allison



U.S. Coast Guard, Federated States of Micronesia strengthen Search and Rescue capabilities through joint training exercise



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

December 12, 2023

FSM—U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam personnel completed a Search and Rescue (SAR) Exercise with partners from the FSM Maritime Wing, Fire and Rescue services, and Pohnpei Department of Public Safety from Dec. 4 to 7, 2023, in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

This exercise marks a continuation of efforts to bolster SAR capabilities in the region, highlighting the enduring partnership between the U.S. Coast Guard and its Pacific Island partners under the Compact of Free Association (COFA).



In this collaborative framework, FSM has the role of Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator (SMC) for incidents within their territorial seas, while the U.S. Coast Guard takes on the responsibility of SMC for all other occurrences in their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), further emphasizing the complementary strengths and responsibilities of each nation in ensuring maritime safety.

Despite challenging weather conditions, the two-day training program showcased a robust exchange of skills and knowledge. On the first day, the U.S. Coast Guard team, leveraging the facilities of the new Emergency Operations Center building in Pohnpei, led in-depth discussions on SAR patterns and the structure of U.S. Coast Guard command centers and conducted a case study analysis of an actual Pohnpei SAR case.

The second day of the exercise, spearheaded by Chief Petty Officer Robert Cook, executive petty officer of U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, involved practical underway training. Twenty participants, including personnel from the FSM Maritime Wing, Fire and Rescue services, and

Pohnpei Department of Public Safety, engaged in set and drift training and search pattern execution exercises using three boats – one from the Maritime Wing and two Fire and Rescue vessels. This hands-on training was a testament to the determination and adaptability of all involved, as they effectively carried out the exercises amid heavy rainfall.

While on island, U.S. Coast Guard representatives also met with FSM-based Australian Maritime Security Advisor, Lt. Cmdr. Nigel Williams. This discussion focused on efforts to hold a 2024 Patrol Boat Round-Up, symbolizing the collaborative spirit and shared maritime security interests in the Pacific region.



Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard team was honored to unexpectedly meet the Vice President of FSM, Aren Palik, on their final day. Vice President Palik expressed his gratitude for the continuous support provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, a sentiment that underscores the deep-rooted partnership between the United States and FSM.

Looking ahead, the U.S. Coast Guard is committed to



providing ongoing support for SAR exercises in Pohnpei. The aim is to achieve interoperability culminating in an evaluation-type SAR exercise, further enhancing the region's maritime safety and response capabilities.

Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, the CGFM/SG maritime advisor, reflected on the exercise's success, stating, "This training exemplifies our shared commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our mariners. By sharing knowledge and resources, we are, as we have been for nearly eight decades in Micronesia, being good neighbors by strengthening our capabilities and forging bonds that transcend geographical boundaries."

The Federated States of Micronesia and the United States have a longstanding relationship under the Compact of Free Association. This agreement allows for U.S. economic assistance and defense provision in the region. The U.S. Coast Guard is crucial in this partnership, particularly maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship. Through initiatives like the SAR Exercise, the U.S. Coast Guard continues reinforcing its commitment to supporting its FSM partners, ensuring a safer and more secure maritime environment for all.

U.S. Coast Guard, Yap strengthen ties through key leader engagement, site visit

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

December 18, 2023

COLONIA, Yap — In a demonstration of continued cooperation, U.S. Coast Guard personnel completed a key leader engagement and site visit in Yap from Dec. 10 to 12, 2023.

This visit, led by Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam (CGFM/SG) and the Compact of Free Association (COFA) team, highlighted the enduring partnership and mutual respect between the U.S. Coast Guard and the Yapese community.

Notable Events:

- Strengthening U.S. Coast Guard-Yap relations through high-level engagements.
- Recognition of the historical and ongoing cooperation between the U.S. Coast Guard and Yap.

Future Support and Initiatives:

- Intent to conduct a Safe Boating Workshop in Yap, aligning with initiatives in Pohnpei and Chuuk.
- Participation in Yap Day 2024 celebrations, enhancing community engagement.
- Ongoing U.S. Coast Guard recruiting opportunities at the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute and across the FSM.

The CGFM/SG delegation, including Lt. Cmdr. Igisomar and Lt. Vaccaro, held fruitful discussions with Yap's esteemed leaders, including the Hon. Governor Charles S. Chieng and Lt. Governor Francis Itimai. The team also met with Attorney General Joses Gallen, Chief Justice Cyprian Manmaw, Senator Joseph Urusemal, the 11th Yap State Legislature, and the Council of Tamol, underscoring the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation. They also visited the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute, spending time with cadets and faculty, the next generation of maritime leaders.

During the visit, Capt. Simmons presented Gov. Chieng with a U.S. Coast Guard Loran Station Yap patch, symbolizing the shared history and continued collaboration. The historical significance of the U.S. Coast Guard Loran-C Transmitting Station on Gagil-Tomil Island, which was operational from 1965 to 1987, serves as a reminder of the longstanding ties between the U.S. Coast Guard and Yap. Once a crucial navigation aid, this facility symbolizes a shared commitment to maritime safety and navigation.

"The legacy of the U.S. Coast Guard in Yap is a testament to our longstanding commitment to this region," said Capt. Simmons. "We are deeply grateful to the Yapese people for welcoming us into their home and island. We look forward to continued collaboration, fostering maritime safety, security, and regional stewardship."

The visit follows a series of engagements by the U.S. Coast Guard in Yap, including local patrols under Operation Rematau in October 2022 and recruiting events by the USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) team in November 2022 holding a subject matter exchange with cadets from the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute. The USCGC Frederick Hatch (WPC 1143) was in Yap on March 1, participating in Yap Day, a celebration of traditional culture, and the delivery of essential supplies. Both ship crews worked with FSM officials to patrol the FSM exclusive economic zone and deter illegal fishing.



TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE

MR. JETHARAM NEMARAM GEHLOT, address: 101, Shree White House, Saraswati Nagar, Hirawadi Road, Panchvati, Nashik. - 422 003, Maharashtra, India, brings to the notice of the general public in particular to the notice of consumers and providers of “Henna , Henna based products, Black Mehandi , Hair color and Hair Dye , Detergents , Cosmetics and Toilet preparations , Cleaning , Cleansing , Polishing , Scouring , Abrasives , Skin Care Preparation , Creams , Lotions , Soaps, Shampoo , Hair Oils , Hair Gels , Bath Oils , Deodorants and Antiperspirants for personal use and Dentifrices in class 03 and, Hair shampoo, Hair lotions, Hair conditioner, Hair care preparation, Hand Care Preparations, Skin care preparation, Depilatory preparations, Hair removing cream, Toilet cleaning preparation, Bleaching preparations and other substances for Laundry use, Essential oils, Cosmetics included in class 03” in relation to all of the above mentioned goods that “MR. JETHARAM NEMARAM GEHLOT” is the sole and exclusive proprietors of the mark as set out below:--

YUTHIKA

All over the world, consumers, manufacturers and sellers of the products and goods mentioned above associate the mark and its variations with that of Mr. Jetharam Nemaram Gehlot exclusively. Appropriate legal action will be taken in the Court of Law against all those responsible for and involved in all acts leading to the unauthorized use of the mark of Mr. Jetharam Nemaram Gehlot to safeguard the legal rights of Mr. Jetharam Nemaram Gehlot.

For any information or complaints please contact:
MR. JETHARAM NEMARAM GEHLOT
nashik@yutikanatural.com, advocate@yutikanaturals.com

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that AstraZeneca UK Limited, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United Kingdom, of 1 Francis Crick Avenue, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Cambridge, CB2 0AA, United Kingdom, is the sole owner and proprietor of the trademark below:

VAXZEVRIA

which is used in connection with the following goods:

Pharmaceutical preparations and substances

Notice is also hereby given that:

THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADE MARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.

For further information, please contact:
DENNEMEYER & ASSOCIATES
Email: mail-au@dennemeyer-law.com





Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

JOB VACANCY

Position:

Grants Specialist, Micronesia & Polynesia

Closing Date: January 12, 2024, by 8:59PM PST

Who we are:

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

What we can achieve together:

The Grants Specialist provides highly specialized public awards administration and finance/accounting-related services to TNC Micronesia and Polynesia Program. The Grants Service Network (GSN) within the Conservancy, provides guidance and administrative support for awards of funds to the Conservancy from United States federal, state, and local government agencies, multilateral agencies, and other national and local governments. The GSN also administers the Conservancy's grants of funds to other entities, including those funded by a government agency, multilateral organization, other non-profit organization, private foundation, or private donors.

The Grants Specialist is directly responsible for the administration of all aspects of publicly funded awards from pre-award to award implementation and closeout. Their duties include review of funder solicitations, review of proposals and budgets, agreement and amendment negotiation, agreement set-up in the Conservancy's finance system, review of agreement financial data for accuracy and compliance, and maintenance of agreement auditable files. They work closely with award managers to ensure that the terms and conditions of agreements are met and properly documented and communicates directly with the agency contracting officers. The Grants Specialist is also directly responsible for the due diligence and administrative aspects of grants out to grantee organizations. Additionally, they assist staff in their specialty area and respond to moderately complex employee/management questions and problems based on advanced knowledge of the subject area.

What you'll Bring:

- Bachelor's degree in finance, Accounting, Business Administration or related field and 3 years' related experience or equivalent combination.
- Experience with accounting/financial issues and analysis.
- Experience using accounting and financial reporting systems.
- Technical experience with spreadsheet programs, general ledger reports and financial management tools.
- Experience, coursework or other training with U.S. Federal Uniform Guidance, state and local regulations, multilateral and international regulations, and standard contract clauses, as applicable.

Office Location:

Micronesia Region or Indonesia

The Grants Specialist, Micronesia & Polynesia can be based in one of the following locations: Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands or Indonesia.

TO APPLY:

To apply for job ID 54450 submit your materials (resume and cover letter) online by using the Apply Now button at <https://careers.nature.org/> by 8:59 PM PST January 12, 2024. Need help applying? Visit our recruitment page or contact applyhelp@tnc.org.

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

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

The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Our commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our conservation mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority, and we encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientations, gender identities, military or veteran status or other status protected by law.

FSM's Australia Awards Fellow concludes successful program

By *Bill Jaynes*

The Kaselehlie Press

December 22, 2023

FSM—The Australian Embassy to the FSM extended warm congratulations to Mr. Correy Ariote Abraham, who has returned after completing his Australia Awards Fellowship. Correy successfully concluded his study and professional development at the University of Melbourne, focusing on "Advancing Climate, Health, and Equity Outcomes through Local Action in the Indo-Pacific."

The Australian Embassy congratulated him for his policy output presentation.

The Australia Awards Fellowships, designed to foster leadership and influence, emphasize the creation of partnerships between Australian institutions and regional organizations.

Australia Awards Fellowships aim to build networks of influence and leadership by strengthening partnerships between Australian organisations and partner organisations in the region.

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.tnc.org

Simina-Palik administration convenes final cabinet meeting of 2023, committing to a unified approach in governance

FSM Information Services

December 14, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Simina-Palik administration has successfully marked its third and final cabinet meeting of the year, underscoring its commitment to a cohesive and collaborative approach within the executive branch. The meeting served as a platform to review the year's accomplishments, chart future strategies, and reinforce the administration's commitment to delivering on its promises to the citizens.

These include the pledges made during the first round of state visits in the beginning of the administration; the ongoing efforts of the administration including JCRP (Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning) and the FSM Embassy in Washington DC to push for the approval of the Compact in the US congress; strategizing contingency plans for different potential scenarios in regards to the Compact; working with FSM Congress on maintaining the 8% distribution formula of new compact

funds as agreed upon in the Arngel Formula; the imminent disbursement of the State's shares of fishing fees; legislative matters to be submitted to FSM Congress in the upcoming session next month for consideration; and many other critical items.

As the Simina-Palik administration believes that unity begins within, and that the collective efforts of the whole over the individual is what fosters strength and prosperity, the cabinet meeting provided a space for dialogue and decision-making among key government officials, fostering an environment aimed at addressing the nation's most pressing issues. Since taking office five months ago, this has been the third full cabinet meeting under the Simina-Palik administration.

The Simina-Palik administration reaffirmed its commitment to continue fostering collaboration and unity within the government, and intends on convening cabinet meetings on a monthly basis at minimum moving forward in the new year.



vital
Energy for life

www.vitalenergy.fm

Pacific Fleet's 'Big Wave' brass band makes waves in Pohnpei with electrifying jazz fusion!

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 20, 2023

Pohnpei— The Pacific Fleet “Big Wave” Brass Band delighted audiences throughout Pohnpei with their brand of jazz-inflected, foot-stomping music. As part of the Pacific Partnership medical mission to Pohnpei, they held goodwill concerts at elementary schools and a public concert for all ages last Friday night. Unfortunately, due to the holiday season, multiple Christmas parties, and the timing of the public concert, it was not well attended. But those who did show up seemed to enjoy the show, which lasted just over an hour. Those who didn't attend missed a concert like Pohnpei rarely gets to see.

The rank structure of the Navy classifies the servicemen as Musicians First Class, Second Class, and Third Class. But to be sure, all of the musicians were of the highest caliber, although some might have been in the service for longer and passed different examinations than others. The crowds across Pohnpei enthusiastically received them. “It was like a rock band,” exclaimed one young person returning from the concert at Kolonia Elementary School.

Indeed, it was!

The band consisted of Paul Tomson, who played bass guitar on the acoustic numbers performed by the band, including “Country Roads”—a song they said they were surprised to hear is so popular in Pohnpei. “Everybody knows Country Roads,” members

of the band said afterward. Jon Starr played trumpet. Ben Hood played the monstrous sousaphone, the brass bass instrument that wraps around the entire body. Brent Mitchell was the vocalist when vocals were called for and played acoustic guitar on the acoustic numbers. Owen Sczerba played soprano and baritone saxophones. A soprano saxophone is what Kenny G plays, and the huge baritone saxophone has for years served as the bass foundation of horn sections in bands like Earth, Wind, and Fire, Motown bands, and bands like Bruno Mars’. Aaron Wright played the trombone. Dan Caton played guitar. It was obvious that Caton has guitar chops, but as he said after one of the concerts, “This is their show. I’m just here for support,” and he laid back a lot of the time. John Melton played a small four-piece jazz drum kit but still made the venues thunder with his incredible technique and showmanship.

For some inexplicable and unexplained reason, the press officers of the Pacific Partnership were barred from sharing the schedule of the mission with the press by the top brass. We were surprisingly shut out of several events throughout the mission, which is not a good message regarding transparency. However, we were able to attend a few of the events during the Pacific Partnership, including three of the concerts. We were able to attend the public concert, the concert at Sekere Elementary School, and Madolenihmw High School. In Madolenihmw, the students alternated their own dance numbers with the musical numbers from the band.

Maybe you'll see your photo here among some of the ones I was able to take during the concerts.



Congratulations!

FALL 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS



RAMSEY NARRUHN
Bachelor's in Business
Administration Program
University of Guam



KENYE JONAH
Bachelor's in Business
Administration Program
University of Guam



MERSINA GEORGE
Bachelor's in Business
Administration Program
University of Guam



JALLER JACKSON
MBA - Marketing
Program
Park University



ELINA FRED
MBA - Accounting
Program
Western Governor's University

Visit www.fsmdb.fm/about-fsmdb/scholarships/ for more information on our Scholarship Program.



Transforming Lives

FSM Development Bank
P.O. Box M
Kolonja, Pohnpei, FSM 96941
+691 320-2840

Yap Branch
P.O. Box 786
Colonia, Yap, FSM 96943
+691 350-2165

Kosrae Branch
P.O. Box 104
Tolol, Kosrae, FSM 96944
+691 370-3070

Chuuk Branch
P.O. Box 786
Weno, Chuuk, FSM 96942
+691 330-2760

THE FSM DEVELOPMENT BANK WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE FALL 2023 FSMDB SCHOLARSHIPS. WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN SUPPORTING THE FSM'S BRIGHTEST SCHOLARS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AS WE ANTICIPATE THEIR RESPECTIVE ENTRIES INTO THEIR ROLES IN LEADING OUR NATION FORWARD!

Pacific Partnership's ENT specialist Captain Ayalas reflects on medical mission in Pohnpei



Photos by Bill Jaynes

He said that no anesthesia was involved in those procedures, so the patients were able to walk out of the surgery able to hear in a way that they couldn't before.

When asked if there was anything that people of Pohnpei could do to avoid such an excessive buildup of wax that they have to have it removed by a professional, he said that it just occurs, that some people just have an excessive amount of earwax. There are some over-the-counter medicines that can be purchased, but sometimes even that is not enough.

He mentioned that some children have problems with chronic ear infections that occur because of the way the Eustachian tubes form and grow. "When you're younger, the Eustachian tube is small and it's more like in a horizontal position. And as you get older, the Eustachian tube gets bigger, but it becomes more vertical, so you have gravity helping you out. So that's why we see a lot of little kids with chronic recurrent ear infections, but then as an adult, they get better."

He said that sometimes tympanostomy tubes can help with fluid buildup. The tube bypasses the Eustachian tube and allows a little of the fluid to escape through an opening in the eardrum. However, in Pohnpei and places like it, doctors try to use those tubes only when absolutely necessary because it makes an opening in the eardrum that could allow water to enter the inner ear when swimming and cause further ear infections.

"So, it's kind of a catch-22, but the problem is, if you don't put the tubes in—I saw a lot of these patients here in Pohnpei—is that the chronic infections have to find a way out. So, it actually kind of bursts the eardrum and there's a lot of patients, young kids, who after cleaning them out, already had a



Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Jacob Allison



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 18, 2023

Pohnpei— The scaled-down crew of the recently concluded Pacific Partnership mission to Pohnpei included Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) specialist Captain Doctor Marcos Ayalas. Pohnpei has been without an ENT doctor for quite some time, and together with another doctor on the mission, they performed approximately 36 procedures and surgeries.

Due to a lack of equipment at the Pohnpei State hospital, the visiting ophthalmologist was unable to perform cataract surgeries but was only able to do small repairs for eyes. Captain Ayalas faced a similar situation and was only able to do very minor ear procedures, mainly ear debris, during his visit.

"We saw a lot of adults who just had really impacted earwax, and we didn't have the equipment to remove it in the clinic," Dr. Ayalas said, "but we had a microscope here, so we were able to clean them out without anesthesia... That's kind of rewarding because they're so packed that they can't hear, then you remove the impacted cerumen (earwax), and it's a big difference."

hole in their eardrums," he said.

During our interview, Dr. John Hedson stopped in to say hello. Dr. Ayalas said that Dr. Hedson and the medical staff of the Pohnpei State Hospital had been extremely helpful during the medical mission.

In the absence of an ENT specialist or an ophthalmologist in Pohnpei, and for general health, Dr. Ayalas had several recommendations. "For the eyes, some protection with sunglasses and so forth (is important). For head and neck, the one prevention I would recommend, if possible, is to avoid tobacco and betel nut. I'm a head and neck oncologist by trade, and they're

both carcinogens, and we see oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma from not only tobacco but betel nut has been well described in Asia... Also, avoid excessive alcohol use. In regards to the ears, I don't think there's much we can do to prevent what normally arises from the ears. But you can definitely prevent oral cavity cancers or pancreatic cancers by avoiding some substances in the oral cavity," he said.

Capt Dr. Ayalas will not be joining the Pacific Partnership for the rest of its mission as it carries on to Palau and Chuuk. After 20 years, he is headed home to begin the process of retiring from active duty in the United States Navy.

Japan's grant contract signed for gymnasium construction at Calvary Christian Academy

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 14, 2023

Pohnpei—Japan's Ambassador Kagomiya finalized the signing of a Grant Contract on December 14, 2023, at Calvary Christian Academy. The contract, worth US\$216,514, is part of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects and aims to fund the construction of a gymnasium at the academy in Pohnpei State.

This project focuses on providing students with a new gymnasium, enabling them to conduct physical education classes regardless of weather conditions. Additionally, the facility will be open to the community for meetings, exercise sessions, and serve as an emergency evacuation site.



The ceremony saw the presence of notable figures such as Honorable Esmond Moses, the Speaker of the FSM Congress, Honorable Marvin Yamaguchi, the Speaker of Pohnpei State Legislature, and Mr. Stanley Etse, Director of the Department of Education, among others.

Attendees expressed their gratitude for Japan's support, emphasizing the long-



standing friendship between Micronesia and Japan. The signing of this contract signifies a significant step in improving educational facilities and community resilience, showcasing the strong ties and commitment to grassroots development between the two nations.

Coral atoll islands may outpace sea-level rise with local ecological restoration, scientists say

The University of Auckland

December 19, 2023

Auckland, New Zealand--Ecological restoration may save coral atoll islands from the rising seas of climate change, according to an international team of scientists, conservationists, and an indigenous leader. While global carbon emission reduction is imperative, local measures could be the key to the islands outpacing sea levels, they argue today in the journal Trends in Ecology & Evolution.

"Far from being doomed, in their natural state most coral atoll islands could adapt to sea level rise", says Dr Sebastian Steibl from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, lead author of the study. "This paper is a global call to identify and quantify the best measures for restoring atoll island growth."

The world's 320 tropical coral atolls are made up of thousands of islands and are a treasure trove of biodiversity, homes to millions of turtles and seabirds. These islands are naturally growing up to 1 cm a year by accreting sediment – enough to outpace most predictions of sea level rise.

Ecologically restoring this natural process holds the key to climate change resilience for the islands, says the team of scientists, who are already trialling restoration methods on atolls such as Tetiaroa and Palmyra in the eastern Pacific Ocean and

Aldabra in the western Indian Ocean.

While densely populated islands such as in the Maldives will still need human-engineered solutions most coral atoll islands are sparsely inhabited and excellent candidates for restoration, the scientists say.

"Restoration of atoll island ecosystems is a proven conservation action that can significantly improve the health of the surrounding coral reef habitat", says island resilience scientist and co-author Dr Alex Wegmann from The Nature Conservancy in California.

The climate damage fund announced at COP28 is one potential mechanism for funding local restoration. "Funding restoration work would empower communities to take back ownership of their futures," says co-author Professor James Russell, a conservation biologist at the University of Auckland

People living on coral atolls are largely ignored when industrialised nations negotiate responses to climate change. "Local knowledge alongside cutting edge science needs to be included in atoll restoration programs," says cultural director of the Tetiaroa Society and co-author Hinano Teavai-Murphy, "because the traditional knowledge of Oceanian people has always been about respecting and preserving the connected marine and terrestrial systems."

Their research is published open access in the journal Trends in Ecology & Evolution. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2023.11.004>

Disbursements of States' shares of fishing fees begin in accordance with constitutional amendment

FSM Information Services

December 18, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei—As of today, all four states of the FSM have received the first disbursement of their fishing fees shares, as mandated by the recently amended FSM Constitution and in accordance with the procedures subsequently set out in Executive Order # 23-08 issued by H.E. President Wesley W. Simina.

While in Pohnpei for official business, T.H. Governor Tulensa Palik of Kosrae, paid a courtesy call on President Simina and Vice President Palik, where the President took the opportunity to present Governor Palik with Kosrae State's check for their shares. The shares for Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap states have been disbursed via deposit to their respective accounts by the FSM Dept. of Finance and Administration.



Traditional knowledge and the ocean – focus of the 2024 tide prediction calendars

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

December 20, 2023

Pacific—Reviving traditional water sports, traditional fish traps, the age-old practice of preserving fish and understanding how root crops are indicators to predict tropical cyclones are some of the highlights showcased in the 2024 tide prediction calendars with the theme of traditional knowledge and the ocean.

The annual tide prediction calendars are a popular product of the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) and are designed and produced in the region by the Pacific Community's (SPC) Geoscience Energy and Maritime Division in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, Australia.

The 2024 calendar focusses on the work of COSPPac in developing a standardised methodology for collecting, storing and integrating traditional knowledge with science, policies and other areas.

Siosinamele Lui, Traditional Knowledge Officer with the COSPPac team at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), works with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) on developing this standardised approach.

“Traditional Knowledge elevates and allows the science and the work of NMHS to be relevant, understood and applicable. For our Pacific communities, traditional knowledge allows national weather services and information or warnings to be localised, to be time specific, but also helps with the language and communication barrier,” said Lui.

She adds, “Most of what we understand of our current environment is rooted in traditional knowledge that has been passed through generations and has contributed to our continuous survival.”

At the Niue Meteorological Service, the team engages in a yam monitoring programme with the Niue Girls Brigade and the Makefu Youth and Girls Brigade. Yam vines are an indicator to predict tropical cyclones.

Robert Togiamana, Climate Traditional Knowledge Officer with the Niue Meteorological Service, said climate traditional knowledge plays an important role in adaptation to climate change.

"Climate traditional knowledge helps to improve and give us a better understanding of valuable forecast products. Traditional Knowledge is a driving mechanism of disseminating weather information to the community so people understand warnings better. Root crops such as yams, animal behaviour, and plants are a few of the examples to also help with decision-making, climate risk management and disaster prevention".

Calendar predictions are calculated by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology's Tidal Unit with information from the Pacific Sea Level and Geodetic Monitoring stations and a number of additional tide gauges around the region.

The National Meteorological Services distributes the calendars for 25 locations in the Pacific.

A related product to the tide calendars is the Pacific Tides App. Launched last year, it now has new features, which include geo-location, moon and sun phases and new stations.

“The Pacific Tides App complements the tide calendars by providing reliable tide and moon phase forecasts, which anyone can access on a mobile phone. The new features are a commitment to continuous product improvement based on feedback from users and key stakeholders,” said Zulfikar Begg, COSPPac coordinator at SPC.

The Pacific Tides App, which can be used offline once a location has been selected, and data has been downloaded, works for both Android and Apple devices and can be downloaded from the relevant app store, <https://opm.gem.spc.int/pacifictides/>

Predictions can also be downloaded from the Pacific Ocean Portal or the Australian Bureau of Meteorology website.



FSM Health Department issues alert on rising respiratory illnesses ahead of the holidays

FSM Information Services

December 21, 2023

FSM—As the holiday season continues, the Federated States of Micronesia's Department of Health and Social Affairs has issued an important health announcement regarding the surge in upper respiratory illnesses prevalent during this time of the year. Similar to neighboring nations, the FSM is currently witnessing an increase in Influenza-like illnesses (ILIs), emphasizing the importance of preventive measures amidst the concerning trend.

While acknowledging the continued circulation of COVID-19, the health department notes a reduced risk compared to the height of the pandemic. However, emerging variants (HV.1 and JN.1) prompt a reminder of essential precautionary measures to mitigate the risk of severe illness and transmission.

To safeguard oneself and loved ones during the festive period, the public is strongly

encouraged to adhere to the following precautionary measures:

- Cover your mouth when coughing
- Regularly wash your hands
- Stay hydrated
- If unwell, remain at home and avoid crowded places
- Get vaccinated

The Health Department says that vaccines for both Influenza and COVID-19 are available at public health clinics across all FSM States and urges individuals to prioritize vaccination.

For more information and inquiries, the public can contact the following state health departments:

Pohnpei State: 320-2217
Kosrae State: 370-3199
Chuuk State: 330-2579
Yap State: 350-2114

President Simina approves new map series for the FSM to include in extended continental shelf claims permitted under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

FSM Information Services

December 13, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei-

-On December 12, 2023, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina signed a regulation approving a new map of the FSM that shows in full the extent of the maritime zones of the FSM including the



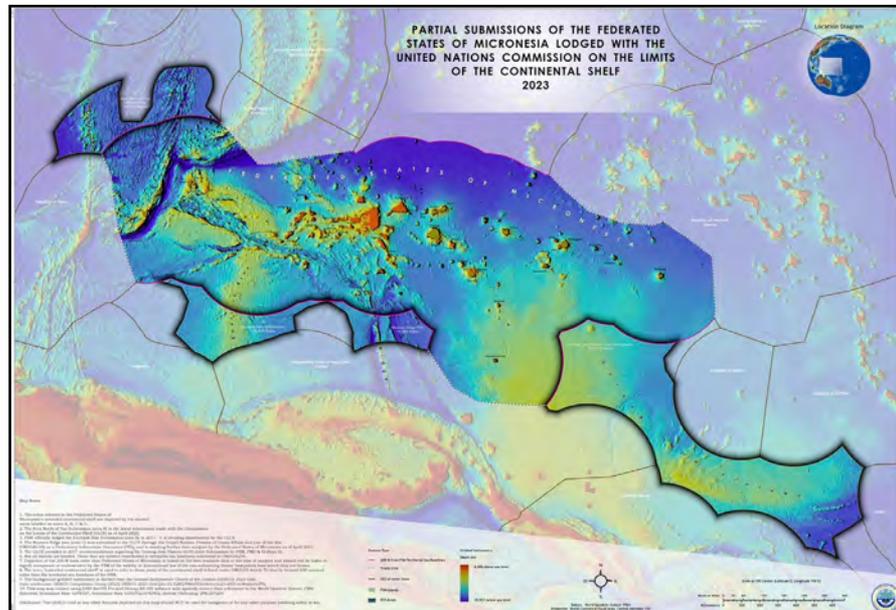
exclusive economic zone as well as the vast extended continental shelf claims that are referred to as the Ontong Java Plateau, Eauripik Rise, Mussau Ridge and the North of Yap Area. These claims may be subject to overlapping claims by neighboring nations and are subject to examination by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Extended continental shelf (ECS) refers to the seabed and subsoil of submarine areas that could extend beyond the normal 200 nautical miles of exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Nation up to 350 nautical miles from baselines.

The amended regulation officially recognized the permanence of maritime boundaries and continental shelf for the

first time in the history of the Pacific Region. This important milestone is a clear example of an ongoing process of establishing a state practice among the Pacific Island nations towards domesticating the 2021 Pacific Islands Forum Declaration that considered maritime boundaries to be legally permanent—without any reduction— notwithstanding climate change-related sea-level rise.

With this declaration, President Simina and Vice President Palik recognized the dedication of the FSM ECS Task Force headed by Secretary Lorin Robert as chairman, Acting Justice Secretary Leonito Bacalando Jr., Mr. Mathew Chigiyal, Mr. Alfred Leben, Mr. Dan Gilmete, Mr. Scott Sweet and Dr. Alain Murphy.



President Simina greenlights establishment of Maritime Support Facility on Kapingamarangi

FSM Information Services

December 20, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei--On December 20, 2023, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina approved a recommendation by the Department of Justice for the establishment of a Maritime Support facility (or a substation) on Kapingamarangi as part of a network of support facilities that will be established on strategic points throughout the nation. This facility will serve as an outpost for refueling, monitoring support of surveillance and law enforcement activities on the EEZ. Given that Kapingamarangi is the southernmost island of FSM, bordering with neighboring countries in the midst of a rich fishing ground of this nation, its strategic value requires attention, according to the DOJ recommendation.

Other outer islands considered as strategic locations, e.g., Pulusuk and a neighboring island in Yap, will be identified in the future to

be part of this network of support facilities for the Nation's Maritime Division. Establishing a facility on Kapingamarangi will enhance the delivery of law enforcement, MEDIVAC, search and rescue (SAR) and special outreach services to the southern islands.

The Acting Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando Jr., Maritime Commander Steward Peter and staff from the Department of Transportation Communication and Infrastructure (TC&I) conducted a scoping visit on the Southern Island on 13-14 December 2023, upon consulting with Pohnpei State, to identify a suitable site of a facility.

Joining the team was Pohnpei Senator-elect Edgar Lickaneth, where they conducted outreach and consultations with the community leaders on the outer island and shared the plans for the facility that will enhance maritime surveillance, protect marine ecosystems and EEZ, increase community engagement, strengthen regional security and preposition maritime supplies and assets for emergency needs.

DOJ has been tasked to worked with the State of Pohnpei and other FSM States towards implementing this important project for the nation.



US Navy Mission in Pohnpei: Dental Procedures, Vision Care, and Surgical Assistance

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 19, 2023

Pohnpei—In addition to ENT specialists, ophthalmologists, cardiologists, obstetrician/gynecologists, and other specialists who participated in the Pacific Partnership in Pohnpei, dentists, optometrists, and opticians were also present. The latter group conducted clinics in Pohnlangas, Wone, and Sokehs. By the time the specialists left Pohnpei, they had performed 737 dental procedures and distributed more than 685 prescription glasses and 777 pairs of sunglasses. Additionally, the medical team conducted 29 "side-by-side" surgeries at the Pohnpei State Hospital.

Lieutenant Grace Choi, a dentist on the mission, mentioned that the dentists at the dispensaries in Pohnpei mainly carried out oral exams and performed tooth extractions when necessary. However, due to space limitations preventing the USNS Mercy, the Navy's hospital ship, from docking in Pohnpei, the scope of dental procedures was restricted. The USNS Mercy is a fully equipped floating hospital capable of intensive treatments. Nonetheless, special cases were referred to specialists who could perform procedures at the Pohnpei State Hospital if the necessary equipment was available.

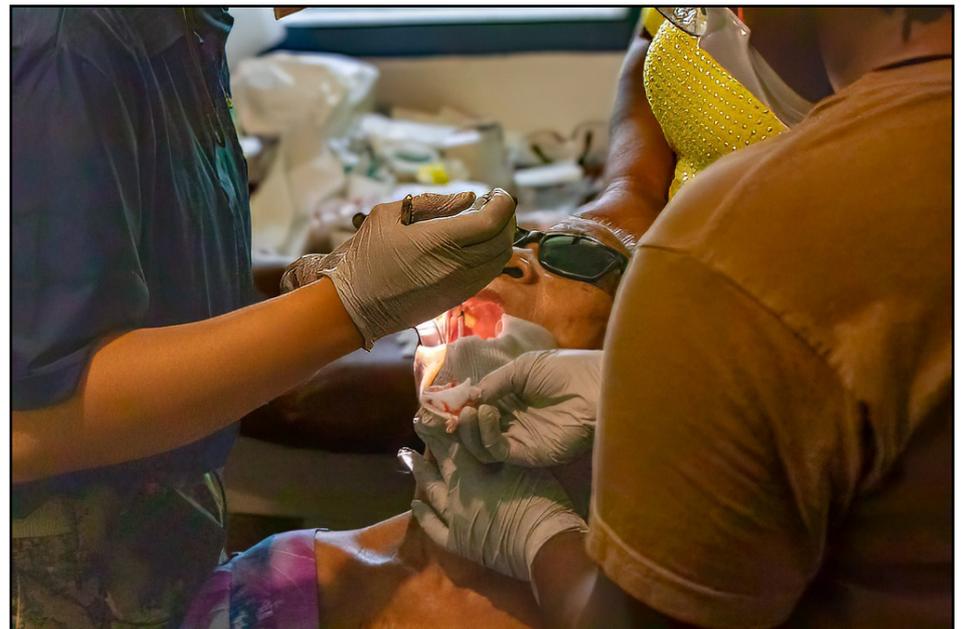
At the Sokehs Dispensary, optometrist Lieutenant Bert Ketchum and optician Petty Officer 2nd Class Dzmitry Astapchyk discussed the portable machines they used to examine eyes. They utilized a handheld device with a trigger to measure the retinal surface of the eye, approximating the correct corrective lenses needed by a patient. They didn't have the capacity to grind specialized lenses, such as those required when a patient needs different lenses for each eye, which is quite common. However, they did maintain a substantial stock of lenses with varying degrees of power and correction, issuing them as needed.

Lieutenant Ketchum mentioned leaving the remaining glasses at the Pohnpei State Hospital. Additionally, they provided prescriptions for patients in need of corrective lenses, which could be used to order glasses online.

The specialists at the hospital could only conduct a limited number of cataract surgeries and had to refer the rest elsewhere. Lieutenant Ketchum expressed hope that some of these patients could reach Chuuk, where Dr. Padwick Gallen could perform the surgeries.

Both Ketchum and Astapchyk stressed the importance of protecting eyes with sunglasses in Pohnpei. They said they saw a lot of patients during the visit to Pohnpei with tissue build up in the eye. They said the pupil can only dilate so far in bright light and the tissue build up is the body's defense mechanism to try to limit the light. Over time that tissue build up will cause serious vision problems.

As mentioned, they distributed sunglasses to patients in need, emphasizing the challenge of ensuring these individuals wear them for their own benefit.



Vice President Aren B. Palik meets with the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions

FSM Information Services

December 13, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik of the Federated States of Micronesia recently received members from the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) for a courtesy call, namely CEO Ms. Esther Lameko-Pautoa and C.P.A Ms. Doris Flores Brooks on December 5th, 2023.

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is the official association of supreme audit institutions (government audit offices and similar organizations, known as SAIs) in the Pacific region. PASAI promotes transparent, accountable, effective, and efficient use of public sector resources in the Pacific. It contributes to that goal by helping its member SAIs improve the quality of public sector auditing in the Pacific to uniformly high standards.

During the meeting Vice President Palik, CEO Ms. Lameko-Pautoa, Ms. Brooks, FSM Public Auditor Mr. Haser Hainrick, FSM Dept. of Finance Assistant Secretary Mr. Sohs John and Special Adviser Mr. Kandhi Elieisar discussed the ways PASAI can assist the FSM in the realm of public auditing through capacity building in order to build accountability, transparency and good governance.

One matter raised by the FSM Public Auditor’s office was the challenge of retaining staff and what could be done to avoid high turnover rates, including the continued use of the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS), fair salary increases and improved employee benefits.

The meeting ended on a positive note with both the Vice President and PASAI members looking forward to working together to strengthen cooperation and building on best practices.



FSMTC We Are You www.fsmtc.fm

40 FSMTC 1983 - 2023

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE, FSMTC PROUDLY INTRODUCES OUR NEW MOBILE BUNDLE PLAN.

\$40 | **40GB/DATA**
UNLIMITED VOICE & SMS
 *Local and domestic calls only

VALID FOR 30 DAYS
 3G/4G Access Included

To activate the plan dial *438*22#
 To activate Auto-Renew dial *438*23#

Japan donates 30,000 water testing kits to FSM Department of Education in ceremony

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 13, 2023

Pohnpei—Ambassador Kagomiya attended a ceremony on December 13 for the handover of 30,000 Water Testing Kits to the Department of Education of the Federated States of Micronesia. The generous support is part of a broader infectious disease control initiative backed by a US\$1.3 million grant from the Government of Japan.

The initiative's primary focus lies in constructing essential infrastructure such as school toilets and hand washing stations, aiming to curtail the spread of infectious diseases within educational settings. The Water Testing Kits provided are a critical component of this endeavor, set to be dispersed across numerous schools in the FSM's four states. These kits will play a pivotal role in educational efforts, aiding children in understanding the significance of safe and clean water.

Adding a festive touch to the ceremony, the children present delighted attendees by singing Christmas carols in unison, spreading joy and cheer.

Among the esteemed guests attending the ceremony

were Mr. Wayne Mendiola, Jr., Acting Secretary of the FSM Department of Education, Mr. Stanley Etse, Director of the Department of Education of Pohnpei State, Mr. Jaap van Hierden, the UN Resident Coordinator, and Mr. Cromwell Bacareza, Chief of the UNICEF North Pacific Field Office.

Acting Secretary of Education, Mr. Wayne Mendiola, Jr., took a moment during the ceremony to express heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their unwavering support toward the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The ceremony not only symbolized Japan's commitment to bolstering health and sanitation initiatives within the FSM's education system but also highlighted the collaborative efforts between international partners, the UN, and local authorities in advancing crucial public health endeavors.



Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister discusses bilateral ties with FSM's Secretary Robert

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 21, 2023

Tokyo—The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, engaged in a meeting and working lunch on December 21, 2023, with Hon. Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The discussions, held for approximately 90 minutes, revolved around fostering stronger ties between the two nations and addressing various bilateral and regional concerns.

At the heart of the discussions was the enduring friendship between Japan and the FSM, highlighted by Minister Kamikawa's mention of the shared "kizuna" spanning approximately 150 years. The minister and Secretary expressed a mutual desire to fortify these historic ties, emphasizing the importance of their common interests and values.

Japan's consistent support for the sustainable development of the FSM was reiterated by Minister Kamikawa, who highlighted Japan's contributions through bilateral efforts and platforms like the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). Secretary Robert expressed deep appreciation for Japan's longstanding cooperation and underscored the significance of this continued support.

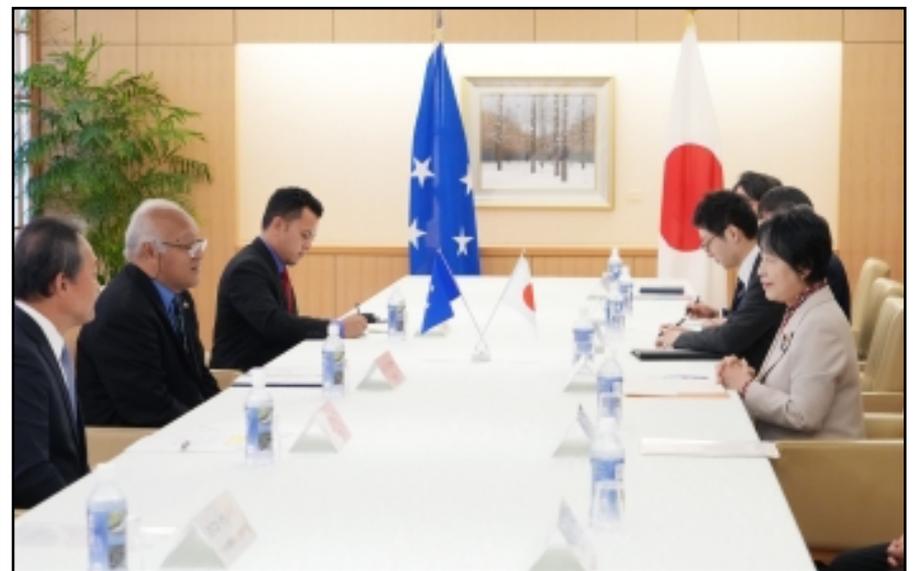
Crucial discussions also revolved

around key regional initiatives, including Japan's backing of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)'s "2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent." They agreed on the importance of the "family first" approach in dealing with regional security issues, setting the stage for further dialogue at the upcoming 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 10) next year.

An essential topic addressed during the meeting was Japan's efforts in managing ALPS treated water from the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Minister Kamikawa expressed gratitude for the FSM's trust and understanding in Japan's monitoring and safety protocols. She reassured Secretary Robert of Japan's commitment to transparency and continued information sharing regarding these efforts.

They also discussed their joint commitment to realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" and exchanged views on regional situations, including concerns about the East and South China Sea. Both agreed to collaborate on responding to North Korea's nuclear and missile issues, emphasizing continued cooperation in addressing global security concerns.

In a forward-looking stance, they concurred on working together toward tangible progress in the Security Council reform, underscoring the commitment of both nations to collaborate on global governance matters.



UOG breaks ground for School of Engineering building



The University of Guam

December 16, 2023

Guam—The University of Guam broke ground on Friday, December 15, for the construction of its first School of Engineering Building at a time of growth in enrollment among aspiring engineers and as the island sees a construction boom.

It took multifaceted efforts to get the \$7.9 million, 16,500-foot construction project off the ground following construction delays attributed to complex financing arrangements as construction costs throughout the island escalated in the past several years.

President Anita Borja Enriquez thanked many parties who worked together in advancing the project. The UOG Endowment Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development worked out a financing mechanism to help the project get the funding it needs to meet the higher construction cost.

President Enriquez also thanked Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero for providing a \$7 million funding package to support the School of Engineering construction project as well as the Student Success Center Building project.

“It really took a community effort to make all of these come to fruition,” President Enriquez said.

Within the past few weeks, UOG has held groundbreaking ceremonies for three construction projects, one for the Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health’s Nursing Annex. The second to break ground the same day the Nursing Annex project broke ground is for the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Pacific facility.

“Working in concert with the University of Guam Endowment Foundation, we are blessed now to have the third out of four projects that we have been anticipating,” President Enriquez said. The Student Success Center will be the fourth project to break ground soon.

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero attended the ceremony and congratulated the University for the milestone.

“It has raised the stature of our university and that’s the initiative that I know President Enriquez is coming forward with,” said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. She added that UOG is raising the level of higher education not just for Guam but also for the island nations in the Western Pacific.

UOG School of Engineering growth jibes with Guam construction boom

The growth of the School of Engineering, which now has more than 170 students, is occurring as the island is seeing a construction boom.

“You can see all the civilian projects, you can see all the new projects, as our economy is flourishing,” the governor said, in part.

RIM Architects designed the School of Engineering.

The construction contractor, Future World Corp., aims to complete the project on time, said its President Richard Chi. The project’s estimated completion date is March 2025.

The UOG Board of Regents approved a four-year Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering for the School of Engineering in February 2019.

USD \$350,000 grant to support data science for good and the democratization of satellite data for Pacific countries

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

December 22, 2023

Pacific--The Pacific Community (SPC) has received a USD350,000 grant from the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation (PJMF) to strengthen access to data for all Pacific people through Digital Earth Pacific (DEP).

As a digital public infrastructure, DEP offers free, open, and regularly updated products and services from Earth observation satellites, making it cost-effective and accessible to decision-makers and communities all over the Pacific. This allows for insights to understand how the Pacific region’s environment is changing, including tracking coastlines, changes in mangrove growth, wave flooding, and freshwater sources.

The funding will catalyse the research and development of near-coastal ocean floor mapping using satellite data, empowering the Pacific’s efforts in comprehensive ocean exploration.

Near-coastal ocean floor mapping data is pivotal for conservation, disaster prediction, and sustainable resource management. It aids in safeguarding habitats, preparing better for disasters, guiding resource practices, and informing policies. It supports scientific research, fosters economic growth, and enhances maritime safety, ensuring coastal communities’ well-being and preserving marine ecosystems.

SPC’s Director General, Dr Stuart Minchin, welcomed the seed funding and stated, “Access to fit-for-purpose and timely data that enables us to manage the environmental changes our region faces are costly and hard to access for many of our Pacific communities.”

“Digital Earth Pacific unlocks access to routinely updated free data and products. This grant will allow us to develop an innovative regional product of near-coastal ocean floor mapping, which will serve as a critical dataset for decision-making around the safety of navigation, fisheries management, mapping coastal erosion and sea level rise, and monitoring marine habitats”.

“The Pacific region is particularly at risk for the impacts of climate change. By offering timely access to trustworthy data through Digital Earth Pacific, the Pacific Community (SPC) is ensuring that the region has access to the information and tools needed to protect its environment, mitigate disasters, promote sustainable practices, and build a more resilient future,” said Vilas Dhar, President of the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation.

The Pacific Community remains committed to sustainable collaborations, fit-for-purpose funding and innovative partnerships and expertise from diverse stakeholders to maximize the impact of this transformative initiative.



Opinion Editorial

Advocating for lasting peace through a permanent ceasefire in the Holy Land

Imam Serjeel Ahmed, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community FSM

One of the most cherished activities for my family and I on the beautiful island of Pohnpei is strolling along the Dekehtik causeway. The serene ambiance by the ocean and the gentle breeze provide a rejuvenating experience. It's a blessing never having to worry about safety, regardless of the time of day. Overhead planes symbolize new mail or friends arriving, while passing cars are filled with familiar faces and of those friends yet to be met.

Through my travels, having the privilege to meet with people from all around the world, I've realized that regardless of nationality, creed, or religion, everyone desires a life of peace and harmony.

In the recent weeks, the world has witnessed a disturbing escalation of violence and cruelty in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Over 20,000 Palestinians, predominantly innocent women, children, and elderly civilians, have tragically lost their lives. Each night, the anguish intensifies as I think of innocent children, akin to my own son, becoming victims of a conflict they have no part in. These atrocities and human rights violations against the innocent civilians are distressingly on the rise. Hospitals and refugee camps are being bombed. Food and water supplies are being blocked from getting into the hands of the Palestinian people, and vital human lifelines are being cut. Safe zones are being bombed, and innocent children are starving to death. As an Ahmadi Muslim Imam, I vehemently denounce the barbaric acts of terrorism perpetrated by Hamas. There's no justification for taking innocent lives. The Holy Qur'an unequivocally equates the unjust taking of an innocent life to killing all of mankind. The Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace be upon him)

advocated for the complete protection of women, children, elders, and places of worship, no matter what religion they belonged to, even in times of war.

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, emphasized during his Friday Sermon on Oct 13th, 2023, "Whatever injustice and cruelty Hamas have committed, the response to it, or war, should have been restricted to Hamas. The indiscriminate response of the Israeli government is extremely dangerous, and it seems this conflict will not end here."

While Hamas's actions on Oct 7th were reprehensible and against Islamic teachings, Israel's response has been disproportionate and the collective punishment of the Palestinian civilians is not justified. Bombings in Gaza have decimated the territory, resulting in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children. The vast majority of Palestinians have no affiliation with extremists and deserve the same protection and rights as Israeli civilians. We must implore world leaders to pursue a permanent ceasefire in the name of justice and humanity. We must revert to the fundamental principle of true justice as the sole means to achieve enduring and lasting peace.

For years, His Holiness has cautioned global powers to learn from history's lessons. His address to a bi-partisan group of U.S. Congress members on Capital Hill in 2012 emphasized the paramount importance of just international relations as the blueprint for global peace. In a statement dated March 1, 2022, His Holiness once again urged world leaders "to set aside their national and vested interests in order to prioritize the peace and security of the world by adopting true justice at all levels of society."

If we do not do so, we are at risk of a world-scale escalation which will become truly devastating.

To my fellow Micronesian brothers and sisters, nurturing positive relations with every nation is vital. However, true justice necessitates advocating for what is right in the name of God Almighty. In seeking peace in the Holy Land, we must reflect on the meaning of the sacred land we are sitting on in Pohnpei - "upon a stone altar." As these islands hold sacred value for the people of Micronesia, we must understand that the inheritance of Holiness transcends any specific group or people. It embraces anyone who strives towards the will of God and follows His true guidance. We can all coexist in love and peace.

May God Almighty grant us the ability to uphold the covenants of peace and justice, fostering love akin to the safety and tranquility of our beloved nation. Amen.

FSM Kosrae and Yap States SOPs for clinical care for GBV survivors launched with UNFPA support

KOSRAE, FSM – The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with the support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pacific, launched the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for clinical management of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases including sexual violence, for each of the States of Kosrae and Yap.

"Violence against women and children is a major concern in a number of countries all over the world, and unfortunately FSM is no exception," highlighted Dr. Tholman Alik, Director of Kosrae State Department of Health Services. FSM government's first Family Health and Safety Survey completed in 2014 with support from UNFPA and Australia, revealed that one out of three (33%) women and girls aged between 15 and 64 reported experiencing sexual/physical violence in the lifetime committed by her intimate partner, and 24% in the last 12 months.

Each of the survivors of GBV needs to be able to access well-coordinated, multi-sectoral response services and referrals among a wide range of institutions from life-saving health care, to mental health and psycho-social support, as well as the police, prosecutors and the court of law. UNFPA Pacific, with funding support from the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, has provided financial and technical support to the federal and state governments of FSM to increase the quality and timeliness of the health sector's response to GBV survivors including for those living in rural and remote areas, more specifically, through developing the SOPs for 'clinical management' of GBV including rape, sexual violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence and family violence, strengthening referral pathways, as an integral part of the survivor-centered, multi-sectoral response in the country.

The SOPs for clinical management of GBV for both Kosrae and Yap States were formally launched at the National Women Conference held in the Kosrae State during the global 16 Days of Activism against GBV (25 November - 10 December). The SOPs will provide the frontline healthcare workers with the required knowledge and skills with which to manage and support cases of gender-based violence including sexual violence. The guidelines also ensure that quality life-saving healthcare services are provided to the GBV survivors across different states of FSM in a uniform manner.

"As a health service provider, we pledge to continue to build on and support the great work done for all survivors, and for all who are at risk of GBV and sexual violence in the country," said the Director of the Yap State Department of Health Services, Ms. Maria Marfel, in a statement read by Ms. Linda Teteth, the Yap State Health Services' Human Trafficking Coordinator.

"As we made an important step today by formally launching the SOP, I thank all the staff and UNFPA for their time and efforts to finalise this SOP and for training all key health-care providers for providing confidential, survivor-centered care to keep women safe," said Kosrae State Health Services Director Dr. Alik. "The global call to action of the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign to End Violence Against Women, is a powerful reminder that our work to end GBV is an unfinished business. Let's act now."

Ms. Evelyn Adolph, UNFPA Pacific Assistant Representative and Head of Micronesia Multi-Country Office in Pohnpei, said "This is a special day for the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs and for the States of Kosrae and Yap," congratulating the national and state governments on the formal launch of the SOPs. "UNFPA is committed to continuing its technical assistance to FSM towards Zero GBV. We will support raising awareness about the SOPs and, importantly, the full utilization of the SOPs for quality implementation of health sector response to the survivors of sexual and gender based violence in all States, leaving no one behind," added Ms. Adolph.

“Our Nation Needs You” – President Simina delivers keynote address to the College of Micronesia’s fall graduating class of 2023



FSM Information Services

December 15, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei—Today, His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina had the privilege of delivering the keynote address at the College of Micronesia’s 78th Commencement Exercises and Graduation ceremony.

Drawing from personal experiences, the President shared the highs and lows of his own educational journey, underscoring the inevitable setbacks and failures one might encounter. "I stand here before you not just as your President but as someone who has faced struggles and obstacles; someone who has known the agonies of failures and the joys of triumph," he said.

Reflecting on his own college experience starting in Jackson, Mississippi in the 70’s, President Simina recounted his own challenges, “From the outer island of Oneop to Weno; I got on a 727, and left for the unknown. I ended up in Jackson, Mississippi, of all places. No Micronesians, no Chuukese. There, I witnessed first-hand the marches of the Ku Klux Klan. I found the social and political issues of that place driven by racial issues mostly. They spoke differently. I was neither black nor white, which put me in an even more difficult position.”

The President went on to share how

those experiences shaped his decision to go to law school, where he came to appreciate and develop his passion for justice and the rule of law. “...that is where I realized and came to truly know that not only did I in fact belong and had a role to play, but my being there was a manifestation of what inclusion, diversity and equity – the very ideals upon which justice and democracy rest upon—look like in real life...Learning that justice isn’t an abstract concept but a living, breathing force, essential for a functioning society and that each court decision had the power to redefine the contours of our collective morality is what drove me into entering into my first election race”.

The President went on to encourage the graduates to embrace challenges and even failure as part of the journey and to persistently move forward. "All I ask of you is that you fail forward. Fail forward and keep getting up. Keep getting up

and if you fail, fail forward again. That to me is progress in life," he said.

President Simina reiterated the graduates' pivotal role in shaping the nation's future. "Each of you, as graduates, holds the power to contribute to the story of our nation's development. Our nation needs you," he said.

“Remember, the problems we face are not insurmountable. They are invitations to showcase your ingenuity, your resilience, and your empathy. You are not just graduates. You are the vanguards of hope, the architects of our nation building, and the pioneers of progress. Remember, you are the patriots of our country.” he concluded.

The Simina-Palik administration congratulates the College of Micronesia, the families, and especially the fall graduating class of 2023.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that AstraZeneca UK Limited, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United Kingdom, of 1 Francis Crick Avenue, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Cambridge, CB2 0AA, United Kingdom, is the sole owner and proprietor of the trademark below:



which is used in connection with the following goods:

Pharmaceutical preparations and substances

Notice is also hereby given that:

THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADE MARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.

For further information, please contact:
DENNEMEYER & ASSOCIATES
Email: mail-au@dennemeyer-law.com



Policy Brief sheds light on urgent climate finance needs in the Pacific region

Pacific Islands Forum UNDP

Suva, 20 December 2023 - Against the backdrop of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28 conference in Dubai, a new policy primer has been released which frames the Pacific's perspectives on climate change-induced loss and damage and associated Pacific priorities for the new Loss and Damage fund, operationalized on Day 1 at COP28.

This Policy Primer has been developed by the Pacific Islands Forum, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in Fiji, as a guidance paper to provide detail and background on the dynamics of loss and damage experiences in the Pacific and to assist Pacific stakeholders to express their priorities in relation to Loss and Damage Financing.

The policy brief underlines key findings and recommendations, including:

- Recognizing the imperative need for a dedicated Loss and Damage Fund tailored to the distinct challenges faced by Pacific Island nations.
- Stressing the significance of a

dynamic and adaptable fund structure.

- Addressing economic and non-economic Loss and Damage in an interconnected manner.
- Supporting proactive and responsive measures to tackle Loss and Damage.
- Ensuring equitable access to funding while acknowledging the diversity of regional contexts and needs.

At the opening of COP28, countries have made pledges of over US\$600 million to capitalize the fund and discussions on the make-up of the governing board are now underway.

While international discussions have progressed on critical elements for the operationalization of the Fund, a greater awareness and understanding of loss and damage in the context of Small Island Developing States like those in the Pacific, is crucial to ensure needs are adequately addressed.

"The insights and recommendations presented in this policy brief are instrumental in shaping the decisions and actions required to address Loss and Damage in the Pacific. They serve as a vital roadmap for our region as we

work towards the operationalization of a dedicated Loss and Damage Fund at COP28 and in the aftermath", said Karlos Lee Moresi, Resilience Team Leader at the Pacific Islands Forum.

Mr. Mike Waiwai, Director of Climate Change, Government of Vanuatu during the side event stated, "Vanuatu is already facing existing threats from climate change. Our NDC outlines a cost of US \$177 million for loss and damage needs across all sectors. We are using this to align our sector priorities and plans. Vanuatu wants to ensure there is new financing to address loss and damage."

Furthermore, Mr Simon Stumpf, Deputy Head of Climate Finance Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Advisor in the Transitional Committee emphasized, "the Fund is not the silver bullet - we need all instruments available to deliver to communities on the ground. Part of the loss and damage finance package decision is to ensure direct access modalities to communities at the subnational level,"

"The insights and recommendations made during the event by expert panelists

and contained in the brief serve as crucial information to assist Pacific representatives and broader stakeholders in supporting the shaping of appropriate financing mechanisms. Specifically, the policy primer calls for collective global responsibility and a catalyst for cooperative efforts and inventive solutions," said Ms. Tuya Altangerel, Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office, who joined the event virtually from Fiji.

The Pacific Island Forum will continue to develop Policy Primer papers in this series, to provide up-to-date information and guidance on relevant resilience financing topics for the Pacific, particularly in the wake of decisions made at this year's COP28.

To access the policy brief and learn more about the initiative, please visit:

<http://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/undp-pacific-loss-and-damage-2023.pdf>

www.undp.org/pacific/publications/policy-primer-loss-and-damage-considerations-pacific-island-countries

Pacific Human Rights Film Festival inspires positive change through cinema

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

December 11, 2023

Suva, Fiji--Last week, the Pacific Community's (SPC) six-week third Pacific Human Rights Film Festival, which raised people's awareness around human rights issues, and inspired large and diverse audiences to take positive action, came to an end. Screenings and discussions brought over a thousand people together in a safe space to discuss these important human rights issues in the Pacific region.

Nine events took place between 4 November and 9 December in Suva, Fiji, with selected films screened across the Pacific region. Women's and children's rights were central themes to this year's educational festival. The second part of the festival coincided with the international campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence which takes place annually from 25 November to 10 December. The festival also marked the 75 Years

since the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Miles Young, Director of the Human Rights and Social Development at SPC, said: "Our third edition of the Pacific Human Rights Film Festival was a big success in engaging audiences around issues of human rights through cinema and talanoas. At SPC, raising people's awareness of human rights issues is a key priority to enable positive changes in behaviour and practice of communities. We also work closely with governments and civil society to improve policies and programmes in relation to human rights issues".

Sandra Tarte - Associate Professor, Acting Head of School of Law and Social Sciences (SoLaSS), at USP said "We are very proud that USP provides the venue for this important event. This year the festival reached a larger audience than ever, including across the region from our various campuses. This has been a wonderful collaboration

with all our partners".

The initiative was led by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) with support from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The festival was the product of a collaborative effort among various organisations, with agencies leading specific events. These included the UN Human Rights Office, the European Union, The New Zealand High Commission, the British High Commission, Alliance Française, the French Embassy, the New Caledonian Government, and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in Fiji. Other sponsors included Novotel, Toorak Central, and Fiji Traveller.

Across the Pacific region, government institutions have made progress in

upholding commitments related to human rights over recent decades. However, socio-economic inequalities and rights violations persist due to power imbalances, social exclusion, and discriminatory norms, attitudes and practices. Women and girls, LGBTQI+ and MVPFAFF persons and persons with disabilities face discrimination in society, as well as in accessing social services and economic opportunities. The role this festival, therefore, played in bringing human rights issues to the public was crucial.

The Pacific is also in the middle of what could be described as a new wave of capacity building in regard to filmmaking. The Festival sought to ignite interest and passion in filmmaking as a form of cultural communication and to channel that engagement into discussions of human rights issues.

Bank Of Guam celebrates Giving Tuesday and Holiday Give with a total donation of \$20,000 to four non-profit organizations and inaugural Open Heart award

Bank of Guam

December 13, 2023

Hagåtña, Guam – As an extension of Giving Tuesday and part of their Give A Little Love holiday campaign, Bank of Guam proudly announces a total donation of \$20,000 to four deserving non-profit organizations.

The Holiday Give by Bank of Guam, is an employee-driven initiative, empowering the Bank of Guam Familia to contribute to the community they serve. This year, each selected non-profit will receive \$5,000 to support their invaluable work.

The selected non-profits for this year's Holiday Give are:

- **Bake Their Day:** Making smiles one cake at a time, Bake Their Day creates birthday cakes for children and young adults in shelters, foster and group homes, and government agencies.
- **Chuuk Women's Council:** Established almost 40 years ago, the Chuuk Women's Council educates and empowers women in Chuuk State, advocating for gender equality and running programs focused on health, education, and environmental issues.
- **Guam Animals In Need (GAIN):** GAIN, located in Yigo, provides shelter, food, medical attention, and a nurturing environment for animals, working towards creating a safer and more compassionate world for them.
- **Harvest House:** Since 2009, Harvest House has been helping children and teens on Guam grow physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually by providing a safe haven.

Bank of Guam's Holiday Give, established in 2017, aims to spread cheer and support during the Christmas season. The Bank's employees actively participate by nominating and voting for non-profits that connect with them personally and exemplify dedication to the community.

As The People's Bank, community is at the heart of everything we do. And in the spirit of the season together with our year-round campaign to "Be Kind" and "FindKind," it brings us joy to recognize,

support, and Give A Little Love to Bake Their Day, Chuuk Women's Council, Guam Animals In Need, and Harvest House for their unwavering commitment to our island communities and those most in need. There are so many worthy organizations, and we're beyond proud of our employees for selecting organizations whose mission resonates so deeply with many of them. We continue to encourage and remind everyone to Give A Little Love and Spread Kindness all year long. -Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, President and Chief Executive Officer

The Holiday Give was unveiled at Bank of Guam's Special Giving Tuesday Celebration on December 5th at Capitol Kitchen. The event served as a "Reverse-Give" and celebration, thanking some of the island's community partners for their contributions and the meaningful impact they make in our island communities throughout the year.

At the event, the inaugural Open Heart Award by Bank of Guam was given to Habibi's Catering now Habibi's Mediterranean Delicacies, led by Founder & Chef Nedal Ouwer and General Manager Leilani Castro. This award honors one community partner or business that embody kindness, compassion and generosity.

It's been heartwarming to witness Habibi's journey both as a business and as a contributing member to our island community. We were deeply connected most by Habibi's purpose and pledge 'to help whoever you can, wherever you can, and whenever you can.' They've filled so many bellies and so many hearts with their generous spirit, uplifting and inspiring so many in our community along the way. On Giving Tuesday, and all year long, we thank Habibi's and all our community partners for everything you do. -Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, Senior Vice President | Chief Experience Officer

Habibi's has been a beacon of generosity, providing meals before and after Typhoon Mawar - preparing over 30,000 meals across the island to families in need and living in the shelters, first responders, and emergency workers - all while overcoming limited resources and personal challenges. Their story and mission connected with so many in the community, resulting in numerous donations of supplies, food, and volunteers.

Bank of Guam sends their thanks and appreciation to all the non-profits and organizations in attendance including American Cancer Society, Autism Community Together, Bake Their Day, Dededo Mayor's Office, GTA, Guam Animals In Need (GAIN), Guam Cancer Care, Guam Girl Scouts, Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association, Harvest House, iRecycle, KUAM Careforce, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Todu Guam Foundation, and Victims Advocate Reaching Out (VARO).

Bank of Guam remains committed to supporting and recognizing those who make a positive impact in our community, embodying the true spirit of the holiday season.

