

FSM at the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting

FSM Information Services

September 1, 2024

Nuku'alofa, Tonga—The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), led by President H.E. Wesley W. Simina actively participated in the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM) held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, from 26 to 28 August 2024. The Forum brought together Heads of State and Government from across the Pacific region under the theme “Transformative and Resilient Pasifiki: Build Better Now.” The Forum Leaders’ Retreat took place on Vava’u Island on 29 August 2024, where leaders consulted on important topics and they reaffirmed their strong commitment to regional cooperation, resilience, and sustainable development.

FSM Convenes Special Micronesian Presidents Summit:

As the Chair of the Micronesian Presidents’ Summit (MPS), President Simina convened a special MPS on the



margins of the PIFLM, culminating in the adoption of an MPS Communiqué that outlines key priorities and actions for the sub-region. This Communiqué reflects the commitment of the Micronesian leaders to continue collaboration on shared concerns for the Micronesian region, including

implementation of the Suva Agreement.

FSM Assumes Chairmanship of SIS:

During the Forum, President Simina assumed the Chairmanship of the Smaller Island States (SIS) grouping, comprised of Cook Islands, FSM,

Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau and Tuvalu, where he led the SIS meeting that resulted in the collective efforts of SIS to enhance and elevate SIS engagement among the broader Forum structure.

In his plenary statement President Simina stated, “The SIS Regional Strategy, the SIS desktop review, and the ongoing evaluation of the Regional Architecture highlight the necessity of prioritizing SIS needs in shaping our regional policy agenda. By fostering collaboration among SIS members and advocating for our priorities on key platforms, we can protect our most vulnerable populations and promote sustainability within the Pacific Islands Forum framework. This, in turn, will reinforce the vital role of SIS in advancing stability and prosperity throughout our region.”

The need to strengthen and elevate

[Click here for continuation](#)

Japan provides \$40 million for Pohnpei Port Expansion and FSM Fisheries Research Vessel

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

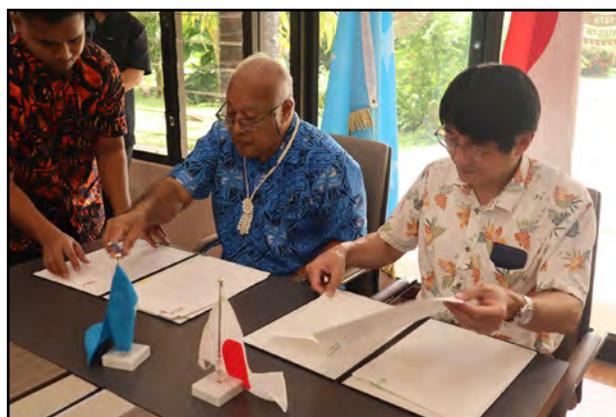
September 3, 2024

Palikir, Pohnpei—On September 3, 2024, the Exchange of Notes for the Pohnpei Port Expansion Project (Around 4.6 billion Yen or around 30 million USD) and the Provision of a Fisheries Research Vessel and Fisheries Equipment (1.4 billion Yen or around 10 million USD) were signed by His Excellency KAGOMIYA Nobuo, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and The Hon. Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs, in Palikir.

The port of Pohnpei is a vital lifeline for the country, which relies on maritime

transport for most of its supplies. However, the port lacks sufficient space, leading to difficulties in unloading goods. This has also affected the landing of fish, while fisheries is an very important industry for the country. The current Pohnpei Port Expansion Project aims to significantly expand the quay, which is expected to increase the port’s capacity and improve the FSM’s connectivity with domestic and international partners.

In addition, the provision of essential equipment such as vessels, ice-making



machines and fishing gear for the country’s important fishing industry is expected to strengthen sustainable fisheries development.

During the signing ceremony, Ambassador Kagomiya expressed his

gratitude, particularly regarding the “Pohnpei Port Expansion Project,” stating that although the project faced delays due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the efforts of those involved made it possible to reach this day. He also expressed his pleasure at being able to exchange the letters today. He added that he sincerely wishes these projects will help the FSM’s people’s own efforts for economic and social development.

Foreign Minister Robert expressed his gratitude for Japan’s long-standing assistance and stated that it is a pleasure to see the economic and industrial improvements for the people of the Federated States of Micronesia through this aid from Japan.

Vice President Palik meets with St. Luke's Medical Center to discuss strengthening healthcare partnerships for FSM citizens

FSM Public Information Services

August 26, 2024

Palikir, Pohnpei—T.H. Vice President Aren B. Palik welcomed representatives from St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC), Senior Vice President Ms. Veggie Flores and her team during a courtesy call aimed at discussing the longstanding partnership between SLMC and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) through MiCare. The meeting highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare services for FSM citizens and explored new opportunities for collaboration.



MiCare has established agreements with several leading healthcare providers in the Philippines as part of its mission to improve access to quality healthcare for its members. In early 2024, MiCare signed new Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with medical providers, including Cardinal Santos Medical Center, St. Luke's Quezon City, St. Luke's Global City, and Medical City Hospitals, all of which are ranked among the top ten hospitals in the Philippines. These partnerships are designed to offer FSM citizens access to high-quality medical care at reasonable costs.

Vice President Palik emphasized the importance of the renewed agreement between MiCare and SLMC, which has been in place since 2000. In February 2024, MiCare renewed its contracts with both SLMC Quezon City and SLMC Global City, ensuring that FSM patients continue to receive comprehensive healthcare services. The agreement

includes several benefits for MiCare members, such as complimentary outpatient accommodation at the Bethany facility near SLMC Quezon City, transportation arrangements for patients from the airport to the hospital and Bethany, and a 10% discount on medical claims processed through SLMC.

During the meeting, Vice President Palik and SLMC representatives discussed key aspects of the partnership, including the effectiveness of the referral process for FSM patients, the quality of medical care provided, and the most common health issues that lead to referrals.

Looking ahead, the discussion explored potential expansions in the partnership, including the integration of telehealth and e-health services to support FSM doctors and patients before referrals are made. The Vice President

expressed interest in exploring how technology can contribute to solutions to help address challenges related to connectivity and infrastructure in the FSM, which could enhance the overall effectiveness of medical care.

Another key topic was the FSM's plans to establish a diagnostic center to improve local healthcare capacity. Vice President Palik inquired whether such an initiative would enhance the collaboration between FSM healthcare providers and SLMC by allowing for more accurate diagnoses prior to overseas referrals.

The possibility of organizing a medical mission to the FSM was also discussed. Vice President Palik highlighted the potential benefits of a collaborative mission between MiCare, SLMC, and the

FSM Department of Health, which could provide direct healthcare services to citizens and further strengthen ties between the two institutions.

As FSM continues to prioritize healthcare accessibility for its citizens, partnerships like those with St. Luke's Medical Center play a crucial role in ensuring that patients receive quality care both at home and abroad.



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September 25, 2024

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Monday, September 23, 2024

Celebration and Controversy: Pohnpei leader questions future of China-FSM Pilot Farm at opening day of Phase Twelve

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 7, 2024

Madolenihmw, Pohnpei—As part of the celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the FSM, Ambassador Wu Wei hosted the opening day of the 12th phase of the China-FSM Pilot Farm in Madolenihmw.

“Since the establishment of the China-FSM Pilot Farm, Chinese agricultural technical experts have carried out research, demonstrations, promotion, and training of agricultural technologies such as vegetable planting, pig breeding, biogas applications, circular agriculture, and the introduction of new agricultural machinery,” Ambassador Wu said. “It has cultivated many new varieties of vegetables suitable for the local climate conditions, increased yields, and improved the planning skills and incisiveness of local farmers. The Chinese experts have effectively implemented biogas projects, recycling, and clean agriculture models according to local conditions, bringing real benefits to the local people, which



have been highly appreciated and warmly welcomed by farmers.”

He added that one of the biogas projects had been granted a United Nations award. “We are glad to see that through the joint efforts of Chinese experts and FSM counterparts, the Pilot Farm Project has become a gold-letter signboard of China Aid to FSM and a symbol of friendship between the two countries.”

The remainder of his speech focused on the history of FSM-China diplomatic relations.

“(The farm) represents a shared vision for sustainable development,” said FSM Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert. “The commitment to innovation and mutual communication to enhance the lives and meet the needs of our communities. This initiative is a testament to the strength of our bilateral relations and the shared values that bind our nations together, our peoples together. It is in this respect that we look forward to incorporating additional units of cooperation under Phase 13, and I’m glad that in this Phase 12, we are already talking about this.”

“Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, we are particularly grateful to Pohnpei State and the Madolenihmw Municipal Government leadership for their continued support and collaboration that has made this project possible,” he said. “...This is a celebration of our collective efforts and a testament to what we can achieve when we work together toward common goals. Your Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, in closing, I would like to express our profound appreciation to everyone—and I mean everyone—who has played a role in making this project a reality. As we look to the future, let us continue

to build on this foundation of collaboration, innovation, and shared prosperity.”

Lt. Governor Francisco Ioanis, who was acting as Pohnpei Governor at the time, stood and gave an apparently opposing view. “Today we are celebrating 35 years of having this farm. For me, as Acting Governor, it doesn’t mean anything. I recommend that it’s about time for us to discuss the Pilot Farm again. Before, I know that it seemed local people were training under the Chinese. Now, no more. So, what is going on?” he asked. “So, I recommend that we should sit together and discuss the agreement here.”

He asked Pohnpei Director of Resources and Development Mark Kostka to speak, though he wasn’t on the planned program. He also charged him with looking into what is going on at the Pilot Farm. “Maybe we will decide that it’s time for the Pilot to go to Chuuk or Yap,” Ioanis said.

Secretary Kostka then spoke on an apparently impromptu basis. He said that one of the reasons farmers have not been taking advantage of the Pilot Farm is that Pohnpei currently has a shortage of staff at the agricultural station. He said that he hopes that in the near future his department could begin to start bringing people back to the farm. “I know I’m also working on trying to see how we can bring— We used to bring farmers here and get trained so that they can go back and do their thing. I know our MOU is coming up very soon. Maybe we will discuss and see what’s best for



the people,” he concluded.

Acting Governor Ioanis made his exit from the presentation before the next speaker.

Mr. Hu Shunxiang, the Pilot Farm project leader, was the next to speak and gave a synopsis of the program. He said that, among other things, there are currently over 80 demonstration biogas projects in Pohnpei. Furthermore, representatives have been doing door-to-door visits and training. “Government officials, school teachers, students, and residents often come to visit,” he said. “...We welcome more farmers to join us, and we are willing to help more farmers develop agricultural production.”

Organizers next showed a lengthy video of technical instruction on artificial pig insemination, which, while interesting, was also highly technical and went over the heads of most in the audience.

Senator Nelperson Etse, who has long been a supporter of the FSM-China Pilot Farm, was the next to speak. “Maybe 35 years is not enough,” he said, adding that he is one of the beneficiaries of the Pilot Farm project. He said that for seven years, his household has been using biogas for cooking instead of firewood, as they had done previously.

Last to speak was Duhlen Soumwei of Madolenihmw. He played a recently produced video that showed students participating in training activities with the experts from the Pilot Farm.

Members of the audience were then treated to a tour of the farm, a demonstration of watermelon harvesting, a cooking demonstration, and a buffet lunch.




FISHING TOURNAMENT

September 14

15th Annual Dr. Alexander Panuelo's cup

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Registration will be at Mangrove Bay Friday September 13, 6-7pm

Governor Joseph receives courtesy call from Transportation Data Management Unit

Pohnpei Public Information

August 21, 2024

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph received a courtesy call from the newly established Transportation Data Management Unit (TDMU) at the National Government. The TDMU, tasked with collecting and managing data on road infrastructure across the nation, aims to provide invaluable support for transportation management and infrastructure development.

During the meeting, TDMU representatives outlined their primary objectives, which include:

Data Collection and Management: Gathering comprehensive data on all roads, including their condition, location, and characteristics, to support effective transportation management.

Network-Level Data: Collecting data on a network level, providing a holistic view of the country's road

infrastructure.

Island-Wide Coverage: Ensuring that data is collected for all roads on every island, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

Data Source for Transportation: Serving as a definitive source of transportation data, informing decision-making and planning.

Centralized Database: Housing all collected data in a centralized database for easy access and analysis.

Informed Decision-Making: Assisting in the decision-making process regarding road maintenance, planning, and infrastructure development.

Maintenance Planning: Supporting the planning of road maintenance activities, including when, where, and how to prioritize repairs.

Consultancy Services: Providing

consultancy services related to road asset management systems.

Ownership: Taking ownership of the collected data and ensuring its ongoing management.

Governor Joseph expressed his gratitude for the establishment of the TDMU and emphasized the importance of data collection in addressing the nation and Pohnpei's transportation challenges. He acknowledged the need for a comprehensive database to inform decision-making and ensure efficient

allocation of resources.

The Governor also highlighted the potential of the TDMU's data to inform the Legislature and Congress regarding the allocation of funds for road infrastructure. By providing evidence-based information on road conditions, the TDMU can support the prioritization of preventive and periodic maintenance, ultimately leading to more efficient and cost-effective road management.



Pacific Partnership 2024-2 kicks off mission in Federated States of Micronesia

Lt. j.g. Winslow Blow
United States Navy

Yap—A multinational team representing five Pacific nations kicked off the fourth mission stop of Pacific Partnership 2024-2 (PP24-2) in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Sept. 4, 2024.

Yap Gov. Charles Chieng hosted U.S. Navy Capt. Daniel Keeler, PP24-2 mission commander, and Royal Australian Air Force Wing Cmdr. Scott Minchin, PP24-2 deputy mission commander, for a key leadership engagement at the governor's office as the first official event of the stop.

The Yap mission stop, which runs from Sept. 4-10, brings together approximately 70 participants from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States, all working to increase humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) preparedness in the Indo-Pacific.

“The U.S. has a long-standing

relationship with Yap, reflecting our deep commitment to our Pacific neighbors. Given Yap's vulnerability to natural disasters, the Pacific Partnership team is dedicated to helping prepare for and manage these emergencies,” said Keeler. “By collaborating with our partners from Australia, Canada, Japan, and New Zealand, along with the people of Yap, we aim to strengthen disaster preparedness and response, ensuring we prepare in calm to respond in crisis.”

At the invitation of the host nation, emergency operations training workshops covering disaster relief and humanitarian assistance will take place with the U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Army Civil Affairs; Yap Disaster Control Office; Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance; International Organization for Migration; Catholic Relief Services; and FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management.

The Pacific Partnership Band, composed of musicians from the U.S.

Pacific Fleet Band and the Royal Australian Army Band, will perform in a variety of community engagements.

Pacific Partnership medical providers will work shoulder-to-shoulder with providers at Yap State Hospital and technicians at Ulithi atoll and Fais Island to provide tailored medical care focusing on optometry exams, dental screenings, community health engagements and subject matter exchanges as well as spay and neuter clinics for cats and dogs.

“We are thrilled to once again welcome the multinational Pacific Partnership team to the Federated States of Micronesia. This year, the people of Yap will see first-hand meaningful engagements with the mission team, a stellar example of the enduring cooperation between our two nations,” said Hon. Ms. Jennifer Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

In the aftermath of the December 2004 “Boxing Day” tsunami that devastated parts of South and Southeast Asia, the

United States mobilized numerous military assets and personnel to support the relief effort. Recognizing the opportunity to build on the goodwill and lessons learned from that initial mission, the U.S. Navy planned and executed the inaugural Pacific Partnership mission in 2006; its primary aim was to proactively prepare for a more effective response to natural disasters while strengthening relationships and security ties between nations.

Now in its 20th iteration, the Pacific Partnership series is the U.S. Navy's largest annual multinational HA/DR 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 visit, www.clwp.navy.mil/Pacific-Partnership.

Ambassador Grant-Curnow makes first official visit to Yap

Australian Embassy to the FSM

August 27, 2024

Yap—Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant-Curnow made an official visit to Yap 21-24 August. The visit underscored Australia’s commitment to partnership and sustainable development in Yap.

During her visit, the Ambassador met with Governor Charles Chieng and his Cabinet, the Yap State Legislature and members of the Council of Pilung and the Council of Tamol. These discussions centered on shared interests and ongoing developments in Yap, including the challenges posed by climate change, Australia’s support for renewable energy and the opportunities presented by the Australian Awards scholarships and development grants.

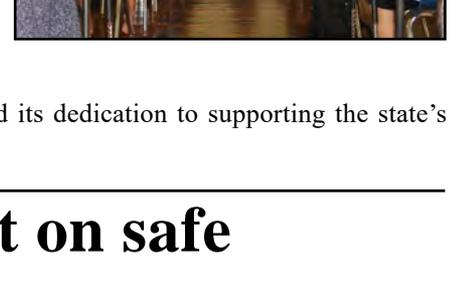
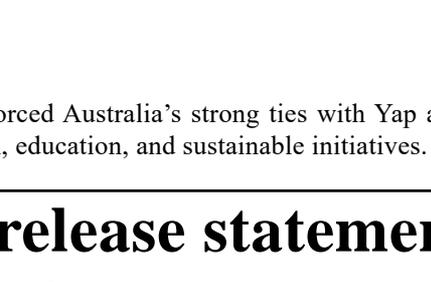
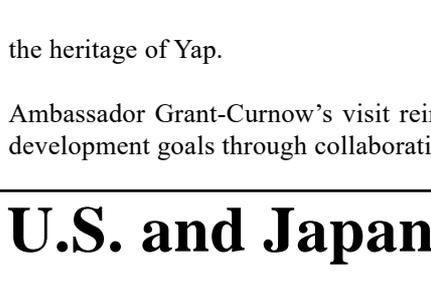
The Ambassador announced Australia’s support for the construction of a solar mini-grid project on the island of Falalop, Woleai. She met with partner in the project, Victor Nabeyan, General Manager of the Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC), to discuss energy needs in Yap.

The visit included an engagement with the President of the Yap Women’s Association Maria Laaw and Vice President Sylvia Gurepin to discuss gender-based issues and the vital role of women in community development.

Further highlighting her commitment to education and youth development, Ambassador Grant-Curnow was pleased to meet with the Director of Education Dominic Fanasog and officials to hand over thousands of primary school readers as part of the IQBE education program Australia supports.

Accompanied by Public Affairs and Research Officer Jermis Noket, the Ambassador also visited Yap Catholic High School, where they met with Director Fr. Rich McCaulif. The delegation toured the school campus and the Micronesia Seminar, to discuss the importance of education and the preservation of Micronesia culture.

The visit also included a tour of Yap’s iconic stone money and a traditional meeting house by the Chief of Historic Preservation Jeffrey Marbey. The rich history and cultural significance of these remarkable artefacts is integral to



the heritage of Yap.

Ambassador Grant-Curnow’s visit reinforced Australia’s strong ties with Yap and its dedication to supporting the state’s development goals through collaboration, education, and sustainable initiatives.

U.S. and Japan release statement on safe removal of oil in Chuuk Lagoon

U.S. Department of State

August 27, 2024

Tonga—On the margins of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Tonga the Governments of the United States of America and Japan released the following statement regarding the project for safe removal of oil in the Chuuk Lagoon:

We, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Komura Masahiro, are proud to acknowledge the Government

of Japan’s efforts to remove oil from World War II sunken vessels in the Chuuk Lagoon in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and look forward to working further to explore the possibility of a joint collaboration. Both sides are working in close consultation with the Chuuk State government and the FSM government on this initiative, acknowledging the important role of wreck diving to Chuuk’s tourism industry.

As President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida announced during the Prime Minister’s visit to Washington in April, the United States and Japan

are celebrating a new era of strategic cooperation. These efforts are a testament to the benefit the U.S.-Japan Alliance brings to the people in the Pacific and the world.

We are proud to make this announcement at the Pacific Islands Forum in Tonga to reflect our efforts to meet the ambitions of the region. Our work together is a prime example of our collective commitment to deliver tangible public goods in support of Pacific priorities, namely protecting the ocean and environment in accordance with the Pacific Islands Forum’s 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.



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Green Climate Fund SAPO20 Component 3 Inception Workshop

On Friday, August 16, 2024, the Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) successfully convened an inception workshop for Component 3 of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) SAPO20 Food Security Project. This gathering brought together a diverse group of 36 participants including farmer associations, women's groups, students from OLMCHS, representatives from Island Food Community, representatives from the Department of Health and Social Services, representatives from the Department of Education, representatives from MCT, representatives from the FSM NDA Office, representatives from both the Pohnpei State and FSM R&D.

The primary objective of the workshop was to develop a comprehensive communications strategy that promotes the importance of local food consumption and sustainable agricultural practices in the FSM. The focus was on five staple crops: breadfruit, taro, yam banana, and sweet potato, and the various techniques for processing, preparing,

storing, and consuming these nutritious foods.

The workshop featured a welcome address by Director Mark Kostka, the Director of Pohnpei State R&D and a former project manager for the GCF SAPO20 Food Security Project. In his remarks, Director Kostka expressed his enthusiasm for the project and thanked the participants for their ongoing commitment to food security and sustainable development. By engaging with these key stakeholders, CFE aims to raise awareness about the benefits of consuming local food, empower communities to adopt healthier dietary habits, and support local farmers and producers.

Participants shared their invaluable insights and experiences, contributing to the development of a tailored communication plan that will resonate with a wide range of audiences.

The Center for Entrepreneurship would like to acknowledge and extend its sincere thanks to all the implementing partners including Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT),



Pohnpei State Resources & Development, FSM Resources & Development, FSM National Designated Authority, and stakeholders who participated in the workshop. Their contributions are essential to the success of the GCF SAPO20 Food Security Project and the promotion of a more resilient and sustainable food system in the FSM.

“Local Food for Health, Wealth, and Heritage”

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

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Ambassador Kagomiya visits Kosrae State Hospital and JOCVs

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

August 29, 2024

Kosrae—On August 29, 2024, Ambassador Kagomiya visited Kosrae State Hospital where Dr. Tholman Alik, Director of Health Service of Kosrae State, explained the history, current situation, and future expansion plan of the hospital and the Kosrae Community Health Center (CHC) as well as the current medical situation of Kosrae State to the Ambassador.



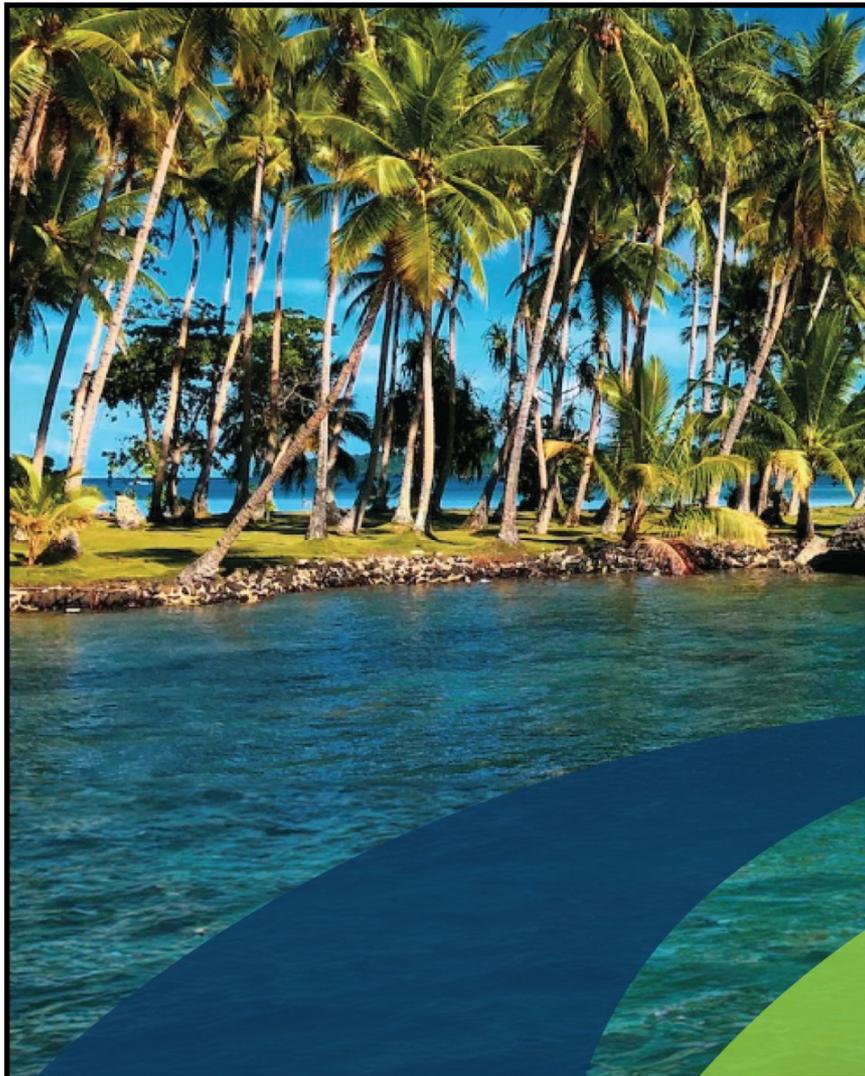
The doctor emphasized the importance of overcoming the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by improving the nutrition and life style of people and expressed his expectation to Ms. Kumiko Nagai, a Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV), who recently came to the hospital to help to tackle NCDs.

The Embassy is pleased to continue supporting the hospital.

The doctor also introduced various parts of the hospital and CHC to the Ambassador and showed various equipment which the Japanese Government recently donated to the hospital.

During his visit, the Ambassador also met and encouraged two other JOCVs who recently came to the state, namely, Mr. Yoshihiro Kitaura, who is working at the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), and Ms. Tomoko Hara, who is working at the Utwe Elementary School.

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We are committed to improving the lives of the people of Micronesia by contributing to Micronesia’s socio-economic development.

Japanese Ambassador makes first official visit to Kosrae

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

August 29, 2024

Kosrae—On August 27, 2024, during Ambassador Kagomiya's first official visit to Kosrae, the Ambassador made a courtesy call on Mr. Tulensa W. Palik, Governor, and Mr. Arthy G. Nena, Lieutenant Governor of the State.

The Ambassador also made a courtesy call on Mr. Semeon J. Phillip, Speaker, and Mr. Andy J. Andrew, Floor Leader of the State Legislature.

The State leaders and the Ambassador reconfirmed the friendship between the State and Japan as well as the important role of Japanese ODA (Overseas Development Assistance) in the State.

They also acknowledged substantial contribution that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as well as the Japan Oversea Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), and the Japan Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) have made.

The Ambassador extended gratitude to their warm welcome and told them that the Embassy is pleased to continue the cooperation with the state.



Pohnpei Government expresses gratitude to Japan for Pohnpei Port Expansion Project funding

Pohnpei Public Information

September 3, 2024

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Government extends its deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for their unwavering support and generous economic and social assistance, specifically in the advancement of the Pohnpei Port Expansion Project. This crucial initiative marks a significant milestone in Pohnpei's efforts to enhance maritime logistics and ensure the safety and efficiency of its port operations.

The signing ceremony for the project was held in Palikir on September 3, 2024, where key representatives from both the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Japan gathered to formalize this partnership. The Pohnpei Port Authority General Manager Grilly Jack, along with Seaport Manager Baron Mendiola and Facilities Manager Bronson Sam represented



the Pohnpei State Government, while Japan's esteemed Ambassador, His Excellency Nobuo Kagomiya, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) resident representative, Mr. Kunihiro Yamauchi, represented the Government of Japan. Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Officer in Charge, Lorin S. Robert, signed the agreement on behalf of the FSM National Government.

The expansion project, valued at 4.597 billion yen, includes the construction of a new quay equipped with vessel mooring facilities and is expected to significantly ease congestion, improve safety, and enhance the overall efficiency of maritime logistics. This will not only benefit Pohnpei but will also contribute to the broader economic growth and sustainability of the FSM.

The Pohnpei State Government looks forward to the successful implementation of this project and to further strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation with Japan.

SPC launches new Pacific-specific literacy intervention tools - International Literacy Day 2024

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Pacific—The Pacific Community (SPC), together with its regional education stakeholders, launched two literacy resources during this year’s International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations. These resources can now be used by Pacific’s educators to strengthen the region’s literacy standards at all levels of education.

SPC launched the regional poetry booklet titled: *Voices of the Pacific Youth: A Literacy Learning Tool* which provides support to teachers in an effort to improve the literacy standards of the Blue Pacific through the reading of poetry.

Ruci Qele, SPC’s Educational Assessment Specialist – Literacy, explained that “A key point to note about this booklet is that although it was derived from the findings of the Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) 2021 cycle, which has a target group of Year 4 and Year 6 students, this booklet can be used by teachers, educators and even parents to instil the foundations of literacy within our Pacific students, regardless of their year of study”.

The booklet contains poems, illustrations, learning tips and activities linked to the poems to help teachers to teach the different elements of reading skills to their students.

“One other aspect that sets this poetry booklet apart, is that all poems in this collection are written by Pacific poets and the environments established through the poems are very familiar to the intended readers,” Qele added.

Focusing on strengthening post-secondary literacy, SPC also launched the Pacific’s own Education Research Bank. This research bank is a Pacific-developed digital infrastructure that houses education related research information from across the region.

The research bank provides a web-based platform allowing Pacific Island countries as well as existing and emerging development partners to be aware of the research already available in the region.

The research bank is hosted in the Pacific-owned, SPC-coordinated Pacific Data Hub, which serves as a single-entry point to Pacific datasets, publications, dashboards and other tools, with financial support from New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Speaking at the ILD celebrations, Dr Michelle Belisle, Director of SPC’s Educational Quality and Assessment Programme, said that “the Education Research Bank responds to the region’s information

in English and as well in French in the recent past, is an outcomes-based qualification provided by SPC. For successful students, the qualification paves the way to enter into tertiary education or employment in the job market.

Ana Raivoce, Director of the former South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA) and the Chief Guest of the event, explained that “The practical application of Literacy requires a medium, and that medium is language. Here in the Pacific, twenty-seven countries, all members of SPC, each has its National Language. In most cases these languages differ from each other. But in all cases, the function of the language is the same – communication between people”.

Through this event, SPC has celebrated the interventions that were developed by keeping the Pacific people’s education at the heart. For this reason, SPC has localised the theme for this year’s literacy day to “Enhancing literacy through multilingualism: Promoting peace across the Blue Pacific Continent”.

Following the event, SPC will be working to distribute the newly launched literacy intervention tools with Ministries of Education across its 15 member countries.



management challenges. The bank serves as an open-source platform allowing for the sharing of knowledge from the Pacific, by the Pacific and for the Pacific”.

The bank currently houses 25 research papers received from 8 Pacific Island countries.

This year’s literacy day event also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the region’s own Year 13 programme: the South Pacific Form Seven Certificate (SPFSC). This regional programme, which has been offered

Australian Ambassador presents reading books to Dalipebinaw Elementary School

Australian Embassy to the FSM

August 30, 2024

Yap—Ambassador Grant-Curnow handed over 1,500 early grade reading books to Dalipebinaw Elementary School in Yap, reaffirming Australia’s commitment to supporting education in the FSM.

Australia is providing over 100,000 readers and picture dictionaries to state schools in Yap, many of which have been developed in Yapese, Ulithian and Woleaian to be delivered by early 2025.

Ambassador Grant-Curnow said: “Achieving quality education is a shared goal of Australia’s partnership with the FSM National Government and Yap Department of Education.”

We were honored to have Director of Education Dominic Fanasog join Principal MaeLynn Tiningidow and teachers for the event.

A number of Australians are supporting the education sector in Yap: Curriculum Coordinator Sandy Keiji who has been supporting the Improving Quality Basic Education (IQBE) program co-funded by the Asian Development Bank for over 6 years. Through the Australia-Pacific Partnerships Platform (AusP3), Australia has funded an Education Adviser, Dr Jo Bryde, who has been providing remote support and capacity building activities for teachers and principals in Yap State.

Special thanks to the Principal and teachers for organizing this event celebrating literacy in Yap.





**Congratulations to the 35th Anniversary of
the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations
between the People's Republic of China
and the Federated States of Micronesia**

**中华人民共和国驻密克罗尼西亚联邦使馆
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in the Federated States of Micronesia**

Opinion Editorial

Jointly create a brighter future for China-FSM relations in the new era

By H.E. WU Wei,
Chinese Ambassador to the FSM

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Federated States of Micronesia. The past 35 years has been a splendid journey of overcoming challenges and enhancing partnership, and China-FSM cooperation and friendship have steadily deepened, bringing tangible benefits to both countries and peoples.

A bosom friend who's afar brings a distant land near. Although China and the FSM are separated by the sea, our traditional friendship enjoys a long history. In 1989, the two countries issued the joint communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations. The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia have decided, through friendly consultations, to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at ambassadorial level as from 11 September 1989. The Government of the FSM recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. The two Governments agree to develop the diplomatic relations of friendship and cooperation on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

Over the years, both China and the FSM have stayed true to the original aspiration of establishing diplomatic relations, and regarded each other as friends in need and sincere partners. In April this year when H.E. President Simina paid a state visit to China, Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with President Simina. The two presidents reached important common understandings on further deepening bilateral relations. Under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-FSM friendship will continue to charge ahead and become stronger over time.

China-FSM relations have achieved steady progress over the past 35 years. China and the FSM have always

treated each other as equals and firmly supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests. China is one of the first countries who recognize the independence of the FSM and support its membership in the United Nations. China always supports the FSM in its safeguarding national sovereignty and independence, following a path of development in line with its national conditions, revitalizing its economy and improving people's well-being. The FSM side firmly supports the one-China principle and supports China's just position in safeguarding its core interests. Our bilateral relations have progressed from friendly cooperation to strategic partnership and then to comprehensive strategic partnership. The development of China-FSM relations has advanced the common interests of both countries and peoples, and promoted peace, stability, and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

China and the FSM have stood together through thick and thin over the past 35 years. In times of difficulties and challenges, China and the FSM have provided mutual assistance, jointly demonstrating the sense of building a global community of shared future. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FSM side provided valuable donations to China at the earliest time possible to support China's fight against the pandemic. China reciprocated by providing various kinds of assistance within its capacity to help the FSM overcome the pandemic. In July last year when China suffered from typhoon disaster, President Simina sent a letter of condolence to President Xi Jinping, which China will always bear in mind. In the first half of this year, at the trying period of severe drought in the FSM, China actively provided emergency humanitarian supplies to the FSM to help local people overcome difficulties, and improve their ability to cope with climate change.

Practical cooperation has yielded fruitful results over the past 35 years. China upholds the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity and the commitment to the greater good and shared interests, and attaches high importance to the development needs of the FSM. Within frameworks such as South-South Cooperation and Belt and Road cooperation, bilateral economic

and technical cooperation projects such as roads, bridges, schools and gymnasiums have been implemented in succession in the FSM. The China-aid secondary road in Pohnpei State is praised by the locals as one of the best roads in the FSM. The China-aid agricultural technological cooperation project has been steadily advancing, and the China-aid FSM Pilot Farm has become a well-known people-supported project. Skills including vegetable planting, pig breeding and biogas application have entered the daily life of ordinary people. The China-aid National Conference Center and the renovation project of the Pohnpei State Government building are under intensive construction. Once completed, they will become new symbols of the friendship between our two countries.

People-to-people and cultural exchanges have brought one highlight after another over the past 35 years. Sister provinces/states and sister cities of our two countries have engaged in close and fruitful interactions and benefited both peoples in concrete ways. Guangdong Province and Chuuk State, Shandong Province and Kosrae State, Zhejiang Province and Pohnpei State, Hainan Province and Yap State, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Yap State have respectively established sister province/state relations. Zhongshan City has long maintained friendly exchanges and cooperation with relevant cities in the FSM. Chinese local governments have carried out a variety of exchange and cooperation projects including medical teams and art troupes in the FSM.

Programs such as Chinese teaching, Chinese government scholarships, short-term training and workshops have supported the nation-building of the FSM and China-FSM cooperation. China-FSM medical care collaboration also contributes a lot to the betterment of health and well-being of the FSM people. In April this year during his state visit to China, President Simina visited three major enterprises in Dongguan and Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, and boarded Changdao, a zero-carbon committed island of Yantai City, Shandong Province. The local practice of Chinese modernization lays a more solid foundation for deepening friendly sub-national exchanges between China

and the FSM.

China and the FSM are both developing countries and members of the Global South with common development needs. In developing relations with Pacific Island countries including the FSM, China adheres to the principle of "four fully respects". First, China fully respects the sovereignty and independence of Pacific Island countries, and upholds the equality of all countries, big or small. Second, China fully respects the will of Pacific Island countries and pursues extensive consultation, joint contribution, shared benefits and win-win results. Third, China fully respects the cultural traditions of Pacific Island countries, and adheres to harmony in diversity and shared beauty of diverse cultures. Fourth, China fully respects the unity and self-reliance of Pacific Island countries, and supports them in implementing the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, contributing to the building of a peaceful, harmonious, secure, inclusive and prosperous Blue Pacific.

Looking ahead, China and the FSM will continue to adhere to mutually beneficial win-win cooperation for common development, synergize development strategies, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, deepen cooperation in various fields including but not limited to infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, health, green and low-carbon development and education. The two sides stand ready to strengthen communication and coordination in international and regional affairs, promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and advance the building of a global community of shared future, so as to better achieve win-win cooperation.

My friends, this year also marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China that concluded recently adopted the Resolution of CPC Central Committee on further deepening

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...China Op Ed

continued from previous page

reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization, which made it clear to the world that China in the new era will continue to unswervingly deepen reform and opening up, advance Chinese modernization and follow the path of peaceful development. The strong resilience and potential of Chinese economic development will be further amplified, bringing more opportunities for global development. China welcomes the FSM to get on board the express train of China's development and share in the dividends of China's development.

Even mountains and seas cannot separate people with common goals and ideals. China is willing to work with the FSM side, taking the important consensus reached by the two heads of state as strategic guidance, to carry forward traditional friendship, deepen political mutual trust, enhance dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation, and jointly create a next glorious 35 years of China-FSM relations.

Congratulations!
 to the 2024-2025
 Rotary Club of Pohnpei Scholars!

Rotary Club of Pohnpei

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei, partnered with Vital FSM and Mobil, is pleased to announce their 2024-2025 Rotary Scholarship recipients: Simplicia Aiseam, Martha Asher, Ian Biza, Halia Edwards, John Gilken, Fredson Hadley, Zachary Helgenberger, Jenna Helieisar, Derenza Iriarte, Kailani Keiji, Deshawn Lorrin, Daleha Nena, Mercedes Olter, Theolynn Pong, Sara Saimon, Alathea Santos, Mati Santos, and Benereen Shirai.

Ambassador Kagomiya visits Kosrae Women's Association

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

September 2, 2024

Kosrae—On August 29, 2024, Ambassador Kagoimya visited the Kosrae Women Association. This association is taking care of small children when their mothers are working. Ambassador heard that there is no other institute providing with nursery service for mothers with small children in Kosrae, he understood the importance of this association for empowering female and is wishing their success.



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Micronesia Clean Up Day winners

FSM DECEM

September 10, 2024

FSM - The Micronesia Clean Up Day (MCD) Planning Committee and its partners in environment would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Community Groups and Schools in the FSM that participated in this year's Micronesia Clean Up Day activities.

We commend the following Community group in each state for conducting clean-ups from January to July, 2024 -

- NECHAP Group in Chuuk State
- Certain Community groups in Yap, Pohnpei, and Kosrae

Additionally, we commend the winners in this year's Earth Day Contest among schools in the FSM for creating useful items from plastic materials.



1st place winner -Yap State Seventh Day Adventist School for creating an effective Cooling System made of plastic bottles, bamboo, and plants



2nd place winner -Pohnpei Catholic School in Pohnpei State for creating a waste bin made of plastic bottles and wires



3rd place winner -Pohnpei State Seventh Day Adventist School for creating a wall hanging garden made of plastic bottles and strings

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Courtesy call by students from Ritsumeikan University and Reitaku University

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

September 3, 2024

Pohnpei—On September 3, Ambassador Kagomiya received a courtesy call from nine students from Ritsumeikan University, two students from Reitaku University, and Professor Matsushima from Reitaku University. The students from Ritsumeikan University, as part of the group ‘natuRable,’ and the students from Reitaku University, as part of the group ‘Japanesia,’ have been actively engaged in efforts to address environmental issues in the FSM.

natuRable plans to conduct awareness activities regarding environmental issues through the local radio station, to organize cultural exchange events such as yukata (Japanese traditional clothes) dressing and a sports festival, and to visit governmental organizations.

Japanesia is scheduled to hold workshops on waste separation at several elementary schools, and to carry out field surveys. Ambassador Kagomiya received reports on their activities and expressed his high expectations and encouragement for their commendable efforts.



Courtesy call of St. Luke’s Hospital officials to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph

Pohnpei Public Information

August 26, 2024

Kolonia, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomed a delegation from St. Luke’s Hospital in the Republic of the Philippines for a courtesy call at the Governor’s Office, accompanied by Mr. Stuard Penias, Director of the Department of Health and Social Services. The delegation from St. Luke’s included Dr. Anthony Perez, Medical Director; Ms. Veggie Flores, Senior Vice President of Marketing; Ms. Bernadine Pel Go-Le, Manager of Marketing; and Dr. Teresita Canoy, Consultant.

The officials were invited by the Health Committee of the 11th Pohnpei Legislature to strengthen ties and enhance healthcare collaborations. During the visit, the delegation expressed their deep gratitude to the people of Pohnpei for their continued partnership with St. Luke’s, which has provided medical services to Pohnpei for many years. They shared the rich history of St. Luke’s Hospital, which has been delivering healthcare for over 100 years and currently operates two hospitals, with a third under construction. St. Luke’s was also proud to be the first hospital in the Philippines to receive Joint Commission International accreditation. They highlighted advanced capabilities,

including telemedicine and specialized care such as kidney and liver transplants.

Governor Joseph reciprocated the gratitude, acknowledging St. Luke’s for their long-standing service to the people of Pohnpei. Both parties explored avenues to further strengthen their relationship, with discussions on future partnerships in training and expanded medical collaboration.

The visit was especially timely, as



Governor Joseph is scheduled to depart soon for the Philippines to undergo medical treatment at St. Luke’s Hospital.

Sapwuahfik officials meet with Governor’s Office to discuss recent fund disbursement

Pohnpei Public Information

August 20, 2024

Pohnpei—Officials from the Sapwuahfik Municipal Government, including Senator Stevick Edwin, who represents Sapwuahfik in the 11th Pohnpei Legislature, visited the Office of the Governor to discuss the recent disbursement of funds allocated for damages caused by the recent El Niño and saltwater inundation in Sapwuahfik.



The meeting provided an opportunity to clarify the use of funds in the amount of \$35,590.85 that were specifically

earmarked for damages identified during the assessments conducted by Pohnpei State Government officials, provided through the National Government.

These assessments were part of a broader response to the environmental challenges posed by the saltwater inundation, which severely affected the Sapwuahfik community.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph expressed his continued commitment to ensuring that the funds are used effectively to address the needs of those impacted in Sapwuahfik and across Pohnpei. He also emphasized

the importance of transparent communication between state and municipal governments in managing disaster relief and recovery efforts and thanked Senator Edwin and the Sapwuahfik Municipal Government officials for seeking clarity with government funds.

The Pohnpei State Government remains dedicated to supporting all municipalities affected by natural disasters and will continue to work closely with local officials to ensure that assistance is provided promptly and efficiently.

Empowering youth to stand against gender-based violence

UNDP

September 4, 2024

Pohnpei-The Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC), in partnership with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), recently hosted a workshop focused on gender-based violence (GBV) with students from the College of Micronesia Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) and members of the Pohnpei Police Department.

This workshop is part of a regional



initiative between MLSC and UNDP's Gender Justice Initiative aimed at raising gender-sensitive awareness and informing the community about available legal services, particularly concerning gender-based and domestic violence. The first two sessions under this partnership were held in July in Koror, Palau, and the community of

Fefen in the State of Chuuk, FSM.

In his opening remarks, UNDP North Pacific Deputy Resident Representative Kevin Petrini emphasized the importance of engaging all sectors of society, particularly the youth, in creating a safe, inclusive, and just world for all.

"Violence against women and domestic violence remain critical challenges in our society. In the Pacific, two out of three women have faced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime," said Mr. Petrini. "UNDP Pacific is committed to strengthening support for gender justice and improving response and prevention efforts against this pervasive issue."

The full-day workshop provided an in-depth discussion on key concepts of gender inequality and the drivers of violence, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of GBV.

MLSC Staff Attorney Benedict Robert led a session on Pohnpei State Laws, familiarizing participants with the legal frameworks governing domestic violence. The event also served as a



platform for MLSC to share resources and information on the support and legal services available to victims and survivors.

Resource speakers and facilitators included MLSC Consultant Sonali Owen; Emeliana Musrasrik-Carl, President of the Pohnpei Women's Council and Director of Court Administration; Jackson Joseph, FSM Division of Social Affairs under the Department of Health and Social Affairs; Aileen Mauricio, Department of Health and Social Services, Pohnpei State, Division of Behavioral Health and Wellness; and Serpilha Jimmy Lebehn, Division of Social Services, Pohnpei State under the Department of Health and Social Services.



"You are helping yourself, and you are helping your community. As future leaders and decision-makers, you are in a unique position to challenge norms today and create

meaningful change so you may live your own truth, not someone else's version of it." Ms. Daniel remarked. "Efforts to reduce and eventually eliminate all forms of GBV will not only benefit victims but is key to the prosperity of all the communities in the FSM."

The next workshop in the region was conducted in Majuro, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during the last week of August.

Ambassador Kagomiya holds handover ceremony of ODA in Kosrae

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

August 30, 2024

Kosrae—On August 28, 2024, a handover ceremony for waste management equipment and medical equipment, which the Japanese Government recently donated to the Kosrae State, was held with the attendance of Mr. Tulensa W. Palik, Governor, and Mr. Arthy G. Nena, Lieutenant Governor of the State, and Mr. Semeon J. Phillip, Speaker, as well as the Ambassador Kagomiya.



including an autoclave, emergency carts, bedside monitors, and stretchers as part of its Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) grants .

In the ceremony, a video introducing these donations was screened.

The Embassy hopes these donations will help people in Kosrae.

Ambassador Kagomiya visits Kosrae State Power Station

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

August 30, 2024

Kosrae—On August 28, 2024, Ambassador Kagomiya visited the Kosrae State Power Plant. In this plant, he witnessed a generator with the power of 600kw, which Japan donated. This generator supplies a vast majority of electric power of Kosrae State.



Clean Air Day: Governments must tackle toxic air pollution, slash fossil fuel use and commit to clean air ahead of key health conference

The Global Climate and Health Alliance

September 5, 2024

Professional health organizations from around the world today called on governments to protect people's health by tackling the toxic air pollution impacting [99% of the world's population](#), slash the use of fossil fuels that drive both air pollution and climate change, and get serious about climate and clean air commitments.

The call comes ahead of the United Nations marking [Clean Air Day](#) on September 7th - with this year's theme of "[it's time to invest in #CleanAirNow](#)", and the forthcoming World Health Organization's [Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health](#), which will be held March 24-28, 2025 in Cartagena, Colombia.

"Six months out from the pivotal meeting on [Air Pollution and Health](#), governments must halt new fossil fuel development, eliminate subsidies that prop up fossil fuel use, and immediately pass policies to stop methane leakage and flaring in existing fossil fuel production, a low cost and easy near term step", said **Dr Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance**. "These policies must go hand in hand with comprehensive plans to fully phase out coal, oil and gas, transition to clean energy, and ensure clean energy access for all. Protections must be provided for communities and workers affected

by these transitions, and cleaner household cooking and heating must be prioritised for the poorest households, currently exposed to dirty indoor air."

"Internationally, over [700 thousand under the age of five children die](#) each year due to air pollution. Children are particularly vulnerable to dirty air and [to climate change](#), both in utero and as their young lungs, brains, and bodies are growing. For those that survive, preterm and childhood exposure to air pollution sets children up for a lifetime of poorer health. This is simply unacceptable; every child deserves to grow up breathing clean air. Governments know what they have to do to improve air quality, and the clean energy and transport solutions are already available to make this a reality", concluded **Miller**.

Currently, fossil fuels receive over [US\\$ 1 trillion](#) globally, in explicit public subsidies", continued **Miller**. "On top of those direct subsidies, the global cost of the health harms associated with air pollution is a staggering [US\\$ 8.1 trillion, or 6.1% of global GDP](#). Our governments are taxing us to subsidise the industry that poisons our own air, rather than investing those public funds in health systems, education, and the transition to a more sustainable future."

"Governments that take action to tackle air pollution and reduce the fossil fuel emissions that cause global warming will see immediate, local, near-term health benefits for their people", added **Miller**. "At COP28, governments called for a transition away from fossil

fuels - every further delay in action will leave greater challenges than ever to be addressed at next year's WHO Air Pollution Conference."

"Acting now could offer rapid gains in air quality improvements, even in addition to long term climate mitigation", said **Miller**. "When the Canadian province of Ontario began phasing out coal power and implemented other clean air policies, it saw a [23% reduction in premature deaths and a 41% reduction in hospitalizations](#). Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the US saw an immediate drop of [42% fewer cardiovascular emergency visits](#) from reduced air pollution upon closure of a coal plant. Cities that have temporarily halted car travel, such as Paris, [which reduced air pollution by 40%](#) ahead of the Olympics thanks to initiatives that encourage active transport such as cycling - and Beijing during the 2008 Olympics - have seen cleaner air and bluer skies within a matter of weeks or even days - demonstrating that cleaner air is achievable. It is a matter of governments prioritising, step by step, the changes needed to deliver it", she concluded.

"Countries such as Colombia, the United Kingdom and Kenya are showing real leadership by delivering cleaner air to their populations, with strong air pollution policies and by linking clean air benefits to their climate commitments [in the Nationally Determined Contributions](#) under the Paris Agreement", said **Rosie Tasker, Clean Air Liaison at the Global Climate and Health Alliance**. "As they

are demonstrating how these changes are possible, it is critical that other governments follow suit. Between now and the WHO Air Pollution conference, national governments will be in the process of [updating their NDCs](#). These new NDCs must not only acknowledge the clean air benefits of reducing climate emissions, but should commit to integrating clean air goals into national climate policies, and to quantifying the health co-benefits from reduced air pollution, so that decision makers have at their fingertips real information about the health and economic costs of inaction versus action."

"Commitments on air pollution within the NDCs are important - it's nonsensical to separate climate action from clean air action, yet as of last year, little more than a third of all NDCs (62 out of 170) refer to actions to reduce air pollutants in specific sectors", added **Tasker**. "Policies that simultaneously deliver for climate, air quality and health - whether embedded in NDCs or elsewhere - include investments in infrastructure to support walking and cycling, electrified public transport powered by renewable energy, fossil fuel subsidy reform and redirection of funds to health promoting investments. Governments need to move beyond vague murmurings of transitions, and commit to end dates for investments in fatal fossil fuels, with the richest highest emitting countries moving fastest. Just transition plans that protect the most vulnerable communities are essential to protect health and equity," concluded **Tasker**.

Ambassador Grant-Curnow hosts dinner for Australian Awards Scholarship Alumni in Yap

Australian Embassy to the FSM

August 30, 2024

Yap—Ambassador Grant-Curnow was delighted to host a dinner for the Australian Awards scholarship alumni in #Yap. It was a privilege to have Chief Jesse Haglelfe of Eauripik as our distinguished guest of honor.

Ambassador enjoyed listening to the alumni as they shared their insights about their study experiences, accomplishments and how they have been able to contribute to their communities since completing their Australian Government scholarships.

The Ambassador conveyed her congratulations to the alumni for their successes and expressed best wishes for their future endeavors.



...FSM at PIF

continued from front page

SIS across the regional architecture went on to be endorsed by the Forum family as reflected in the Communique, marking a crucial step in responding to the unique needs and challenges faced by SIS members.

FSM Introduces Bridge to Busan Declaration:

In addition to President Simina's role as Chair of the SIS and MPS, President Simina spearheaded efforts to garner support for the Bridge to Busan Declaration, an initiative for countries and stakeholders of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.



"The FSM seeks the support of all Pacific Island Forum members to support and endorse the Bridge to Busan: Declaration on Primary Plastic Polymers – a crucial step in controlling plastic production at its source. Without addressing the unsustainable production of primary plastic polymers, neither the global goal of ending plastic pollution by 2040 nor limiting the average temperature rise to less than 1.5°C can be achieved," he stated.

The declaration went on to receive support and was endorsed by Forum leaders, marking a significant step towards a unified regional response to the growing threat of plastic waste in our oceans.

US and Japan Announce Support for Cleaning up Shipwreck Oil in Chuuk Lagoon:

Furthermore, after ongoing engagement by the FSM in partnership with Chuuk State, with both Japan and the United States regarding the issue of oil leaks from World War II shipwrecks in Chuuk Lagoon, a positive development emerged during the meeting with Forum Dialogue Partners. US State Department Deputy Secretary Kurt Campbell announced a joint statement indicating support for Japan's efforts to safely clean up and remove oil from the Chuuk Lagoon shipwrecks. This joint initiative underscores the collaborative approach taken by the FSM with Chuuk state, Japan, and the United States to address this environmental concern.

Dialogue with the UNSG:

During the high-level dialogue with the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, President Simina made an intervention on the topic of Resilient Infrastructure and highlighted the unique opportunities presented by sub-regionalism in the Pacific, particularly for advancing development sectors



such as marine and air transport infrastructure, market and trade access, and bulk purchasing of essential goods. Given the geographical considerations and shared interests among Pacific sub-regions, he called for enhanced



support for resilient infrastructure, especially as the region works to establish a Forum sub-regional office in Kiribati, the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner in Palau, and strengthen infrastructure for other sub-regional groupings.

In this regard President Simina underscored the importance of strengthening the United Nations' presence in Micronesia and successfully sought the support of UN Secretary General Guterres through the operationalization of the UN Multi-Country Office in Pohnpei and the planned establishment of the "One UN-Micronesia House." This proposed carbon-neutral office complex in Pohnpei will serve as a centralized location for all UN entities, providing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate additional UN representation in the region.

Acknowledging the escalating climate extremes facing the Pacific, President Simina stressed the urgent need to prioritize the development of resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding severe weather conditions and rising sea levels in the face of climate change.

On the issue of climate change President Simina stated, "This existential threat to our survival must be treated with the urgency and intensity it demands. The FSM reaffirms our commitment to enhancing climate resilience and maintaining momentum in our global advocacy. We cannot afford to let the world forget what is at stake. We must

continue to lead the charge, demanding that global commitments translate into real, tangible actions. Because for us – every degree, every inch of sea-level rise, and every delay matters. We will not relent in pressing for stronger global climate action, nor in safeguarding our Pacific way of life."

Dialogue with Civil Society:

During leaders' dialogue with civil society organizations, the FSM acknowledged and thanked the civil society representatives for their important contributions to the region's development.

Representing the FSM, T.H. Secretary Lorin Robert reaffirmed the FSM's



commitment to people-centered development and stated "that true development must engage all stakeholders, with a focus on ensuring that the most marginalized voices are heard and empowered."



Secretary Robert acknowledged the role that youth play in shaping the region's future, stating, "We are particularly proud that one of our native sons now leads the Pacific Youth Council, embodying the spirit of youth empowerment and leadership that is essential for the region's development.

Click here for continuation

Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity – AUD 15 million to protect coral reefs

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

August 29, 2024

Nuku’Alofa--At the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Pacific Leaders led a masterclass with philanthropic and public partners on Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP), showcasing an innovative investment pathway to rapidly mobilize large-scale development and climate financing in the region.

Honourable Hu’akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga and Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, said, “We, the people of the Blue Pacific Continent, are managing a climate emergency that we did not cause. But we have the power to make a real difference through transformational partnerships. As the Pacific is on the front line of climate change, the situation for Small Islands States is urgent.”

The UBPP initiative was launched at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, by the Prime Minister of Tonga and President of Palau to address the slow, administratively burdensome, and insufficient financing

for urgent development and climate action in the region.

Now spearheaded by Pacific Leaders, the UBPP initiative, which has already secured US\$100 million in seed funding from the Bezos Earth Fund, aims to raise US\$500 million by 2030. This large-scale funding effort brings together Pacific Island governments, regional organizations, civil society, philanthropic entities, and traditional development partners in a unique multi-sector collaboration.

UBPP sets ambitious goals, aiming to enact 100% ocean conservation and management in the Blue Pacific Continent, protect 30% of areas critical to biodiversity and ecosystem services, achieve robust food systems and develop resilient ecosystems. These objectives align with the region’s broader sustainable development priorities and the 2050 Strategy.

“Our people know what it takes to protect and sustainably manage our Pacific Ocean for generations to come. To do this, we are selecting partners who care about climate change action and getting results as much as we do.” The President of Palau, Surangel Whipps, Jr. explained that this requires cohesive and strategic partnerships with different actors, each

playing to their strengths. “Thanks to the US\$100 million in seed funding from our anchor investor, the Bezos Earth Fund, Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity is a game changer for high-impact investment. If we achieve transformational results in the Pacific, we’re making a positive impact on one-third of the planet.”

In showing support for the UBPP initiative, USAID’s Assistant Administrator Michael Schiffer said, “Pacific Leaders have set a clear direction for the region through the 2050 Strategy. The US, as a member of and partner to the region, supports UBPP and other Pacific-led mechanisms as a way to drive new and effective ways of working together to achieve regional sustainable development priorities.”

Demonstrating the momentum of UBPP and growing investor interest in the Pacific, Managing Director of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Anna Marsden, announced AU\$15 million for a new program designed to accelerate and scale local action to protect coral reefs. The Foundation launched the second phase of its Resilient Reefs Initiative in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), aligned with the goals of UBPP and the 2030 Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan.

The Resilient Reefs Initiative is funded by the BHP Foundation.

“The Great Barrier Reef Foundation is committed to creating a better future for coral reefs and the communities that depend on them. We’re proud to partner in the Pacific and share learnings from our work on the Great Barrier Reef and at UNESCO World Heritage reef sites in the Pacific. Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity presents an opportunity to bring together partners and investments towards funding goals that contribute to tackling the Pacific’s biggest challenges in climate change, effective ocean management and sustainable food systems.”

The Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity – Transforming Partnerships by Design side event at the 53RD PIF featured the following speakers: His Excellency, Surangel Whipps Jr, President of Palau; Honourable Paulson Panapa, Foreign Minister of Tuvalu; USAID Assistant Administrator Michael Schiffer; Professor Jim Leape, Bezos Earth Fund; Anna Marsden, Managing Director, Great Barrier Reef Foundation; Dr Stuart Minchin, Director General, SPC; Karena Lyons, Director of Partnerships, Integration, & Resource Mobilisation, SPC; Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General, SPREP.

World Bank works to ensure Pacific Island Countries stay connected to global financial system

WASHINGTON, September 5, 2024 – Seven Pacific Island countries will maintain uninterrupted access to the global financial system through a new World Bank project to strengthen correspondent banking relationships in the region.

The project will benefit Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, and one regional organization, the Pacific Island Forum. World Bank group President Ajay Banga announced the project during his first trip to the region. It promotes a regional approach and is designed as a platform allowing more Pacific countries to join and for bilateral and multilateral donors to participate.

Correspondent banking relationships allow financial institutions to provide services

in foreign currencies across borders without opening costly branches abroad, making them crucial for international trade, investment, remittances, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance.

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have faced a significant decline in CBRs, dropping 60 percent over the last decade compared to a global average of 30 percent. Supervisory enforcement of international standards can make correspondent banking a high-risk, low-profit business requiring high transaction volumes. However, individual PICs lack the economies of scale to offer sufficient business for the CBR relationship to be profitable and within the risk appetite of international banks.

The approved project offers a temporary but immediate solution and lays the ground for the medium-term resolution to correspondent banking

relationship withdrawal.

First, it will entail a subsidy to contract a provider offering correspondent banking services to eligible financial institutions in PICs facing the loss of their last CBR in a key currency. This ensures continuity of financial flows to and from PICs until a more sustainable solution is in place. Second, it will coordinate with development partners to help participating PICs enhance compliance with international standards, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and prepare a more sustainable solution that involves the regional aggregation of transactions to achieve scale and a clear market-driven business rationale.

Importantly, the project promotes a regional approach to solving the long-standing problem of CBRs. The Pacific Islands Forum will play a critical role in regional policy

coordination and the project’s success, housing the unit responsible for its implementation.

“Safeguarding continuous access to international financial services is essential for the families and businesses of Pacific Island Countries,” Banga said. “This project is ensuring that correspondent banking services continue while we work together on a market solution based on scale and a clear business rationale.”

The Correspondent banking relationships project’s \$68 million in credit and grant financing is funded through the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank’s fund for the world’s most in-need countries.

Since 2013, the Bank has expanded its program in the Pacific by increasing its commitments more than six-fold.

Threatened by worsening climate change impacts, Federated States of Micronesia plans to adapt for survival

SPREP

August 26, 2024

Pohnpei—According to a recent report by the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA), communities in Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap and other smaller islands spread across the western Pacific Ocean, are already suffering from hotter temperatures, stronger typhoons and sea level rise threatening housing, drinking water, and transportation, as well as agroforestry, ecosystems, and cultural sites. Ocean changes have already killed corals, impacting tens of millions of dollars that fisheries inject into the FSM economy, annually.

The impacts of climate change on the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are severe.

FSM's Secretary of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, Hon. Andrew R. Yatilman, has seen these impacts worsen over the years. He acknowledges ongoing international efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses but says that unless this global effort ramps up with meaningful outcomes, the future of his green and beautiful country is under threat.

"The current climate change hazards being experienced are expected to continue with more severe impacts," Hon. Yatilman said. "Coastal populations will face challenges brought about by sea level rise. What it means is that these communities will

have to move inland or find higher grounds away from coastal areas. This means we will have to start planning for how to adapt to those eventualities in the near future."

This week in Pohnpei, FSM is taking a big step towards that direction with the FSM National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Inception and Implementation Planning Workshop. Funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and delivered by the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP), the three-day workshop is the biggest national exercise for climate vulnerability for the island nation.

"This NAP is so important because it is an investment that will have a strong bearing on how we effectively address FSM's current and future vulnerability to climate change," said Hon. Yatilman.

"We all know that efforts to limit emissions of greenhouse gases are not sufficient. The practical option for small island nations like FSM is to adapt to the impacts of climate change for our people not just to live but to survive."

The NAP process seeks to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs, informed by the latest climate science. Once major vulnerabilities to climate change have been identified, the NAP process develops strategies to address them. Through the Readiness Funding from the Green Climate Fund for adaptation planning, FSM will work towards developing an overarching National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

through a comprehensive consultative adaptation planning process, evidence base and climate finance investment plan for adaptation including developing potential draft project / programme concept notes which, once approved for funding, will deliver on-ground action.

"DECEM will not be able to implement this project on its own. All government departments at national and state levels, civil societies, private sector, communities and our partners must all work together to develop our National Adaptation Plan that will set out how we adapt to survive the changing climate," said Hon. Yatilman.

"You are the planners. Remember, when we talk about adaptation plan, we are not talking about infrastructure investment only, we have to identify innovative and creative ways of adapting to a changing climate in our planning for investment infrastructures, health, fisheries, agriculture, schools, ecosystems, just to name a few."

The total cost of the NAP project is USD2.9 million to be implemented over a period of three years.

This national workshop is the first step to the development of FSM's Adaptation Plan. Similar workshops will be held in each State which will provide an opportunity for all state level stakeholders to contribute.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is engaged by SPREP to undertake climate impact, vulnerability

and risk assessment (CIVRA) for all NAP projects including Tuvalu, Nauru, FSM and Niue.

SPREP's Director of Climate Change Resilience, Ms Tagaloa Cooper said developing adaptation solutions needs to be underpinned by climate science to understand climate impacts that could potentially affect FSM in the medium to long term.

"The pace and speed at which climate finance has been accessed by Pacific SIDS has been raised too many times at COPs and other regional and international fora. SPREP is committed to support its member countries including FSM in accessing climate finance to implement real action on the ground to address observed and potential future climate impacts," said Ms Cooper.

"The National Inception workshops are the most important part of a project because this is where you set the scene and start the journey for an adaptation plan that is impactful."

The FSM NAP National Inception and Implementation Planning Workshop is designed to introduce the project, its objectives, activities, intended outputs, approaches and timeline. It will also be an opportunity to consult with national stakeholder on project direction and exchange knowledge of adaptation gaps and needs, challenges and lessons learnt from similar projects, and exchange knowledge on key attributes of the adaptation planning process.

PICRC research assistant attends training course on small-scale longline tuna fisheries in Okinawa

PICRC

August 28, 2024

Palau--From July 28 to August 5, PICRC Research Assistant, Geory Mereb attended a training in Okinawa on small-scale longline tuna fisheries. Through the course he gained insight into the tuna industry and grading system, its importance as a commercial industry, and its future outlook.

The stocks of four tuna species in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean collectively form one of the world's largest and most valuable fisheries. This

fishery supplies roughly 60 percent of the world's tuna and is an important resource for small-scale fisheries.

Longlining is a common fishing method used to obtain catch and is effective at targeting pelagic species. Once caught, tuna is individually graded and directed to its most appropriate market use.

Tuna grading is an important process and typically judged on the tuna's initial appearance, size, shape, color, texture and fat content. This gives an indication of its quality and market

value which is imperative to ensure fairness across the tuna industry.

Geory had the opportunity to undertake technical training on tuna processing, grading, sanitation and received invaluable advice on past lessons learnt in the industry. Geory stated, "this training has helped me gain knowledge and skills to become a certified fish grader in Palau; providing sanitation management and grading services to private sectors and local businesses."

Through the course he also received

advice on effective management of small-scale tuna fisheries and exchanged views about the future cooperation of the industry. "With climate change and overfishing threatening global tuna populations, it is important to manage coastal fish habitats and fish stocks to ensure that these resources continue to supply fish for food security," said Geory.

This opportunity was made possible with funding provided by the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment.

...PIFS - FSM

continued from previous page

The FSM stands ready to continue working collaboratively with all partners to build a future that leaves no one behind.”

Support for Guam and American Samoa:

The FSM actively supported Guam and American Samoa’s application for associate membership of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and sought the endorsement of Leaders, underscoring the importance of unity and inclusivity within the Pacific family. The FSM proactively urged the applications’ inclusion at the ministerial meeting in the lead-up to the Forum Leaders Meeting and during the Forum plenary and retreat.

By the conclusion of the retreat, the Pacific Island Forum Leaders, by consensus, endorsed the applications of Guam and American Samoa as Associate Members, noting that the ongoing Review of the Regional Architecture may affect associate membership criteria and entitlements.

Retreat and Communiqué:

At the conclusion of the leaders’ retreat, the leaders endorsed the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué that outlines key decisions and outcomes aimed at strengthening regional cooperation, resilience, and sustainable development. The communiqué, which reflects the unified commitment of the Pacific region under the theme “Transformative and Resilient Pasifiki: Build Better Now,” includes endorsements for strategic initiatives such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF). Leaders also expressed solidarity in addressing climate change, enhancing regional disaster management, and supporting health, education, sustainable economic growth and enhancing engagement of the SIS grouping in addition to the Bridge to Busan Declaration among others. The endorsement of this communiqué signifies a collective call for action and partnership to advance the region’s priorities for a resilient and sustainable future.

The FSM delegation to the 53rd PIF was led by President Simina and included Madame First Lady Ancelly Simina, Chairman of External Affairs Senator Hon. Peter Christian, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Hon. Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of R&D Hon. Elina Akinaga, Acting Attorney General Leonito Bacalando Jr., Ambassador Carson Sigrah, Chief of Staff Jane Chigiyal, Deputy Chief of Mission Chandra Legdesog, Deputy Assistant Secretary Kenmore Salvador, Assistant Secretary Glenn Harris, Foreign Service Officer Bridget Endor and other senior officials. The delegation engaged in numerous bilateral and multilateral meetings throughout the Forum, strengthening ties with regional partners and promoting FSM’s national interests on the international stage.

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia sincerely thanks the Government and people of Tonga for their warm hospitality and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for their outstanding organizational support in ensuring the success of this year’s Forum.



Pacific Sub-Regional Office

Title: Programme/Finance Associate, Federated States of Micronesia [20383]

****This post is only open for the Nationals of FSM****

Call to Action

- Are you result driven and can you work well in teams?
 - Do you have a keen eye for detail and can you ensure high quality and accuracy of work?
 - Can you multi-task, prioritize and manage programme outcomes?
- If so, this might be the job for you.

How You Can Make a Difference:

UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. UNFPA is seeking candidates that transform, inspire and deliver high impact and sustained results; we need staff who are transparent, exceptional in how they manage the resources entrusted to them and who commit to deliver excellence in programme results.

Job Purpose:

The Programme/Finance Assistant will provide programmatic and financial support in implementation of program activities ensuring full compliance of program and financial processes with UN/UNFPA rules, regulations, policies and strategies. S/He provides logistical support to programme implementation. S/He provides organizational functions of the office in terms of providing effective communications support to the Sub Regional office; ensuring facilitation of knowledge building and management. In addition, the incumbent contributes to basic programme/research data for the management of the programme and in tracking progress of the programme implementation.

Qualification and Experience:

Your Education

- Completion of secondary level education or an equivalent is required.
- First level university (Bachelor) degree in Business Administration, Commerce, Accountancy, Chartered Accountancy and related fields is desirable.

Your Experience

- Minimum of five (5) years professional experience in similar role;
- Some experience in research assistance and general understanding of programme support, monitoring and evaluation is desirable;
- Good writing and communication skills with the ability to draft correspondence in a clear, accurate and concise manner;
- Previous experience and knowledge of protocol in the United Nations is an advantage,
- Good interpersonal, planning, organizational and multi-tasking skills;
- Ability to work independently and harmoniously in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic team environment maintaining tact and discretion in all dealings;
- Computer literacy - Proficiency in the use of MS Office Packages and the Internet;
- Good knowledge of Atlas/PeopleSoft is an asset.

Full job description of the position and instructions on how to apply can be accessed on:

<https://pacific.unfpa.org/en/vacancies>

Closing Date: Wednesday, 25th September 2024. The selected individual should be prepared to assume the post within one (1) month.

Notice: UNFPA does not charge any application, processing, training, interviewing, testing or other fee in connection with the application or recruitment process. UNFPA is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality, and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence. UNFPA does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the next phase of the selection process.

As the FSM looks ahead to continuing engagements within the Pacific Islands Forum, CROP organizations and partners, it remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing the priorities of the Pacific family, strengthening cooperation among member states, and addressing the pressing challenges facing the region, the Pacific Way.

The 53rd PIFLM Communiqué can be found at: <https://forumsec.org/.../53rd%20Pacific%20Islands%20Forum...>

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)
(FSM Nationals Only)**

Country: Federated States of Micronesia

Project: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program – Economic Resilience (PROPER)

Grant No.: IDA-E371-FM

Assignment Title: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): N/A

The National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Island Oceanscape Program – Second Phase for Economic Resilience and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include coordinating the development and updating of the overall M&E strategy for the FSM PROPER Project and subsequently implementing, reporting on, and managing it in collaboration with project partners, for an initial one (1) year period commencing approximately in November 2024. This is a full-time position and may be extended based on “satisfactory performance” i.e. satisfactory performance as determined through a performance evaluation against agreed key performance indicators and availability of funds. The position supports the FSMPROPER Project implementation phases of the project.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment DOFA website at dofa.gov.fm or at the NORMA website at norma.fm.

The FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (attach curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc.).

The criteria for selecting the Consultant are:

Required experience and educational background:

- Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant field such as economics, development studies, statistics, or a related discipline OR a relevant Associates Degree with five (5) years of proven related experience.
- Demonstrated understanding of quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods and related tools.
- Strong analytical skills with the ability to interpret and present complex data in a clear and concise manner.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English..

Desirable skills:

- Experience in working with development projects or initiatives in the Pacific region.
- Understanding of fisheries.
- Knowledge of the context of FSM.
- Experience using data collection and analysis software and tools.
- Familiarity with fisheries management concepts and practices.

The attention of interested Consultants (including firms) is drawn to paragraph 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated September 2023 (“the Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0800 to 1700 hours Pohnpei local time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) preferably by October 01, 2024.

FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
Attn: Mr. OKean Ehmes, PROPER Project Manager
PO Box PS 122
Pohnpei, FM 96941
Federated States of Micronesia
Telephone: (691) 320-2700/5181
E-mail: okean.ehmes@norma.fm and copy to crawford.nimea@norma.fm

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)
(FSM Nationals Only)**

Country: Federated States of Micronesia

Project: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program – Economic Resilience (PROPER)

Grant No.: IDA-E371-FM

Assignment Title: Communications Officer

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): N/A

The National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Island Oceanscape Program – Second Phase for Economic Resilience and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include communicating progress and outcomes of the PROPER Project activities to stakeholders, for an initial one (1) year period commencing approximately in November 2024. This is a full-time position and may be extended based on “satisfactory performance” i.e. satisfactory performance as determined through a performance evaluation against agreed key performance indicators and availability of funds. The position supports the FSM PROPER Project implementation phases of the project. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment DOFA website at dofa.gov.fm or at the NORMA website at norma.fm.

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The criteria for selecting the Consultant are:

Required experience and educational background:

- Bachelor’s Degree in communications, journalism, public relations, or a related field OR an Associates degree in a related field with five (5) years of related experience.
- Strong writing, editing, and content creation skills with an ability to adapt messages for different audiences.
- Proficiency in using communication tools and platforms, including social media, websites, and presentation software.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills for effective stakeholder engagement.
- Understanding of the context and culture of FSM.
- Proficiency in English, both written and verbal communication.

Desirable skills:

- Experience in community engagement or outreach activities.
- Familiarity with the reality of one or more States and knowledge of local languages.
- Familiarity with the Pacific region’s cultural dynamics and communication preferences.
- Experience in designing and implementing successful communication campaigns.
- Experience in website maintenance and updating.
- Proficiency in graphic design software or multimedia production tools.

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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)
(FSM Nationals Only)**

Country: Federated States of Micronesia

Project: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program – Economic Resilience (PROPER)

Grant No.: IDA-E371-FM

Assignment Title: State Project Coordinator (either Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, or Chuuk State)

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): N/A

The National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Island Oceanscape Program – Second Phase for Economic Resilience and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include playing a vital role in ensuring the smooth execution of PROPER Project activities at the state level., for an initial one (1) year period commencing approximately in November 2024. The position will be contracted by the FSM Government but will be based in either Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap or Chuuk State to service the PROPER State Focal Point and State Working Group comprised mainly of the Project IAs in the State. This is a full-time position and may be extended based on “satisfactory performance” i.e. satisfactory performance as determined through a performance evaluation against agreed key performance indicators and availability of funds. The position supports the FSMPROPER Project implementation phases of the project.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment DOFA website at dofa.gov.fm or at the NORMA website at norma.fm.

The FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (attach curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc.).

The criteria for selecting the Consultant are:

Required experience and educational background:

- Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant field such as marine or environmental science, fisheries or environmental management, project management, or a related discipline or a relevant Associate Degree with a minimum of three (3) years of practical work experience in project coordination, community engagement, or a related role.
- Exceptional organizational skills with the ability to manage multiple tasks, prioritize effectively, and meet deadlines.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Proficiency in using standard office software, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation tools.
- Familiarity with the context, culture, and local languages of the designated FSM state.

Desirable skills:

- Demonstrated experience in stakeholder engagement, community outreach, or participatory approaches.
- Prior engagement in development of projects or working within the fisheries sector.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders.

The attention of interested Consultants (including firms) is drawn to paragraph 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated September 2023 (“the Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0800 to 1700 hours Pohnpei local time.

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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)
(FSM Nationals Only)**

Country: Federated States of Micronesia

Project: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program – Economic Resilience (PROPER)

Grant No.: IDA-E371-FM

Assignment Title: Environment & Social Officer

The National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Island Oceanscape Program – Second Phase for Economic Resilience and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include supporting the implementation of Environment and Social (E&S) aspects of the project. The Officer will be guided, trained, and mentored to undertake the assignment by the Environment and Social Specialists based in the Central Implementation Unit (CIU), for an initial twelve (12) months period commencing approximately in November 2024. This is a full-time position and may be extended based on “satisfactory performance” i.e. satisfactory performance as determined through a performance evaluation against agreed key performance indicators and availability of funds. The position supports the FSMPROPER Project implementation phases of the project.

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The FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (attach curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc.).

The criteria for selecting the Consultant are:

Required experience and educational background:

- Associate Degree in social science, environmental science, science or or related fields from a recognized accredited institution.
- At least 3 years of working experience in government or project financed by international agencies, NGO or private sector.
- Experience in coordination with different agencies, organizing stakeholder’s meetings, facilitation.
- Good communication skill including oral and written communication skills in the substantive and technical areas as described in scope of services.
- Proficiency in using Microsoft applications.
- Fluency in written and spoken English and other state languages spoken in FSM.
- The successful candidate must be willing to work for extended periods without direct supervision and be able to travel to states and sub-project sites.

Desirable skills:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Environment/Fisheries Sciences or Social Sciences or related fields with 2 years of work experience
- Knowledge of FSM national and State law related to Environment and familiarity with WB Environment and Social Framework.
- Experience in environmental and social impact risk assessment, mitigation.
- Training in Environmental & Social Risk Management Sector from a development agency or similar.
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and pay attention to detail.
- Ability to learn quickly, and organized and detail-oriented person.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively, interactively, and proactively within complex team and stakeholder arrangements.
- Working experience in multicultural environment with multi-disciplinary team.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0800 to 1700 hours Pohnpei local time. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) preferably by October 01, 2024.

FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
Attn: Mr. OKean Ehmes, PROPER Project Manager
PO Box PS 122
Pohnpei, FM 96941
Federated States of Micronesia
Telephone: (691) 320-2700/5181
E-mail: ocean.ehmes@norma.fm and copy to crawford.nimea@norma.fm

U.S. Coast Guard completes Operation Island Chief in Pacific region

Coast Guard District 14 External Affairs

August 19, 2024

Honolulu--The U.S. Coast Guard completed Island Chief, a 13-day operation to safeguard the invaluable marine resources of Pacific Island nations and the Western Central Pacific Ocean.

From Aug. 5-16, an HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point patrolled the South Pacific High Seas in and around the exclusive economic zones of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to detect, investigate and report any illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity.

The Hercules crew worked with the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre, a part of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in Honiara, Solomon Islands, to reinforce the conservation work of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Coast Guard participation in Operation Island Chief is part of Operation Blue Pacific, an overarching multi-mission Coast Guard endeavor promoting security, safety, sovereignty and

economic prosperity in the Pacific while strengthening relationships between partner nations.

The Coast Guard conducted Operation Island Chief alongside the Pacific Quadrilateral Defense Coordinating Group (Pacific QUAD), in support of the Pacific Islands FFA and its members.

FFA Director General Dr. Manu Tupou-Roosen highlighted the significance of the FFA-led Operation Island Chief 2024, coordinating surveillance efforts for participating Members.

“Operation Island Chief reinforces FFA’s commitment to sustainable fisheries management and maritime security in the Pacific,” said Dr. Tupou-Roosen. “This operation exemplifies the spirit of regional collaboration and determination among Pacific Island nations. The compliance checks of vessels and operators through a robust regional surveillance operation ensures

effective management regime and preserving our marine resources, as well as securing the livelihoods and food security of our people.”

“Given the vastness of the Pacific region, close collaboration between U.S. Coast Guard personnel, patrol assets and regional partners is integral to sustained success in combatting IUU fishing across the region,” said Marc Stegman, IUU fishing strategic advisor, Coast Guard District Fourteen.

Over 232,100 square miles searched
Three missions flown from Vanuatu and four missions flown from Solomon Islands
70 vessels sighted and analyzed

Located in Honolulu, U.S. Coast Guard District Fourteen covers more than 14 million square miles of land and sea, conducting operations over the Hawaiian Islands, American Samoa, Saipan, Guam, Singapore and Japan.



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

Class 12: Locomotives; Lorries; Trucks; Brake pads for automobiles; Automobiles; Motor cars; Cars; Motor buses; Motors, electric, for land vehicles; Automobile chassis; Automobile bodies; Self-driving cars; Autonomous cars; Forklift trucks; Motor coaches; Pumps for bicycle tyres; Bicycles; Funiculars; Carts; Sleighs [vehicles]; Repair outfits for inner tubes; Automobile tyres; Aeroplanes; Boats; Brakes for vehicles

Class 37: Providing construction information; Construction; Mining extraction; Cleaning of buildings; Boiler cleaning and repair; Interference suppression in electrical apparatus; Installation, maintenance and repair of medical apparatus and instruments; Electric appliance installation and repair; Vehicle breakdown repair services; Anti-rust treatment for vehicles; Motor vehicle maintenance and repair; Vehicle cleaning; Vehicle maintenance; Airplane maintenance and repair; Vehicle polishing; Vehicle battery charging; Vehicle washing; Shipbuilding; Charging of electric vehicles; Vehicle greasing; Vehicle lubrication; Photographic apparatus repair; Clock and watch repair; Strong-room maintenance and repair; Rustproofing

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PacFAA Past-President conducts training on FAFSA changes

Palau Community College

August 31, 2024

Palau-Palau Community College successfully hosted a pivotal Pacific Financial Aid Association (PacFAA) training session led by PacFAA Past-President Jeff Anderson for the Freely Associated States (FAS) financial aid and business office staff at Palau Community College Assembly Hall on August 31, 2024. PacFAA is a non-profit organization that provides support to financial aid administrators and other agencies involved in the administration of financial aid programs in postsecondary educational institutions across the Pacific. Attendees included financial aid and business office staff from College of Micronesia -FSM (COM-FSM), the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), and Palau Community College (PCC).

The session focused on several critical areas, including the updated Pell Grant awarding process, Federal Work Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) guidelines and application process. The training session also fostered a collaborative environment, allowing participants to share experiences and best practices with their peers. This exchange of ideas was instrumental in addressing common challenges and exploring solutions to better support students with the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application process.

At the end of the Training, it became evident that future similar trainings/collaboration focused on the Freely Associated States/Pacific Islands would be very beneficial in ensuring best practices and compliance with Title IV aid administration during this transition period. At the end of the day, what we do will ultimately benefit the students who depend on financial assistance in pursuing their higher education goals. We thank Jeff Anderson and PacFAA for his insight, commitment and assistance!



Ratu Sukuna Road, Nasase, Suva, Fiji
T: (679) 331 2600 | info@forumsec.org
www.forumsec.org

Opportunities at the Forum

The Pacific Islands Forum

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is an Employer of Choice in the region, aiming to recruit and employ staff based on merit and organisational needs, and ensures that employment selection upholds its values and commitment to Forum membership, gender balance and building a diverse and inclusive organisation. PIF is committed to achieving gender balance and being fully representative of our member countries*. Our workforce is currently over 50% female, and we have representatives from twelve of the eighteen Forum member countries.

The Opportunities

Applications are invited to fill two vacant international positions at the Forum in Suva, supporting the interests of member countries. These positions will provide leadership and coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the 2050 Strategy. The positions are as follows:

- **Team Leader 2050**
- **2050 Strategy Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Adviser**

1. Team Leader 2050

The Forum invites suitably experienced and qualified individuals to apply for the position of Team Leader Pacific Regionalism is to Lead and Coordinate the Implementation of the 2050 Strategy. The 2050 Team ensures that the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and other relevant fora are kept apprised of progress and are able to provide guidance on issues emerging through implementation. The position holder will be responsible for the following responsibilities to name a few:

- Lead and coordinate 2050 strategy implementation,
- Lead the monitoring, evaluation and learning for the 2050 Strategy,
- Oversee 2050 Communications strategy and planning,
- Ensure 2050 Strategy Strategic Pathways are progressed, and
- Provide leadership and Team Management.

2. 2050 Strategy MEL Adviser

The Forum invites suitably experienced and qualified individuals to apply for the 2050 Strategy MEL Adviser position. The role is to lead, coordinate and support regional efforts to monitor, evaluate, report and learn from the implementation of the 2050 Strategy. The position holder will be responsible for the following responsibilities to name a few:

- Strengthen 2050 Strategy Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Systems,
- Support learning, collaboration and coordination, for 2050 Strategy MEL process, and the overall MEL culture of the organisation
- Support improved reporting and communication on the 2050 Strategy
- Ensure 2050 Strategy Strategic Pathways are progressed, and
- Provide leadership and project management support as needed.

The Package

The positions carry a competitive and attractive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The starting salary for the positions is as follows:

Team Leader 2050 and 2050 Strategy MEL Adviser

- These positions are placed at Band 12 / Adviser level of our salary scale.
- Starting at **SDR 44,447** per annum equivalent to **FJD 132,638**.

How to apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the position description and full remuneration details is available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

To be eligible for these positions, applicants must be nationals of Forum member countries. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), **Friday 27 September 2024**.

*Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.