

Madolenihmw resilient plan launched as part of plan to strengthen coastal communities in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

October 25, 2024

Madolenihmw—The “OurFish OurFuture” project took another positive step forward in Pohnpei today when Hon. Kiomy Albert, Meninkeder Lapalap of Madolenihmw, and Conservation Society of Pohnpei Executive Director Eugene Joseph signed the Madolenihmw Resilient Plan. The plan seeks to strengthen the resilience of the local government and its members against environmental challenges and to address unsustainable fishing practices in Pohnpei.

USAID, through “OurFish OurFuture” and in partnership with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), the Madolenihmw Municipal Government,

and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), developed the Madolenihmw Resilient Plan. The initiative aims to help the local government and communities sustainably manage their coastal resources by enhancing community-led resource monitoring, fostering social cohesion around natural resource stewardship, and identifying sustainable financing opportunities.

The “OurFish OurFuture” activity is a cooperative agreement awarded to the University of Rhode Island in 2021. It is designed to address the drivers of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing that are degrading coastal fisheries and biodiversity, and negatively impacting local livelihoods, food stability, and maritime security in the Pacific Islands region. “OurFish OurFuture” aims to



achieve sustainable coastal fisheries management, productive coastal ecosystems, and healthy and prosperous coastal communities in six countries in Melanesia and Micronesia: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu,

Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

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Governor Joseph speaks on recent Pohnpei Legislature actions - Legislature unresponsive to press call

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 1, 2024

Pohnpei—Though Governor Stevenson Joseph took office after serving in the Pohnpei State Legislature (PSL), it is no secret that Pohnpei’s Executive and Legislative branches have struggled to set a united course, particularly regarding budgetary matters and transparency issues. The Governor has publicly criticized the Legislature on transparency concerns through several open letters.

Speaker Marvin Yamaguchi did not respond to our request for an interview to explain the Legislature’s perspective on recent actions. However, Governor

Joseph agreed to an interview to explain, from his point of view, the Legislature’s recent actions—specifically those resulting in some state employees not being paid or being paid less than before, as well as the PSL’s recent resolution urging the Governor to request the resignation of Sihna Lawrence, the Director of Treasury and Administration.

Governor Joseph stated that payroll issues have affected only employees in Special Education and the Project Management Office (PMO).

Regarding Special Education employees, Governor Joseph explained that they previously received a 45 percent pay increase passed during

the previous administration for all of Pohnpei’s employees. However, he noted, Special Education is funded by a U.S. federal program, and the grant has been “maxed out, leaving no way to increase it unless we can renegotiate in the next grant cycle, which is very unlikely,” he said.

He added that while the Legislature passed a bill to restore the 45 percent increase, it only covers part of the year. “I don’t know their plan, if they intend to reopen the issue,” he said, noting that the bill has not yet been signed. The Governor indicated that if there are no other complications, he intends to sign the bill into law, restoring the 45 percent salary increase for those employees.

The PMO payroll issue, according to Governor Joseph, is different. He explained that the PMO is funded by an infrastructure sector grant that has already been exhausted. The Legislature needs to authorize the Executive Branch to use these funds, despite prior approval and appropriation by Congress. He speculated that the Legislature’s reason for defunding the PMO may be to reopen dialogue with the national government on related issues, such as the Yap agreement. Under that agreement, President Simina consented to the national government withholding 8 percent of sector funds.

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FSM athletes join sport exchange program in Portland, Oregon



U.S. Embassy to the FSM

October 21, 2024

Portland, Oregon—A delegation of eight (8) athletes and sport administrators from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) recently participated in a 10-day Sport for Social Change (SSC) Program in Portland, that ran from September 18 to October 1, 2024. The group represented various states in the FSM, but were united by their desire to improve health conditions through developing physical education and sport programs in their country.

Funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA) Division and

organized by PH International, SSC is a U.S. Government sponsored exchange that develops sport opportunities for athletes and sport administrators from the U.S. and eleven other countries around the globe including the FSM. It provides one an opportunity to enhance his or her leadership skills and gain insights into running effective sport programs.

PH International, a program that advances society and connects people, invited ten highly motivated FSM athletes, coaches, and community sport leaders to attend this training in Oregon. However, ten participants were selected by the U.S. Embassy-Kolonia, but two withdrew shortly before the program

began, resulting in the participation of only eight athletes: Rutstein Barnabas (Pohnpei), Stanislaus Kostka (Pohnpei), Mauricio Santiago (Pohnpei), Jerome Silbanuz (Pohnpei), Clarice Graham (Chuuk), Timothy Ruda (Chuuk), Selma Single (Yap), and Sebastian Tairuwepi (Yap).

The program featured hands-on learning, community service, peer interactions, and site visits, all aimed at empowering these young sport administrators to fully contribute to their teams and communities. During the exchange, the participants learned about the Oregon State policy on mandated physical education within the school system, met with afterschool programs and non-profits, corporate foundations, and public organizations to learn about their work promoting sports and physical education for underserved populations.

Through their meetings, the group also made connections and collected valuable resources to apply to their own projects in the FSM. Below is a list of the different organizations that the participants met and learned from:

- Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation (THPR)
- Oregon Department of Education (Physical Education)
- Coaching Peace
- Lakeridge Middle School
- Adaptive Sports Summer Cycling Series (Adaptive Sports NW)
- Pacific Islands Community of Oregon (PICO)
- Playworks Pacific Northwest
- Sport Oregon (She Flies with Her Own Wings Foundation)
- Girls on the Run Greater Oregon
- Oregon School Activities Association
- NBA Portland Trailblazers (DEI, Community, and Youth Academy)
- Mercy Corps
- Nike (Community Impact Fund)
- Linfield University (Department of Health, Human Performance, and Athletics)
- Wasabi Paddling Club
- Wylde Wind & Water
- African Roads

In addition to meeting with these organizations, the delegation was exposed to new cultural experiences. They took part in a culture box project facilitated by WorldOregon, learned how to play pickleball and received full sets from THPR to bring home to teach family and friends in their different communities, attended a high school football game, took part in WorldDinners, where they got to visit the homes of people from the Portland and Vancouver area, saw Cirque Du Soleil KOOZA, visited the Sports Bra (a resto-sports bar that exclusively shows women's sports games), attended a University of Portland Women's Soccer game, and joined in on a Wasabi Paddling Session.

The participants have expressed that they learned more than they imagined and are excited to share the resources they have gathered once they return home, through community impact projects that will be supported by grant funds from the PH International and the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Sports Diplomacy Division.

For more information on the sport exchange program, please visit: <https://www.ph-int.org/program>



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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advertisements for this issue is the end
of working hours on:**

Monday, November 18, 2024

U.S. Ambassador Johnson engages with OLMCHS Civics students



U.S. Embassy to the FSM

October 30, 2024

Pohnpei—Ambassador Jennifer Johnson and Economic/Consular Officer Amy Gradin joined the Our Lady of Mercy seniors' Civics class for an interesting exchange this afternoon. The dialogue is part of the learning curriculum where the students engage with diplomats and discuss the branches of government including their roles in serving a nation.

In this engagement, the students learned about the work of the U.S. Embassy, the importance of the U.S.-FSM close partnership through the Compact of Free Association, including words of encouragement relating to their pursuit of higher education and career growth.



Thank you so much, OLMCHS leadership and students, for this awesome opportunity!



Ambassador Grant-Curnow hands over 66,150 books to the Pohnpei Department of Education at ESDM School in Madolenihmw



Australian Embassy to the FSM

October 29, 2024

Madolenihw, Pohnpei—Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant-Curnow recently handed over 66,000 books to the Pohnpei Department of Education. The significant contribution was made possible through Australia's partnership with the Asian Development Bank on the Improving Quality of Basic Education (#IQBE) program.

In her remarks, Ambassador Grant-Curnow emphasized: "Achieving quality education has been the shared goal of Australia's partnership with

the FSM National Government and the Pohnpei Dept. of Education. It's essential that the education system continues to honour and incorporate its heritage while preparing children to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world."

We were also honored to have the Hon. Gardenia Aisek, Secretary for the National Department of Education, and Mr. Per Borjegen, Senior Education Specialist, in attendance.

A special thanks to Kenneth Hagberg, NDOE's Project Director for IQBE, and Principal Amor and her staff at ESDM for organizing such a wonderful event



Governor Joseph swears in Churchill B. Edward to FSMPC Board of Directors, representing Pohnpei State



Pohnpei Public Information

October 23, 2024

KOLONIA, Pohnpei--Today, we proudly recognize Mr. Churchill B. Edward, who has officially been sworn in to represent the State of Pohnpei on the FSM PetroCorps Board of Directors. After receiving advice and consent from the 11th Pohnpei Legislature, Mr. Edward is stepping into this important role, bringing with him a wealth of

experience and dedication to the service of our state and nation.

His appointment strengthens Pohnpei's voice in the energy sector, ensuring that our interests are well-represented as we move toward a sustainable and prosperous future.

Let's wish him all the best as he takes on this new responsibility. Your community is behind you, Mr. Edward!

...Madolenihmw

Continued from front page

OurFish OurFuture is supporting community-based fisheries management (CBFM) actions in 33 communities across five municipalities of Pohnpei State to scale up shared innovative actions in state-wide dialogues and communication between traditional chiefs and municipal mayors. In Pohnpei, it focuses on elevating community voices of traditional leaders and stakeholders to adapt and manage learning innovations, develop policies and frameworks for coastal fisheries compliance and enforcement, and establish collaborative networks for enhanced community engagement in monitoring and enforcement. Scaling will be strengthened at the national level through consultations and other activities designed to improve coordination and aligned policy implementation.

CSP, the implementing partner in FSM, collaborated with the Madolenihmw

Municipal Government to develop the Madolenihmw Resilient Plan, which aims to support the local government and its communities to sustainably manage their coastal resources by improving community-led monitoring of resources, enhancing social cohesion around natural resource stewardship, and assisting with sustainable financing opportunities to support local government and communities.

"This plan...aligns closely with the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy, which emphasizes our commitment to a free and open region," said United States PAO Dennis Coster on behalf of U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson. "Empowering local communities is key to achieving this goal. When communities are engaged in stewardship, they become vital guardians of their resources, ensuring sustainability for future generations... This is not just a plan on paper; it is a call to action for all of us to work together to protect our coastal environment... Together, we can create a resilient future for our communities and our natural resources."

...Pohnpei Legislature

Continued from front page

The FSM Congress overrode the agreement, passing a law instead to withhold 10 percent of sector funding.

Another issue Governor Joseph cited is the existing law to recentralize project management back to the national government. "Pohnpei, through the PSL, is already taking steps to acknowledge that. That's my interpretation," he said.

Meanwhile, Governor Joseph has sent a letter to FSM President Wesley Simina, with a copy to Congress Speaker Esmond Moses, stressing the PMO's vital role in executing infrastructure projects. "Despite Congress's appropriation to support the PMO, the 11th Pohnpei Legislature has yet to release these funds," he wrote. "This delay risks Pohnpei State being forced to draw from its General Fund to sustain the PMO, despite the intended federal allocation."

He requested that the President and Congress Speaker authorize a reversion of the funds to the FSM National Government. "This reallocation would ensure timely support for the PMO from the National Government, allowing it to continue its essential work without further delay," he wrote.

Regarding the PSL's request for Sihna Lawrence's resignation as Pohnpei's Director of Treasury and Administration, Governor Joseph stated that the request is tied to the Legislature's ongoing "so-called investigation," as he put it. He added that he has repeatedly asked the Legislature, both formally and informally, about the investigation's focus, but the body has not disclosed its reasons.

He suspects one issue may involve a lapsed road maintenance funding law that was never implemented. The PSL appropriated the lapsed funds when Governor Joseph was serving as Senator Joseph, then Chair of the Finance Committee. The funds originated from a percentage of car registrations and fuel taxes from service stations, but the projects were never executed.

"The Legislature decided to extend a law that had already lapsed two years prior, which is unprecedented. The proper course would be to reappropriate it in the current fiscal year (assuming an audit confirms the funds are still available)," he explained. "The Finance Director opposed this, stating that implementing the law would violate the Financial Management Act and financial regulations. But the Finance Committee seemed to insist, saying, 'We make the law; you follow it,' even if it conflicts with our financial management act."

The Governor noted that while these are internal issues, there is also a broader concern about the 2023 sector funding. He explained that the sector grants arrived late in fiscal year 2023, leaving FSM States with only about one month to obligate the funds—an unrealistic timeframe. Through a resolution from the State and National Leadership Conference, the States requested the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) to extend the deadline from September 3 to December 3, adding three months. JEMCO denied the extension.

Governor Joseph clarified that the money has not disappeared: "We still have it, but since the fiscal year has ended, it's more complicated. The remaining funds will be moved into what we call the 'unobligated fund'—we already have millions in there." He estimated the amount in question to be about \$5 million. "Unconfirmed, but it's supposed to be placed into a trust fund sub-account to earn interest."

"Despite JEMCO's decision, the Legislature chose to ignore it and passed a law to extend the deadline themselves," he stated. "It's not ideal, as JEMCO gave us only a month to obligate those funds—impossible under the circumstances. Whether their decision was fair or not, it was made, and the Legislature decided to override it, supposedly authorizing me to proceed with spending beyond JEMCO's deadline," he said.

The Governor concluded that the Legislature's disregard for the JEMCO decision is likely only a minor factor in their investigation of Sihna Lawrence, if it plays any role at all. "It's internal politics," he commented.

Sehpin takes top prizes in Pohnpei's Annual Budweiser Fishing Tournament

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 19, 2024

Pohnpei—Twenty-three boat owners registered for the annual Budweiser Fishing Tournament hosted by the Pohnpei Fishing Club on October 19, 2024. The weigh-in for the fish landed was conducted at Mangrove Bar and Grill, as has become the standard practice.

The tournament challenge was to catch the greatest

number of seven different species. The largest example of each species landed by each boat was then weighed, and their weights were combined to determine prize winners. There was also a separate prize for the largest individual fish landed.

Kevin Sehpin caught four species with a combined weight of 78 pounds, earning him the top prize of \$400. The species he caught included skipjack, barracuda, wahoo, and giant trevally. The second prize of \$300 went to Lensper Nicholas, who landed a skipjack and a yellowfin with a combined weight of 69.76 pounds. Marvey Spencer also caught two species—a yellowfin and a barracuda—for the third prize of \$150, with a combined weight of 50.4 pounds.

The prize for the largest example of each of the seven qualifying species was \$100, with no second-place prize in that category.

Calany Torres caught the largest single yellowfin tuna at 76.2 pounds. The largest skipjack tuna was caught by Kevin Sehpin at 11.2 pounds. He also caught the largest wahoo

at 38 pounds, the largest barracuda at 9.4 pounds, and the largest giant trevally at a solid 19.4 pounds. Sehpin's total prize winnings for the day reached a notable \$800.

No one landed a billfish or mahi mahi during the tournament.

Boat owners each received a half-case of Budweiser for their registration and participation in the tournament.



IndoPACOM Deputy Commander visits FSM

U.S. Embassy to the FSM

October 23, 2024

Pohnpei—Lieutenant General Joshua Rudd, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Indo Pacific Command, visited Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), from October 16-17, 2024.

LTG Rudd was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson in discussions with key FSM officials, including Vice President Aren Palik, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert, and Secretary of the Department of Justice Leonito Bacalando, Jr. A

wide range of topics were covered, including the importance of the U.S.-FSM close partnership underpinned in the Compact of Free Association, joint projects, and other key priorities for continued cooperation between the United States and the FSM.

LTG Rudd, accompanied by the U.S. Embassy Defense Attache Commander Jason Neal and other U.S. officials, also toured

the FSM Maritime Police Wing to learn about the unit's mission and capabilities. This included a briefing by the National Police crew onboard the patrol vessel FSS Bethwel Henry. The crew provided highlights and examples of successful operations, multilateral efforts, and their vision for future operations that strengthen maritime

security.

LTG Rudd assumed his new role as Deputy Commander on September 25 and his visit to Pohnpei was his first to Micronesia.



Australian Federal Police Detective Superintendent meets with FSM and Pohnpei

Australian Embassy to the FSM

October 31, 2024

Pohnpei—Detective Superintendent Janine Enniss of the Australian Federal Police recently met with FSM and Pohnpei State Police and justice sector counterparts to strengthen law enforcement cooperation and discuss Pacific regional policing issues.

Accompanied by Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant-Curnow, Detective Enniss held a series of productive meetings with Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando Jr., National Police Chief Cindy Ludrick, members of the transnational crime unit, Acting Director of the Pohnpei State Department of Justice William Ioanis along with senior law enforcement officers and the detective unit, and partners from the FBI. The discussions highlighted shared concerns, such as transnational crimes, human and drug trafficking,

domestic violence and avenues for future collaboration.

The visit underscored the long-standing law enforcement partnership between Australia and FSM, together with international partners.

It also provided an opportunity to discuss the Pacific Policing Initiative (PPI) which was

launched at the recent Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting. FSM and Australia both participate in the PPI as part of our commitment to Pacific police cooperation.





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- 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: Tuesday, 19th November 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.

Pacific Nations gather to chart a sustainable future for the Blue Pacific



Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Nadi, Fiji—Representatives from Pacific Island countries with the mandate for the management of ocean resources met in Nadi for the Regional Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) workshop.

Convened by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), the regional workshop, with guidance from the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, will identify priority areas for implementing IOM in the Pacific. It will outline coordinating strategies for efforts, enhancing scientific knowledge and capacity, and integrating traditional knowledge into ocean management decision-making.

The IOM convening reinforces the commitment of Pacific countries to effectively and sustainably manage their ocean spaces in line with international Law (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) and other global ocean initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Workshop participant and Solomon Islands Assistant Secretary Ocean & Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade Gladys Kamia Isihanua, said, "This workshop will help guide how countries achieve our ocean commitments and ambitions."

She added, "By strengthening coordination, enhancing scientific knowledge and capacity, and integrating traditional knowledge into decision-making, we can effectively implement Integrated Ocean Management and ensure sustainable use of our marine resources for generations to come."

In his keynote address, Pacific Ocean

Commissioner, Dr Filimon Manoni, stressed to participants that the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific serves as a guide to sustainably manage the Pacific Ocean. "This workshop is a vital opportunity for us to work together to achieve our shared vision for the Pacific Ocean by 2050. By coordinating our efforts and learning from each other, we can ensure a healthy and prosperous ocean for generations to come."

To further emphasise the importance of capacity building and knowledge sharing in ocean management, the workshop convened key ocean stakeholders, including Early Career Ocean Professionals.

"SPC is dedicated to providing the necessary technical and scientific support to ensure the sustainable management of our ocean resources. Our work isn't just about management - it's about ensuring our ocean continues to sustain our people, our cultures, and our future generations," said SPC's Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division Director, Rhonda Robinson.

She added, "As we look around this room - you'll see the present and future of Pacific Ocean leadership working side by side. This is how we ensure our momentum continues, our knowledge grows, and our commitment to ocean stewardship strengthens with each generation."

The convening is an initiative of the European Union-funded Pacific Solutions for Integrated Ocean Management Project, implemented by SPC. The Ocean Decade initiative aims to strengthen Pacific Ocean governance through robust legal frameworks, improved decision-making informed by science and supported by traditional knowledge of ocean management.

President Simina welcomes new Ambassador of the Netherlands and calls for European Union Mission in the FSM

FSM Information Services

October 25, 2024

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On October 25, 2024, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), welcomed Her Excellency Maria Alfonsa Magdalena Geraedts, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to FSM. The ceremony, held in the President’s conference room in Palikir, included the formal presentation of the Ambassador’s Letter of Recall and Letter of Credence.

In her remarks, Ambassador Geraedts reaffirmed the Kingdom of the Netherlands’ commitment to supporting the FSM in key areas, including climate change mitigation, coastal protection, and educational scholarships, among others.

President Simina reciprocated by acknowledging the enduring partnership between the Netherlands and the FSM,

a relationship that has thrived since its establishment in April 1996. He highlighted the Netherlands’ valued role in supporting initiatives that bolster the FSM’s ability to address climate change, environmental challenges, and more. President Simina also expressed deep appreciation for the Netherlands’ active engagement in international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, under which the Netherlands has set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He noted that such efforts are essential to global collaboration in combating climate change, and he conveyed the FSM’s gratitude for the Netherlands’ leadership in tackling this urgent issue.

President Simina further emphasized the importance of the FSM’s aspirations to host a European Union (EU) Mission in the North Pacific. Establishing an EU Delegation presence in the FSM



would allow for deeper understanding and collaboration on shared challenges, such as climate resilience, sustainable development, and regional security. President Simina expressed hope for the Netherlands’ support on this matter, noting that the presence of an EU Mission in FSM would complement the objectives of the Netherlands’ Indo-Pacific strategy and strengthen multilateral ties in the region.

As a testament to the FSM’s commitment to its partnership with

the Netherlands, President Simina discussed the potential for the FSM’s recently established Permanent Mission in Geneva to accredit a Permanent Representative to the Netherlands, a step that would elevate bilateral relations further. Concluding the ceremony, President Simina extended an invitation to Ambassador Geraedts and her delegation to visit FSM’s other states to experience the full diversity of the FSM has to offer.

Also in attendance were The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of FSM; Honorable Beaulen Carl-Worswick, Acting Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court; Honorable Stevenson A. Joseph, Governor of Pohnpei State; Mr. Pieter ten Bosch, spouse of Ambassador Geraedts; along with members of the Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps, and staff from the National and State Governments.

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The graphic includes a QR code, a smartphone showing the Vital Energy social media profile (verified, 743 Following, 295 Followers), and icons for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X. The background features a close-up of green palm fronds.

US-Yapese partnership on display at schools across Yap

Habele

October 31, 2024

Yap—The school year on is well underway, and for some students on Yap it's a bit brighter than they may have expected upon return to campus. Over the summer a small group of Marines and Sailors were busy sprucing up their schools.

U.S. Marines and Sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group worked on Yap this summer as part of "Moana 24." Across the FSM and Palau, teams undertook a range of engineering projects. These included renovation of schools, facilities, and historical memorials. Their efforts extended to community engagement activities such as sporting events, school interactions, and cultural immersion, and explosive ordnance disposal.

Arriving on Yap in June, the Koa Moana team was led by Lieutenant Mikellides and

Gunnery Sergeant Laws. Lt. Mikellides worked to carefully, and respectfully, initiate relations with traditional and political leaders, as well as many in the community eager to get things done. His Marines identified and completed much-needed projects. They did so in ways that engaged Marines with Yapese and Outer Islanders throughout. From construction and painting at schools to reading with children and signing them up for book donations, Mikellides' Marines made a big, positive impact.

Liliana Gootinag, Principal of Gagil Elementary School, was among those who were eager to partner with the Marines. She sought to revamp the school's buildings' exteriors, "aiming to create a more conducive and uplifting learning environment for the students. The project would not only enhance the school's appearance but also contribute to the overall well-being of the educational community." US nonprofit Habele provided funds and the materials were

purchased. Then the Marines and Sailors got to work.

Similarly, Mae Lynn E. Tiningidow, Principal of Dalipebinaw Community School, had a vision for a more beautiful learning environment. Again, Habele donated money to purchase supplies. The Marines painted the 2-story classroom building, refurbished the rails, and replaced window screens on all classroom windows.

At Saint Mary's Catholic School, the need was for concrete benches, on which students could gather to share meals, collaborate on work, or watch their peers play sports on the adjacent court. Principal Rufino Xavier (himself a Marine Veteran) reached out to Lieutenant Mikellides for the labor and engineering, and to Habele for money for the materials. At Yap Catholic High School, the Marines extended a school's internet network -originally donated by Habele in 2021- across three buildings to enhance learning

connectivity.

In addition to the Marines's very visible accomplishments at the schools, the troops also took the time to engage directly with students, and those still too young to be attending. With books donated by Habele, the Marines read to groups of children and provide sign-up sheets to mothers whose children under five years are eligible to participate in "Young Island Readers." This Habele book-a-month program sends over 600 books each month directly to children throughout Yap State.

A big part of the success was collaboration. Officials at the State Department of Education, down to individual school principals as well as classroom teachers, were eager to present and move on good ideas. American citizens living on Yap, as well as Yapese and Outer Islanders volunteering for Habele, worked to streamline the process, identifying, requesting and delivering the funds so the Marines could quickly get to work, bypassing the time and complexity of seeking funds from Washington.

"The decades-long partnership between Yap and the US is based on a share history, mutual respect, and a common commitment to do the right things," explained Neil Mellen, a former Peace Corps Volunteer and Director of Habele. "These projects, requested by local Yapese, funded by an American nonprofit, and completed by US Marines, provide further evidence of how the US and Yap can, and do, pool public and private talents and resources to get the job done for the People of Yap State."



VETERINARY CLINIC

WHO: Wise Owl Animal Hospital
WHEN: November 25 to 30, 2024
WHERE: New Tokyo Medical College

BOOKINGS: email
kidioangoahng@gmail.com

With pet's :
 Age, Sex (M/F)
 Cat/ Dog, Reason for Visit
 Your contact information

DONATIONS: Always gratefully accepted and needed





Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2024, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with BANK OF GUAM® are inactive and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective BANK OF GUAM® Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2025, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2025, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

CHUUK BRANCH

ERMINO FRITZ
P O BOX 604
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

KISINA LUA
PO BOX 1624
CHUUK FM 96942

MEA HERRY
FUSAE SARET
P O BOX 880
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

ERFINA F TITHER
P O BOX 580
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

ANN WAINIT
1177 ALA KIPA #306
HONOLULU HI 96819

SAMMY RANIK
YUFINE ROBERT
PO BOX 584
CHUUK FM 96942

ETERIO DARO
PO BOX 26
CHUUK FM 96942

ALON TERRY
EVILINA SALADIER
P O BOX 762
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

ROSLIN KELEB
P O BOX 1
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

CHRISTINE LODGE
172 KINNEY RD
MANGILAO GU 96913-5917

STEPHANA YMAE SIVAS
JEIKEK TOROPIO
P O BOX 1333
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

NARKORY SHARRY
P O BOX HA
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

YACH ESPER
P O BOX 983
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

FRANCIS ALEKO
SIIS ISLAND
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

TOLENSON PASTORAL
ASSOCIATION
P O BOX
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

BILLY KAREN
PO BOX 752
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

FREDRICK KOLIOS
MOEN ISLAND
TRUK FM 96942

SIWISTER NAMWEL
MARTIN MAMWEL
UMAN IS
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

STEIOSHY S MANUEL
DIANA B MANUEL
94 114 PUPUNCHE STREET APT 1
WAIPAU HI 96797

CAROLINE SAPPA
PO BOX 1389
CHUUK FM 96942

SHINOBU M POLL
PO BOX 95
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

CASPAR P FRED
PO BOX 1423
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

ANTONIO LOVER
PO BOX 865
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

GRACELYN J SIVAS
PO BOX 1298
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

HERNAK JR PAUL
PO BOX 171
CHUUK FM 96942

ANSIE MATHEW
PO BOX 481
CHUUK FM 96942

MASTER ANGEI
PO BOX 1391
CHUUK FM 96942-1391

JULIA MARAS
PO BOX 1440
CHUUK FM 96942-1440

AMPROS SOS
YOUMETA ESYLYNN TAKASHY
PO BOX 324
CHUUK FM 96942-0324

POHNPEI BRANCH

MIOKO AMUSTEN
PO BOX 1495
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

ELNORY K PHILLIP
PO BOX 194
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

ELENA MALLARME
PO BOX 1953
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

HEDGES EIS
PO BOX 51
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

MARSON LAYLAY
PO BOX 1958
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
POHNPEI
SOUNKOWA SOKEHS DA
CHURCH
PO BOX 864
POHNPEI FM 96941-0864

PENTECOSTAL MISSIONARY
CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO BOX K2897
POHNPEI FM 96941

CINDERELLA EDWARD
CATHREEN ANDON
PO BOX 777
POHNPEI FM 96941

AMDREA S HILLYER
UNIT 3120 BOX 114
DPO AA 34055

IOAKIM ERAM
ENREEN ERAM
PO BOX 676
POHNPEI FM 96941-0676

VIRGINIA HAIRENS
PO BOX 1212
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

BARNABAS LINGE
PO BOX 1462
POHNPEI FM 96941-1462

AILEEN VITUG
PO BOX 2384
POHNPEI FM 96941-2384

SACHIO SAKURAI
PO BOX 101
POHNPEI FM 96941-0101

ROHSY JIM
7112 PORTO PL
FAYETTEVILLE NC 28314-5240

JOSEPHINE DARLEY
PO BOX 2137
KOLONIA POHNPEI 96941

MARCIANA PELEP
PO BOX K2627
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

JOANN G OLTER
PO BOX 1136
POHNPEI FM 96941-1136

MARGARET TOMOKI
PO BOX 2419
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

SEAN VERNON REED OLIVER
LAYLEEN R OLIVER
PO BOX K2948
POHNPEI FM 96941

IAN KIT SERINA
PO BOX 1002
POHNPEI FM 96941-1002

HARVEY P RAGAN
PO BOX 512
POHNPEI FM 96941-0512

EASTON Y PERMAN
JUSTINA PERMAN
PO BOX 779
POHNPEI FM 96941-0779

WELPER DAVID
PO BOX 572
POHNPEI FM 96941-0572

SULISA LADORE
SHIRLYNN PELEP
PO BOX 1514
POHNPEI FM 96941-1514

KOSRAE BRANCH

MARUKO TOLENOA
DBA MK FUEL SHOP
PO BOX 477
KOSRAE FM 96944-0477

HATTIE R PHILLIP
PO BOX 276
MALEM KOSRAE FM 96944-0276

DOTHA N MONGKEYA
PO BOX 991
TOFOL KOSRAE FM 96944-0991

KOTANDA J MELANDER
PO BOX 684
TOFOL KOSRAE FM 96944-0684

NESTER E ACOSTA
PO BOX 37
KOSRAE FM 96944-0037

LIEZEL G TARA
PO BOX 94
KOSRAE FM 96944-0094

YAP BRANCH

LOUISA T MUTHAN
PO BOX 174
YAP FM 96943-0174

FLORENCIA WULBONG
BONAVENTURE E TALLEY
PO BOX 185
YAP FM 96943-0185

JINSHENG YI
PO BOX B
YAP FM 96943

PETER CHUWSEMAL
PO BOX 1314
YAP FM 96943-1314

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

CHUUK BRANCH

NIKOLA CUK
PO BOX K2644
POHNPEI FM 96941

RENE HAU
PO BOX 910
CHUUK FM 96942-0910

POHNPEI BRANCH

DEBORAH BELEKANANI ISAIAH
PO BOX 3077
POHNPEI FM 96941-3077

ALILY IOANIS
PO BOX 38
POHNPEI FM 96941-0038

ROBERT LIHPAI II
PO BOX 277
POHNPEI FM 96941-0277

ELIZABETH NENNIS
PO BOX 821
POHNPEI FM 96941-0821

ROXANNE ALEX
PO BOX 1033
POHNPEI FM 96941-1033

JEROME MANONGSONG
PO BOX 364
POHNPEI FM 96941-0364

VANESSA BRIM ROSE YENS
PO BOX 1468
POHNPEI FM 96941-1468

NUKUORO RAINBOW OF LOVE
PO BOX 2135
POHNPEI FM 96941-2135

ROBERTSON SOHRAM FRED
PO BOX 185
POHNPEI FM 96941-0185

NORBERT ALBERT JR
PO BOX K2569
POHNPEI FM 96941

KARTER PANUELO
PO BOX 821
POHNPEI FM 96941-0821

GOURDNEY MAE EZIKIEL
PO BOX 2451
POHNPEI FM 96941-2451

DANILO DUE SINGIAN
PO BOX 831
POHNPEI FM 96941-0831

ERNEST WEIRLANGT
DBA PASTRIES INC
PO BOX 100
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

CHAN JOSEPH TALLON
LAYLEEN R OLIVER
PO BOX 2189
POHNPEI FM 96941-2189

AKIKO KAMIKUBO
2-31-10-402ARITAMADAI
HIGASHI-KU HAMAMATSU
SHIZUOKA 431 3126
JAPAN

ABIGAIL JOY AVORYIE
PO BOX PS105
POHNPEI FM 96941

CHARLES M MITHINYAI
PO BOX 13541
NAIROBI 00100
KENYA

KOSRAE BRANCH

JACK J KUN
PO BOX 281
KOSRAE FM 96944-0281



Vice President Palik welcomes Lieutenant General Joshua Rudd of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to the FSM



FSM Information Services

October 30, 2024

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) welcomed Lieutenant General Joshua Rudd, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and his delegation to Palikir on October 17th, 2024. The Honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik, received Lieutenant General Rudd and his team, who are in the FSM to present updates on current U.S. Department of Defense projects in Yap.

Vice President Palik extended warm appreciation to Lieutenant General Rudd and the U.S. delegation for their visit and acknowledged the constructive role the U.S. Department of Defense continues to play in advancing shared interests under the Compact of Free Association. The delegation’s trip underscores the joint commitment of the FSM national government and Yap State to work alongside the U.S. in pursuing both local development goals and regional stability objectives.

During the courtesy call, Lieutenant General Rudd conveyed that a US delegation to be led by US Deputy Chief of Mission Mut Tracy will be visiting Yap from October 29 to November 3, 2024 to deliver detailed presentations of Department of Defense’s project in Yap—focused on airport and seaport expansion.

Vice President Palik welcomed the planned US delegation visit to Yap later this month, which will provide Yap State leaders an opportunity to engage directly with U.S. experts and ask questions related to the project. FSM National Government personnel will also join the engagement in Yap to listen to the presentations alongside Yap state officials, in order to facilitate continued alignment and coordination on the ground as well as ensure a strong, unified representation and facilitate further communication.

Vice President Palik highlighted the value of the Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) process, which underpins the defense and security partnership between FSM and the U.S., and expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming JCM scheduled for November 13-14, 2024, in Chuuk. The JCM remains central to fostering cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, enhancing both defense strategy and mutual trust.

Vice President Palik also reiterated its request for the return of the Civic Action Teams (CAT) during the last JCM, recognizing their positive impact on community development.

Vice President Palik further expressed gratitude for the recent Pacific Partnership missions in Kosrae and Yap, which delivered critical health services and infrastructure improvements. In Kosrae, the Pacific Partnership team provided 21 medical events, including optometry exams, distributed over 550 pairs of eyeglasses, installed dental equipment, and trained over 100 community members in life-

saving skills. In Yap, the team conducted more than 50 medical events, served approximately 700 patients, distributed nearly 300 pairs of eyeglasses, performed dental extractions, and completed essential equipment repairs. These missions exemplify the shared humanitarian commitment between FSM and the U.S. to support health and resilience across the FSM.



16th October 2024

BID INVITATION

for

Professional Consulting Service for the Design of the Pohnpei International Airport Runway 9-27 Extension by 4,000 ft, Dekehtik, Nett, Pohnpei, FSM.

NOTICE

The Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) of the Pohnpei State Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to Qualified Consultants for the **Professional Consulting Service for the Design of the Pohnpei International Airport Runway 9-27 Extension by 4,000 ft, Dekehtik, Nett, Pohnpei, FSM .**

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Ronald Reyes, Airport Manager, ronald.reyes@ppa.fm Pohnpei Port Authority, P.O. Box 1150, Dekehtik, Pohnpei FM 96941, Tel: (691) 320-2793 Fax: (691) 320-2832 with the subject heading:

“ Professional Consulting Service for the Design of the Pohnpei International Airport Runway 9-27 Extension by 4,000 ft, Dekehtik, Nett, Pohnpei, FSM .”

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department’s website: <https://www.ppa.fm> in its public announcements section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is **Thursday 28th November 2024 at 4pm local Pohnpei Time.**

Steven Joseph
Governor, Pohnpei State Government

High marks as Habelle scholars report on academic progress

Habele

October 29, 2024

Yap—The US nonprofit Habelle, founded by former Peace Corps Volunteers, awards elementary and high school scholarships to students across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The students provide Habelle with copies of their report cards throughout the year and other indicators of their academic progress.

There are 152 Habelle scholars for the 2024-25 school year, representing a diverse collection of students from the four Micronesian States including a range of Main, Lagoon, and Outer Islanders. As of October 28th, Habelle has already received 63 of these student's first quarter report cards.

"The grades these students are earning are tremendous," explained Neil Mellen, Habelle's founder, who served as teacher in the Outer Islands of Yap in the early 2000's. "It is clear that these students, their families, and the teachers are strongly invested in academic achievement

and student success. Habelle is proud we can play a small role, through targeted financial assistance, to help prepare these children to take up -and even create- their social, civic, political, and business roles in their island communities."



Habelle's tuition scholarships ensure bright, hardworking students have access to the best elementary and secondary education possible. Based on need and merit, each Habelle tuition scholarship is set at a level that maintains family ownership in student achievement while lightening the financial burden. Habelle scholars this year are attending fifteen different schools across the FSM.

The scholarships cover roughly 75 percent of tuition and fees. Students must maintain and report high levels of academic achievement every term, applying each year for continued support. Since 2006, more than 300 students in Micronesia have benefited from the program, which started with a single student seventeen years ago. ##

PHOTO: Second grader Jesebel-Marie B. Fanechigi attends Saint Mary's School on Yap with the help of a Habelle Scholarship. She lives in Luwech, Rull and earned all "A's" in her first quarter academic progress report

The FSM strengthens ties in Europe: Ambassador Susaia accredited to Switzerland

FSM Information Services

October 22, 2024

GENEVA, Switzerland—On October 22, 2024, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) reached an important milestone in its international diplomacy as His Excellency Akillino Harris Susaia presented his credentials to Her Excellency Viola Patricia Amherd, President of the Swiss Confederation. Ambassador Susaia's accreditation to Switzerland signals the FSM's deepening commitment to global cooperation and marks a historic first: the first bilateral accreditation to a country in the European Continent and the first double accreditation. Ambassador Susaia will now serve as both FSM's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva and FSM Ambassador to Switzerland.

President Amherd warmly welcomed Ambassador Susaia and acknowledged the FSM's leadership on climate issues. She emphasized Switzerland's interest in deepening cooperation with the FSM, noting the shared impacts of climate change and the importance of exploring technical assistance to address mutual priorities. She also recognized that Ambassador Susaia is the first FSM Ambassador accredited to Switzerland since formal diplomatic relations were established in 2001.

The accreditation ceremony at the Swiss Federal Council in Bern was attended by Mrs. Mihpel O. Susaia, wife of the Ambassador, and Mr. Johnny Hadley Jr., First Secretary of the FSM Embassy and Permanent Mission in Geneva.

The FSM joins a small group of Pacific Island nations, including the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Fiji, with double accreditation status in Switzerland.

In his remarks, Ambassador Susaia expressed his sincere appreciation to President Amherd for the opportunity to serve as FSM's first Ambassador to Switzerland. He noted the longstanding friendship between FSM and Switzerland and highlighted FSM's commitment to climate resilience, particularly in areas affected by sea level rise and environmental challenges.



30th October 2024

Addendum 1

for

Professional Consulting Service for the Design of the Pohnpei International Airport Terminal Complex Replacement, Dekehtik, Nett, Pohnpei, FSM.

NOTICE

The Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) of the Pohnpei State Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to Qualified Consultants for the **Professional Consulting Service for the Design of the Pohnpei International Airport Terminal Complex Replacement, Dekehtik, Nett, Pohnpei, FSM.**

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Ronald Reyes, Airport Manager, ronald.reyes@ppa.fm Pohnpei Port Authority, P.O. Box 1150, Dekehtik, Pohnpei FM 96941, Tel: (691) 320-2793 Fax: (691) 320-2832 with the subject heading:

"Professional Consulting Service for the Design of the Pohnpei International Airport Terminal Complex Replacement, Dekehtik, Nett, Pohnpei, FSM."

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department's website: <https://www.ppa.fm> in its public announcements section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is hereby extended based on request dated October 29th to:

Closing Date: 28th November 2024 at 4pm local Pohnpei Time
Public Opening Date: 29th November 2024 at 10am local Pohnpei Time


Stevensen Joseph
 Governor, Pohnpei State Government

Pacific Sub-Regional Office

JOB ADVERTISEMENT



CLOSING DATE:

Sunday, 10th November 2024 [Midnight Fiji Time]

Background:

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's strategic plan (2022-2025), reaffirms the relevance of the current strategic direction of UNFPA and focuses on three transformative results: to end preventable maternal deaths; end unmet need for family planning; and end gender-based violence and harmful practices. These results capture our strategic commitments on accelerating progress towards realizing the ICPD and SDGs in the Decade of Action leading up to 2030. Our strategic plan calls upon UN Member States, organizations and individuals to "build forward better", while addressing the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, recover lost gains and realize our goals.

In a world where fundamental human rights are at risk, we need principled and ethical staff, who embody these international norms and standards, and who will defend them courageously and with full conviction.

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.

#	CONSULTANCY	DURATION	LOCATION	CONTRACT MODALITY
1	Family Life Education [FLE] Baseline Consultant [International Consultant]	40 days	Pohnpei State, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Individual Consultant
2	Family Life Education [FLE] Baseline Consultant [National Consultant]	17 days		

Conditions & Remuneration:

UNFPA PSRO will contract the successful candidate under an individual contract and will be responsible for the payment of fees payable according to qualification and standard terms of payment and subject to satisfactory completion of assigned outputs. Payment will be made on completion of a monthly report.

Candidates must complete a United Nations Personal History (P.11) form, together with updated Curriculum Vitae and a Cover letter. Applications without completed P.11 form will not be considered. The P.11 form as well as a complete Terms of Reference can be downloaded from the office web site <https://pacific.unfpa.org/en> or a copy be obtained by sending an email to vacanciespsro@unfpa.org.

Completed applications can be emailed to vacanciespsro@unfpa.org before midnight on Sunday, 10th November 2024 [Midnight Fiji Time].

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.

Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine receives EWC's Women of Impact award

East West Center

October 26, 2024

Honolulu—At a celebration at the East-West Center in Honolulu Friday evening, the Center was delighted to recognize Her Excellency Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine with its 2024 Women of Impact Award.



my career has taught me, it is that positive impact can be made only through building community and building bridges. There is that Western saying, 'No person is an island.' It's a concept that our islander cultures have known for millennia, and that my mother and father taught me as well: We are only as strong as our communities and our

As the first woman to lead an independent Pacific Island nation in modern times, Heine has become a symbol of gender equality and women's empowerment across the Pacific. In addition, she has had significant successes as a leader in education and made important contributions to climate change advocacy.

kinship to one another."

The award was presented to President Heine, a former member of the Center's Board of Governors, by the board's current chair, former Hawai'i Governor John Waihe'e. Current Hawai'i Governor Josh Green also presented Heine with an official proclamation honoring her for her contributions to women's equality, climate advocacy, and educational progress in the Pacific. And in a video, White House Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian American and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison Erika Moritsugu read aloud a letter from President Biden congratulating Heine on the award.

"To be counted among the previous recipients of this award is indeed an unexpected honor," Heine said in her remarks accepting the award "on behalf of those who have come before me." She added: "If there is anything

The event, supported by the First Hawaiian Bank Lecture Series, also included an international panel of distinguished women leaders discussing their personal stories and success strategies.



Governor Joseph welcomes China Medical Team to Pohnpei State

Pohnpei Public Information

October 22, 2024

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, alongside Mr. Stuard Penias, Director of the Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services, warmly welcomed the visiting China Medical Team (CMT) to the Governor’s Office today. The team, which arrived in Pohnpei as part of a cooperative medical exchange program, made a courtesy visit before commencing their year-long medical service at the Pohnpei State Hospital.

Accompanying the team was Second Secretary Mr. Richard Yang from the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Federated States of Micronesia, who expressed the Embassy’s support for the continued partnership between China and Micronesia, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in healthcare.

The China Medical Team consists of highly specialized professionals, including:

- ENT Specialist
- Urologist
- Gastroenterologist
- Operating Room Nurse
- Chinese Traditional Medicine Practitioner
- Dentist
- Medical Translator

During the meeting, Governor Joseph extended his deepest gratitude to the team for their dedication and willingness to serve the people of Pohnpei. He also highlighted Pohnpei State’s readiness to support the CMT and facilitate



a smooth working relationship during their stay.

Governor Joseph stated, "Pohnpei is ready to accommodate you and have our people served with your expert services." To further assist with communication, Governor Joseph offered a local Pohnpeian translator to support the team, helping bridge any potential language barriers during their medical consultations and procedures.

Second Secretary Yang echoed these sentiments, noting that the exchange will help both sides to learn from each other.

The China Medical Team will be providing specialized services at the Pohnpei State Hospital for the next year, offering much-needed expertise to the island’s healthcare system.

FSMTC HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMMISSIONED NANDAKU, POHNPEI CELL TOWER.

The Coverage for the Nandaku Tower is based on three sectorized antenna.

- Sector 1 (red) provides coverage to parts of Kipar & Tomwara Pah.
- Sector 2 (yellow) provides coverage to parts of Tomwara Powe.
- Sector 3 (blue) provides coverage to parts of Lowetik.



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

Image © 2024 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2024 Airbus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

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

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2025. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2024.

Singkitchy P George	P.O. Box 11	Tofol KOS	Angkily Salle	P. O. Box 636	Weno CHK
Aaron C Alokoa	P. O. Box 1022	Tofol KOS	Rawwas Organization	P.O Box 411	Weno CHK
Utwe Fishermen's Association	P. O. Box 518	Tofol KOS	Atland Harper	98-731	Moanalua Aiea HI
Arthur S. Cornelius	159 Makalea St	HI	Winiplat Bisalen AND	P.O.Box 6	Weno CHK
	EWA Beach		Ophilia Esetok	P. O. Box 776	Weno CHK
Sunia A Welly	P.O. Box 310	Tofol KOS	Arene G Setik	P.O Box 37	Weno CHK
Moses P Olter	P. O. Box 953	Tofol KOS	Friends of Xavier Community Fox C	P.O box 220	Weno CHK
Erine S. Jonathan	P.O. Box 584	Tofol KOS	Nancy S Lippwe	Eot Peniemwan Village	Weno CHK
Job D Kephas	P. O. Box 12	Tofol KOS	Tomoich John	P.O. Box 475	Weno CHK
Lewis S. Brooks	P.O. Box 36	Tofol KOS	Suda Tamasy	P.O. Box JB	Weno CHK
Takasy S Shrew	P.O. Box 540	Tofol KOS	Antolin Martin	P.O Box 1225	Weno CHK
Marcella B Sound	P.O. Box 314	WENO CHK	CHATT CHURCH RENOV. PROJECT	P.O. BOX 4599	Weno CHK
Jack H Sham	P.O Box 1611	Weno CHK	Rosemary Wengu	94-875	Honolulu HI
Aces Mijares	P.O. Box 369	Weno CHK	Sablon Besiwey	Polowat Rewou Village	Weno CHK
Asuncion Meneky	1134-15 PLACE	KENNEWICK WA	McRaffy Estepa or Misiem Estepa	Weno Iras Village	Weno CHK
Chuuk State Housing Authority	P.O. Box 849	Weno CHK	R.S Ruda	Sopotiw Village Fananu Island	Weno CHK
ERC (EVEANN REALTY CONSTRUCTION)	P.O. BOX 369	Weno CHK	Romolou Mike	P. O. Box 731	Weno CHK
DEAL FAIR, INC	P. O. Box 185	Weno CHK	Jonathan Ruben	Iras Village	Weno CHK
Chuuk State Chamber of Commerce	P.O. BOX 74	Weno CHK	Joses R Gallen	P.O Box 255	Kolonia PNI
Ipwe Pan Fishing Association	P.O Box 1604	Weno CHK	Keichy Simor or	Eot Peniememwan Village	Weno CHK
Eoranei Youth Association Kathy Sound	P.O Box 576	Weno CHK	Nanacy S. Lippwe		
or			Merialen Salle Nema	Eor Village	Weno CHK
Christian Ted C Mijares	Box 369	Weno CHK	Martin Namwel	P. O. Box 1258	Weno CHK
DANNYBOY NACHU	PO BOX 1541	Weno CHK	Joel Liemam	Eor Village	Weno CHK
J & H STORE	P.O BOX 527	Weno CHK	Aisek W. William	P.O. Box 558	Weno CHK
Achina N Sonis	P.O BOX 864	Weno CHK	Mwichen Maria me	P.O. BOX 1304	WENO CHK
Sherlyn B Episom	*DONOTMAIL*	CHK	Asor Polowat Catholic Michiuo Alipich	P. O. Box 784	Weno CHK
Mervina Victor	P.o Box 1119	Weno CHK	Koutan Imwen Fen Non Foupo	P.O. Box 122	Weno CHK
JOCELYN DAVID	P.O. BOX 1877	Weno CHK	Ichkumi Association	P. O. Box 752	Weno CHK
Sanlyn Mwaramwar	P.o Box 2008	Weno CHK	Chuuk State Hospital By Re-Chuuk		Weno CHK
Northwest Financial Serv. Copr.-Loan Fun	P.O Box 6	Weno CHK	St. Cecilia School	Weno Tunnuk Village	Weno CHK
Imwenipin Eot	P.O. Box 250	Weno CHK	Rosendo R, Francisca		
Chuuk Priest-Sister Scholarship Fund	P. O. Box 250	Weno CHK	Achilina Sana	P.O. Box 329	Weno CHK
Arso Kony	P. O. Box 1259	Weno CHK	Nataniel Goulard	828 Puuhale Rd.	Honolulu HI
Katery Yongeran	Pulap Island	Weno CHK	Mr. & Mrs. J/M Adalbai	P.O. Box 101	Colonia YAP
HOUK CATHOLIC MISSION	P.O. BOX 358	Weno CHK	Agnes G. Fanechigiy	P.O. Box 1626	Hanalei HI
Midasy Aisek	P. O. Box 185	Weno CHK	Lucas L. Ruuemau dba Pacific Bus	P.O. Box 366	Colonia YAP
Taitos Konno	P.O. Box 559	Weno CHK	Company		
Liza Mersai	P.O. Box 787	Weno CHK	Aff Tomil	P.O. Box 422	Colonia, YAP
Sinchy Billy	PO Box 93	Weno CHK	Micronesia Red Cross Society - Yap	P.O. Box 1460	Colonia YAP
Edwin Ueda	Weno Sapuk Village	Weno CHK	St. Matthew Church	P.O. Box 148	Colonia YAP
Liza Mersai	P. O. Box 787	Weno CHK	DABOCH HOUSING MAINTENANCE	P.O. Box 402	COLONIA, YAP
Mortlocks Parish	P.O. Box 202	Weno CHK	FUND		
Clement Killocho	P.O. Box 908	Weno CHK	Jerry K Yirimyad	P.O. Box 1028	Colonia YAP
Pius May	Pulap Island	Weno CHK	Isabel M Rungrad Taleng itf	P.O. Box 45	Colonia YAP
Manuel Sound	P.O. Box 314	Weno CHK	Rawai Community C/O	Ifalik Atoll	Colonia YAP
Mayumi M. Lomongo	P.O. Box 87	Weno CHK	Hermana R Kenyel	P.O. Box 1106	Colonia, YAP
Erencia M Gruber or	P.O. Box 92-1147	Weno CHK	Gillippin Dugwen	P.O. Box 40	Colonia, YAP
Lenelo	Kuttu Island	Weno CHK	Louisa Mangalchuu	P.O. Box 174	Colonia YAP
Lydia Ruback	P. O. Box 201	Weno CHK	Clara Fanapin ITF Kabetin Giltamag	P.O. Box 488	Colonia YAP
Oliver Keller	P.O Box 12	Weno CHK	Andre' Couture	P.O. Box 1581	Colonia YAP
Kabino Weriey	P.O. Box 15	Weno CHK	Maria Laamar ITF Irene	P.O. Box 585	Colonia YAP
Killion Achina	P.O. Box L86	Weno CHK	& Daniel Tafoya		
Winiplat Bisalen	P.O.Box 6	Weno CHK	Vanessa Fread	P.O. Box 488	Colonia YAP
7 U. C. C. Fin Anisi	P.O. Box 822	Weno CHK	Peigiefand Women's Organization	Faraulep Island	Colonia, YAP
Nasarama Church	P.O. Box 626	Weno CHK	Christina J. Gapthey	P.O. Box 555	Colonia YAP
Eimy E Koni	P. O. Box 1151	Weno CHK	Lawrence C Yinolang ITF	P.O. Box 451	Colonia YAP
China Jiansu International Economic, Tec	P.O. Box 1475	Weno CHK	Elizabeth F Maag	P.O. Box 862	Colonia YAP
			Ifalik Christian Organization	Ifalik Island	Colonia YAP
			Brett Mayer	CMR 421 BOX 504	APO AE USA



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

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

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2025. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2024.

Bugol Village	P.O. Box 451	Colonia YAP	Pohnpei World Food Day	P.O. Box 1995	Kolonia PNI
Nimgil Catholic Youth for Christ (NCYC)	P.O. Box 302	Colonia YAP	Go Local Agroforestry Island Food	P.O. Box 1995	Kolonia PNI
Aff Youth Club	P.O. Box 712	Colonia YAP	Prilihne Silbanus	P.O. Box 1151	Kolonia PNI
Talngith Youth Club	P.O. Box 624	Colonia YAP	Hilla Tolenoa	P.O. Box 601	Tofol KOS
Yap State Baseball Association	P.O. Box 130	Colonia YAP	Stephen V Finnen	P.O. Box 1450	Kolonia PNI
Steven Matay	P.O. Box 151	Colonia YAP	Howard L Rice	P.O. BOX 1831	Kolonia PNI
Joyce Lathperang and Joy Yigwedoh	P.O. Box 1154	Colonia YAP	Alexander Tretnofff	P.O. Box 2234	Kolonia PNI
Robert Belarmino Church	P.O. Box 148	Colonia, YAP	Stephanie E Remeliik	P.O. Box 1841	Kolonia PNI
Gaudencio S Agapito	P.O. Box 478	Colonia YAP	Hirofumi Ishizaki	P.O. Box G	Kolonia PNI
Jacquelin Ilemangibung	P.O. Box 722	Colonia YAP	Stephanie E Remeliik	P.O. Box 1841	Kolonia PNI
Runuw Women's Organization	P.O. Box 40	Colonia YAP	Hirofumi Ishizaki	P.O. Box G	Kolonia PNI
Joseph A. Tayin	P.O. Box 444	Colonia YAP	Moringiana M Peter	P.O. Box 654	Kolonia PNI
Antonia Diguem	P.O. Box 212	Colonia YAP	Brigida Carl	P.O. Box 2042	Kolonia PNI
Susana Reetam	P.O. Box 509	Colonia YAP	Justin Wichilig	PO Box 28	Kolonia PNI
Roslina R Gidbmaa	P.O. Box 515	Colonia YAP	Lisa Augustine	P.O. BOX 1761	Kolonia PNI
Aff Youth Club	P.O. Box 712	Colonia YAP	Jose M SanNicolas	P.O. Box 132	Kolonia PNI
Talngith Youth Club	P.O. Box 624	Colonia YAP	Brianne M Atwood	P.O. Box 2387	Kolonia PNI
Yap State Baseball Association	P.O. Box 130	Colonia YAP	Yapese Community of Pohnpei (YCOP). Inc.	P.O. Box 1047	Kolonia PNI
Steven Matay	P.O. Box 151	Colonia YAP	Sensiana Amon	P.O. Box 2480	Kolonia PNI
Joyce Lathperang and Joy Yigwedoh	P.O. Box 1154	Colonia YAP	Neelma P Skilling	P.O. Box 358	Tofol KOS
Robert Belarmino Church	P.O. Box 148	Colonia, YAP	Nien Northern Namoneas	P.O. Box 2093	Kolonia PNI
Gaudencio S Agapito	P.O. Box 478	Colonia YAP	William H Hoffman	P.O. Box 1748	Kolonia PNI
Jacquelin Ilemangibung	P.O. Box 722	Colonia YAP	Samuel D Apuechy	P.O. Box C/O 914	Kolonia PNI
Runuw Women's Organization	P.O. Box 40	Colonia YAP	Yapese Student Organization (YSO) C/O	P.O. BOX 159	Kolonia PNI
Joseph A. Tayin	P.O. Box 444	Colonia YAP	Ponfacio Amor	P.O. Box 412	Kolonia PNI
Antonia Diguem	P.O. Box 212	Colonia YAP	Yoneko Nakasone	P.O.Box 922	Kolonia PNI
Susana Reetam	P.O. Box 509	Colonia YAP	Isamu Nakasone	P.O.Box 922	Kolonia PNI
Roslina R GIDBMAA	P.O. Box 515	Colonia YAP	DIEGO A AGRIPPA	PO BOX 515	Kolonia PNI
Pingelap People Organization, Inc., Ping	P.O. Box 2255	Kolonia PNI	Anselina R Ludwig	P.O. Box 75	Kolonia PNI
BOFSM/RBM Escrow	P.O. Box 640	Weno CHK			
Welson E. Santos	P.O. Box K 3114	Kolonia PNI	Kosraean:		
Pohnpei Japan Club	P.O. Box 484	Kolonia PNI	In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemeye nusin Customers nukewa ma e akkalemeyeyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemeyeyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfa		
Gregory Z Grosz	5762 Pumpkin Ridge Dr.	Sparks NV	itukyan nusin Secretary lun Finance ke FSM National Government ke January 2025. In oralla account se lom an tia putatyan nuke oakwuk ku oiya se inge, kom enenu in tuku nu Bank FSM oralla sie deposit ku withdrawal nuke account san meet liki December 31, 2024.		
LAMP Association, Inc.	P. O. Box K2564	Kolonia PNI	Chuukese:		
Ahina-Dau O Kapingamarangi, Inc.	P. O. Box 2174	Kolonia PNI	Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 2025, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2024 Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.		
Young Executives Society, Inc., YES!	PO BOX 159	Kolonia PNI	Yapese:		
SCOTT D SNADEN	PO BOX C/O 159	Kolonia PNI	Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2025, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2024.		
Pohnpei Athletics Club	Box 1480	Kolonia PNI	Pohnpeian:		
Marshall Islands Holdings, INC.	P. O. BOX J	Majuro	E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2025. Mwonu koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwardo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2024 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.		
Pohnpei Consumer Organization	P.O. Box 145	Kolonia PNI			
ECO- Friendly Options, Annette R. Shonib	P.O. Box 1349	Kolonia PNI			
Gladlyn G. Chipen	P.O. Box 989	Kolonia PNI			
Pritan Kermen	P.O. Box 644	Kolonia PNI			
Virangy Joseph	P.O. Box 1212	Kolonia PNI			
Pohnpei Contractors Association Inc., PC	P.O. Box 1838	Kolonia PNI			
Briana S. Welly	P.O.Box 1064	Kolonia PNI			
Ekarihne D Handy	P.O. Box 2525	Joplin MO			
Mikel Kosmas	E 32 ND	Kolonia PNI			
Bernard F Weilbacher	No Address from source	Kolonia PNI			
Enipein Powe Youth	P. O. Bx 815	Kolonia PNI			
Sinalita Peter	P.O. Box 1143	Kolonia PNI			
Lorraine Obed	P.O.Box 617	Kolonia PNI			
Rither Olter	P.O.Box PS-24	Kolonia PNI			
Joseph Seneres	P.O. Box 91	Kolonia PNI			
Akilino Susaia	P.O. Box 1371	Kolonia PNI			
Higinio Iriarte	P.O.Box 12	Kolonia PNI			
Pacific Holdings	P.O. Box 831	Kolonia PNI			
	P.O. Box 88	Kolonia PNI			

Pivotal week for Pacific maritime safety and gender equality

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

October 30, 2024

Nadi, Fiji--This week, maritime professionals from across the Pacific are gathering in Nadi, Fiji, for a series of meetings to further the full and equitable participation of Pacific Island countries in upholding and implementing international maritime law, particularly Safety of Life at Sea.

These interrelated events offer the opportunity to collaboratively influence the future of maritime safety, inclusivity and cooperation in the Pacific. From October 28 to November 1, 2024, three key events will bring together regional experts to tackle distinct maritime challenges faced by the region while capitalizing on opportunities for advancement and development.

The events include:

4th Pacific Domestic Ship Safety Forum (DSSF): With the theme “Collaborating for Domestic Ship Safety in the Blue Pacific”, this forum will focus on advancing safety standards for domestic vessels across the Pacific.

Consultative Meeting for the Development of the Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2025-2030: A crucial initiative to achieve gender equality and empower women to foster a more inclusive and resilient maritime sector.

Meeting of the Pacific Search and Rescue (PACSAR) Steering Committee: To foster and advance regional coordination and effectiveness in search and rescue operations.

These events are supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the UK Government and the Pacific Community (SPC). Representatives from Pacific Island countries (PICs), regional partners, and global maritime bodies are uniting to create safer and more inclusive maritime operations for the Pacific.

Jens Krueger, SPC Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division's Deputy Director Ocean and Maritime, on Pacific Maritime Safety, reiterated, “Maritime safety is everyone’s responsibility, from maritime administrations and

ship operators to training institutions and seafarers. Whether you’re setting standards, enforcing policies, or operating vessels, your role is crucial in ensuring the safety of lives at sea.”

Funded by IMO and MFAT, the 4th DSSF aims to build on the progress made at the last forum in 2018, focussing on addressing ongoing safety challenges to ensure domestic vessels operate safely across the region.

“The IMO is committed to supporting the Pacific's efforts to enhance domestic ship safety, in line with international regulations, including the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), and IMO instruments,” said Mr. Vincent Job, Senior Deputy Director, Subdivision for Maritime Development, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO.

He added, “We commend the proactive approach taken by Pacific Island States in addressing safety challenges and developing tailored solutions that reflect the unique circumstances of the region. The outcomes of this forum will undoubtedly strengthen national and regional efforts to improve safety standards and save lives.”

“The IMO, through its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), is committed to supporting the enhancement of SAR services in the Pacific region. Collaboration and shared responsibility are key in this endeavour, and the Steering Committee’s work continues to set a strong example of regional unity and effective maritime governance,” said Mr Job.

In his opening address, David Weinstein, Senior Adviser for MFAT, said, “New Zealand has been a leader in supporting Pacific states on maritime safety since the early 2010s. The New Zealand Aid Programme has supported local maritime administrations and private and public domestic passenger shipping operators through assistance with hydrographic survey (sea mapping and maritime charts), safe ship management systems, and direct support through the New Zealand regulatory agency Maritime New



Zealand.”

He added, “We are proud to be able to continue our work of the Pacific Maritime Safety Programme (PMSP), which targets community safety education, regulatory training, vessel and boat safety, and emergency preparedness and response (Search and Rescue and oil spill preparedness and response).”

Empowering Women in Maritime

The consultative meeting on the development of the Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2025-2030 is a key moment in promoting gender equity within the sector. With support from the UK Government as part of its renewed mission to support full and equal participation of women and girls in all elements of Pacific governance and security, this initiative is designed to empower Pacific women to take on leadership roles in maritime development.

Over the course of the week, participants will review the current strategy, celebrate achievements, and lay the foundation for a bold vision for the next five years. Representatives from national Women in Maritime Associations (WIMAs) will come together to share their experiences, address challenges, and strengthen their networks.

Reflecting on the work done so far to advance the effective participation of women in Maritime, Meliame Tu’alau, Chairperson of PacWIMA, said, “This is not just about inclusion—it’s about leadership. Women are taking on key roles in maritime, and with this strategy, we’re ensuring they have

the support they need to advocate and advance women’s participation in the maritime sector.”

Josh Kemp, Counsellor at the British High Commission Suva and Head of the UK Integrated Security Fund (UKISF) Programme in the Pacific highlighted, “Like many Pacific countries, the UK is a maritime nation, with seafarers working across many sectors. Across cargo, fishing, safety and security sectors, the numbers of women at all levels are increasing. We need to do more – diverse leadership and participation lead to better outcomes – and I look forward to exchanging ideas with the WIMAs of the Pacific to make this happen.”

Strengthening Regional Search and Rescue

The PACSAR Steering Committee meeting will focus on improving coordination and efficiency in search and rescue operations across the Pacific. Building on the 9th Regional Workshop held in Cairns, Australia, the Steering Committee will discuss new technologies and strategies to enhance collaboration among Pacific Island nations and international partners, setting the stage for the 10th PACSAR meeting, which will take place in Fiji in 2025.

Looking Ahead

As the week continues, the shared commitment to collaboration and progress will guide discussions. The outcomes from these meetings will help shape the future of Pacific maritime operations, ensuring a safer, more inclusive, and resilient sector for years to come.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomes Detective Superintendent Janine Enniss and Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant-Curnow to discuss Police collaboration and capacity-building in Pohnpei

Pohnpei Public Information

October 29, 2024

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—In a productive meeting held at the Governor’s Office, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph joined by Chief of Staff Benjamin Rodriguez extended a warm welcome to Detective Superintendent Janine Enniss, Counsellor, Police Liaison, and Senior Officer for the Australian Federal Police in Papua New Guinea (PNG), and Her Excellency Jenny Grant-Curnow, Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. The courtesy visit marked an important step toward strengthening collaboration in law enforcement and exploring potential avenues for capacity-building support from the Australian Government.

During the discussions, Governor Joseph expressed deep gratitude to both Ms. Enniss and Ambassador Grant-Curnow for their visit and for any assistance the Government of Australia might provide to enhance the Pohnpei State Police Department's capabilities. While Governor Joseph noted that Pohnpei experiences relatively low crime rates, he

emphasized the value of continued training and vigilance within the police force to maintain community safety. He welcomed additional support from Australia, as ongoing training opportunities can further strengthen the skills of Pohnpei's officers.

One of the central topics discussed was domestic violence, an area of shared concern. Both Ms. Enniss and Ambassador Grant-Curnow acknowledged that domestic violence is a significant issue in Australia as well. Governor Joseph affirmed that Pohnpei State does not tolerate violence or crime; however, he highlighted that the unique cultural traditions of Pohnpei play a role in how such cases are approached. Recognizing these cultural nuances is crucial, as they can affect the reporting and handling of incidents and are considered in court proceedings, as noted by Pohnpei State Chief of Staff Benjamin Rodriguez.

The Governor emphasized that while customs must be respected, there is no place for violence in Pohnpei’s communities. With this in mind, he expressed hope that any collaborative



measures with Australia would include support for culturally sensitive approaches to law enforcement that uphold both local values and public safety.

In addition to this meeting, Superintendent Enines is scheduled to engage with the Pohnpei State Attorney General and Acting Director of Public Safety to further

discuss potential areas for cooperation during her stay in Pohnpei.

Governor Joseph looks forward to continued partnership and friendship with Australia, underscoring Pohnpei's commitment to fostering a safe and vibrant community in alignment with its cultural heritage.

FSMTC HAS SUCCESSFULLY UPGRADED & COMMISSIONED ETTEN, CHUUK CELL TOWER. This site will support 2G, 3G & 4G services.

Etten 4G Coverage Map:

>**Sector 1 (Red)** : Northern area of Etten Island & Southern Eastern areas of Tonoas Island.

>**Sector 2 (Yellow)** : Southeastern areas of Fefan Island & Southwestern parts of Etten Island.

>**Sector 3 (Blue)** : Northeastern areas of Fefan Island & Southwestern tip of Tonoas Island.



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

Eltes Pelep sworn in as Director of the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety

Pohnpei Public Information

October 31, 2024

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—In a ceremony marked by a powerful salute from the sirens of emergency and police vehicles, Mr. Eltes Pelep was officially sworn in as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. The ceremony took place at the Emergency Operations Center, where Governor Stevenson A. Joseph administered the oath of office.

The Chairman of the Committee on Justice and Governmental Operations from the 11th Pohnpei Legislature, Senator Nelbert Perez, presented Director Pelep with a certificate of appointment, solidifying his role as the head of public safety in Pohnpei State.

In his address, Director Pelep expressed his deep gratitude to Governor Joseph, Lieutenant Governor Ioanis, Speaker Yamaguchi, and the Legislature for his nomination and confirmation. He also thanked the Acting Directors who dedicated their service over the past year in the absence of a director and affirmed his commitment to collaborating with fellow cabinet members to uphold the laws of Pohnpei State.

Both Speaker and Governor Joseph offered their heartfelt congratulations to Director Pelep, expressing confidence in his leadership and vision for the Department of Public Safety. Governor Joseph extended his gratitude to the previous acting directors for their dedication and acknowledged the support of the United States government, introducing an FBI agent present at the ceremony. This representative of U.S. Federal partnerships underscored the ongoing commitment to strengthening Pohnpei's law enforcement and justice systems through



collaborative efforts.

Congratulations to Director Eltes Pelep on his appointment and to the

Department of Public Safety as they embark on this new chapter of public service and commitment to community safety.



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Email: info@qumsieh.com

President of JMAS pays courtesy call on Ambassador of Japan

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

November 1, 2024

Pohnpei—On October 25, 2024, Mr. Kimihiko KISHIKAWA, the President of Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Kagomiya.

JMAS has carried out a very hard task of diving and collecting the oil from the WW2 wrecked ships in Chuuk Lagoon to protect the environment there for several years.

Embassy of Japan is really proud of their heroic activity.

Ambassador Kagomiya extended his sincere appreciation to JMAS's precious contribution and hopes their activity will continue.



Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomes Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pohnpei

Pohnpei Public Information

October 25, 2024

Pohnpei—The Honorable Stevenson A. Joseph, Governor of Pohnpei State, attended the official credentialing ceremony for Her Excellency Maria Alfonsa Magdalena Geraedts, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Federated States of Micronesia. The ceremony was held at the Office of the President in Palikir, Pohnpei, marking a significant moment in strengthening diplomatic relations between the Federated States of Micronesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Following the credentialing ceremony, Governor Joseph, accompanied by First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang and Chief of Staff Benjamin Rodriguez warmly welcomed Ambassador

Geraedts to the Governor’s Office in Pohnpei. The courtesy visit provided an opportunity for a constructive dialogue on issues critical to Pohnpei and the FSM. Governor Joseph and Ambassador Geraedts discussed areas of mutual concern and potential collaboration, including food security, agriculture, fishing, rising food and energy prices, governmental makeup, and solid waste management. These discussions underscored the shared interest of Pohnpei State and the Kingdom of Netherlands in addressing sustainable development challenges and enhancing the quality of life for citizens in Pohnpei.

Governor Joseph expressed his appreciation for the Netherlands’ interest in supporting Pohnpei’s economic resilience and sustainable development efforts. The meeting concluded with a commitment to further explore cooperative initiatives that can contribute to Pohnpei’s development priorities.

The State of Pohnpei extends its best wishes to Ambassador Geraedts and looks forward to fostering a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



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The FSM holds inaugural workshop on Compact of Free Association amendments and budget processes



FSM Information Services

October 29, 2024

Pohnpei, FSM—Over 70 representatives from budget offices and line departments across the four FSM States and the FSM National Government gathered in Pohnpei from October 14-18 for a workshop to address their roles and share early experiences under the 2023 Amendments to the Compact of Free

Association. The workshop marks the first convening under the enhanced FSM role in the Compact budget process.

The workshop opened with welcoming remarks from Special Assistant to the President (SAP) on Compact Matters Mr. Kemsy Sigrah, who emphasized the importance of the gathering in demonstrating the FSM's commitment to the new Compact agreement. He

underscored the proactive approach needed to fulfill the FSM's greater role in planning and accountability for Compact funds, urging participants to pour their "hearts and souls" into ensuring that the FY 2026 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) reflects this commitment. The plan, due in July 2025, is a priority as state budget calls are already in progress.

Throughout the week, participants exchanged ideas on maximizing grant effectiveness under the new Compact terms. Key sessions featured updates on the FSM Strategic Development Plan (SDP), which will guide the nation's economic development for the next 20 years, presented by Avalon Edward of the Department of Resources and Development.

Chief Adviser Leo A. Falcam, Jr., outlined the recent Compact Amendments, and Fritz Weilbacher of the Office of Compact Management led discussions on specific budget challenges faced by participants, focusing on technical elements such as reporting formats, reprogramming deadlines, and fund drawdowns. Dr. Sam Brazys, development economist and adviser, provided insight into the process for developing AIPs, linking these reports to the revised SDP starting in FY 2026.

Dr. Brazys also introduced new carryover funding provisions under the Compact Trust Fund Agreement, allowing unused funds to grow in a special interest-bearing sub-account for future needs.

Sectoral breakout sessions allowed participants to share best practices, coordinate on budget codes, and discuss deadlines for the FY 2024 Annual Performance Report, the first under the new Compact agreement. Participants identified the FY 2026 AIP as a pivotal opportunity for the FSM to assert ownership of the Compact budget process, integrating the new SDP and increased FSM authority.

At the closing session, Assistant Secretary John Sohs John introduced a harmonized budget data template for FSM State and National Governments, soon to be integrated into a new financial management system. Additionally, adviser Lance Laack demonstrated an online forms-based system to streamline data sharing between government offices, based on workshop feedback.

Mr. Sigrah closed the workshop by thanking participants on behalf of the Simina-Palik administration for their dedication, expressing optimism for continued collaboration, and proposing that similar gatherings be held regularly, potentially on an annual basis.

This workshop stands as a crucial step in the FSM's path toward full engagement with the Compact's budget process, ensuring alignment with national priorities and enhancing self-sufficiency and accountability in managing Compact resources.

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Pohnpei State Government facilitates handover of mobility aids to Outer Island Municipal Governments

Pohnpei Public Information

October 23, 2024

NETT, Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Government, in collaboration with the Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services, conducted a formal handover of mobility aids to the Municipal Governments of Pingelap, Mwoakilloa, Sapwaukich, Nukuoro, and Kapingamarangi. Held at the Pohnpei State Hospital conference room, the ceremony highlighted the government's commitment to providing essential resources to support residents

of the outer islands.

Director Stuard Penias of the Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services opened the ceremony with welcoming remarks, emphasizing the importance of extending healthcare support to Pohnpei's remote communities. Representing the Governor's Office, Chief of Staff Mr. Benjamin Rodriguez delivered special remarks on behalf of Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, focusing on the state's dedication to ensuring that mobility aids reach those who

need them most in all municipalities. Chairman of the Committee on Health, Senator Shelten Neth, also addressed attendees, underscoring the importance of such initiatives in promoting accessibility for all Pohnpeians.

A total of 50 wheelchairs and 16 walkers, donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, were distributed to the outer island municipal governments, which will further distribute the aid to individuals in need. This initiative reflects the Pohnpei

State Government's ongoing efforts to promote inclusivity and address the healthcare needs of every citizen, regardless of geographic location.



In loving Memory of Robert C. Arthur

October 28, 1931-October 27, 2024

I am deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of our dearest and beloved Bob Arthur on October 27, 2024, a man who was not only a visionary leader but also a true friend. His impact on my life and on all of us who had the privilege of knowing him or working alongside him will forever be etched in our hearts and memories.



Mr. Robert Arthur or Bob as we all know him by, was a pioneering spirit. When he founded The Village Hotel and Village Travel Agency, Pohnpei was just beginning its journey of development. But through his dedication and passion, he transformed not only the company but also the future of our island. His work put Pohnpei on the map, inviting the world to see the beauty and culture of our community, and creating opportunities for countless people, not just in Pohnpei but throughout the Micronesian islands.

His vision extended far beyond business. He genuinely cared about the people he worked with and the community he served. Mr. Robert Arthur created jobs, empowered families, and brought hope to those around him. His legacy is one of kindness, commitment, and transformation. In his presence, we all felt inspired, supported, and valued. His encouragement fueled our aspirations, and his friendship

reminded us of the power of trust and loyalty.

As we reflect on the remarkable life he led, I want to express my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and to each of you who shared this journey with him. His passing leaves a void in our hearts and in our community, but his legacy will continue to guide and inspire us in the days to come. May we honor him by carrying forward his spirit of excellence, compassion, and unwavering dedication to our work and our community.

With heartfelt sympathy,
Rick Dereas

Swearing-In of new members to the Advisory Board of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Pohnpei Public Information

October 31, 2024

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph presided over the swearing-in ceremony for three newly appointed members of the Advisory Board for the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture: Mr. Valentin Martin of Wasahi Sokehs, Mr. Eugene Joseph, and Ms. Tia Lana Mallarme. This critical step solidifies the board's capacity to support the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture as it continues its work in the sustainable development and stewardship of Pohnpei's invaluable marine resources.



During his remarks, Governor Joseph expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Speaker Marvin Yamaguchi and the 11th Pohnpei Legislature for their guidance and support in approving the new board members. He emphasized the importance of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector, describing it as a field with the potential to nourish our people and provide sustainable income. Governor Joseph highlighted that the sector plays an essential role in the economic and nutritional well-being of Pohnpei's communities and can serve as a model of environmental responsibility.

of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the people of Pohnpei. He commended each member's dedication to service and underscored their roles in fostering a resilient and sustainable fisheries sector. Chief of Staff Benjamin Rodriguez presented the new Board members their certificates of appointment.

Speaking on behalf of the new appointees, Mr. Eugene Joseph expressed their shared gratitude to Governor Joseph, Speaker Yamaguchi, and the Pohnpei Legislature. He emphasized the members' commitment to fulfilling their responsibilities with integrity and devotion to the people of Pohnpei.

The Pohnpei State Government looks forward to the positive impact these new Advisory Board members will have on the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture as they embark on initiatives to strengthen Pohnpei's marine resources, promote sustainable practices, and support local livelihoods.

The Governor noted the expertise that each new member brings, expressing confidence that they would greatly enhance the board's ability to support both the Administrator of the Office

Governor Joseph and First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang make first official visit to China Pilot Farm, emphasize food security

Pohnpei Public Information

October 21, 2024

Pohnlangas, Madolenihmw, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, accompanied by First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang, made his first official visit to the China Pilot Farm today, highlighting his administration’s focus on agricultural development and food security for Pohnpei. The Governor and First Lady were joined by the Director of the Department of Resources and Development, Mr. Mark Kostka, and officials from the China Pilot Farm, who guided them through the various sections of the farm.

During the tour, Governor Joseph and Dr. Garstang viewed a wide range of crops being cultivated on the farm, including local staples such as yams, taro, and pepper, growing alongside introduced varieties such as Chinese cabbage, watermelons, dragonfruit, okra, beans, peanuts, corn, and chili peppers. The China Pilot Farm, a hub of agricultural innovation and collaboration, plays a vital role in demonstrating how traditional and modern farming techniques can be integrated to boost local food production.

Governor Joseph took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the China Pilot Farm officials for their efforts and the important role they play in promoting agriculture in Pohnpei, reemphasizing his administration priorities of

Food Security and NCD prevention that are tied in with growing and eating our local produce.

The China Pilot Farm has been an active partner in advancing agriculture in Pohnpei by providing training, seeds, and technical expertise to local farmers. Governor Joseph’s visit highlights his administration’s ongoing commitment to strengthening food security through the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and fostering partnerships that benefit the local farming community.



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Governor Joseph and First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang attend the opening ceremony for the 16th Pacific Island Tuberculosis Controllers Association Conference

Pohnpei Public Information

October 21, 2024

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang proudly represented Pohnpei State at the opening ceremony of the 16th Pacific Island Tuberculosis Controllers Association (PITCA) Conference held at the College of Micronesia-FSM China Friendship Gymnasium in Palikir. This significant event gathered key health leaders, medical professionals, and policymakers from across the Pacific region to address the persistent issue of tuberculosis (TB) in island communities.

In his welcoming remarks, Governor Joseph emphasized the importance of collaboration and active engagement throughout the conference. "Conferences like this are vital. They allow us to collaborate, cooperate, and engage with experts across the Pacific who share our goal of eradicating tuberculosis. The

fight against TB requires all of us—medical professionals, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders—to come together, share our knowledge, and develop solutions that work for our unique island communities," Governor Joseph stated, underscoring the critical need for regional cooperation in tackling public health challenges.

The event was marked by the presence of high-level officials, including Vice President Aren B. Palik of the Federated States of Micronesia, Lt. Governor Mekioshy William from Chuuk State, and representatives from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reflecting the regional and international commitment to combatting TB.

The PITCA Conference is a platform for Pacific Island nations to come together, share best practices, and discuss strategies for eliminating TB, a disease



that continues to disproportionately affect island populations. Governor Joseph encouraged all participants to actively contribute, listen, and learn from each other, as the collective knowledge and expertise shared at the conference will play a crucial role in shaping future public health policies

across the Pacific.

The conference will continue for the next few days, featuring in-depth discussions and workshops aimed at improving TB control and prevention efforts throughout the Pacific region.

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Governor Stevenson A. Joseph honors the legacy of partnership with the United Nations on UN Day

Pohnpei Public Information

October 24, 2024

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph delivered moving remarks at the United Nations Day celebration held at the Pohnpei State Track & Field, honoring the deep-rooted partnership between Pohnpei, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the United Nations. The gathering included local government officials, community members, students, and representatives from various international organizations, all gathered to commemorate the enduring values of peace, security, and cooperation that the United Nations embodies.

FSM have participated actively in global discussions, particularly championing the concerns of small island states in the face of pressing global challenges such as climate change.

Reflecting on Pohnpei’s long-standing connection with the UN, Governor Joseph noted that UN Day was once widely celebrated in the state, before the Liberation Day Holiday on September 11, a day of pride for Pohnpeians who valued their place in the global community. Although other celebrations have since taken prominence, he emphasized that UN Day remains a reminder of Pohnpei’s historical ties with the UN and the world.

Governor Joseph began by acknowledging the historic origins of the United Nations and its founding mission to foster global harmony. He reflected on the importance of this mission to the people of Pohnpei and the FSM, emphasizing that October 24 holds special significance as the anniversary of the UN’s founding in 1945, marking nearly eight decades of international solidarity.

Governor Joseph also expressed his pride in Pohnpei’s role as the home to a UN Regional Office, a testament to the strength of this partnership, with UN agencies actively working alongside the government on critical issues in health, education, and sustainable development. He shared the community’s gratitude for the UN’s impact in Pohnpei and expressed excitement for the upcoming establishment of the One UN Micronesia House, which he described as a powerful symbol of partnership and a concrete step toward deepening support for the people of Micronesia.

“United Nations Day is not only a commemoration of a global mission but a celebration of the unique relationship we share with this remarkable organization,” Governor Joseph said. He recalled Micronesia’s inclusion in the UN’s Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1947, a move that played a transformative role in guiding the islands toward self-determination and independence. Under the trusteeship, Pohnpei and Micronesia embarked on a journey of self-governance, which culminated in the formation of the Federated States of Micronesia in 1979, with Pohnpei as the capital state, and in 1986, signing the Compact of Free Association with the United States.

“As we look ahead, we are excited about the future,” Governor Joseph said. “The One UN Micronesia House will not only strengthen our relationship with the United Nations but will further

Governor Joseph also highlighted FSM’s admission as a full member of the United Nations in 1991, marking a new chapter of advocacy and engagement with the international community. Since then, Pohnpei and the



enhance our shared goals for peace, sustainability, and prosperity.”

“From the trusteeship era to our present-day engagement, the UN has been a vital partner in our journey, helping us navigate the path to independence and beyond. Together, we will continue to work towards a future that is secure, just, and sustainable for all.”

In closing, Governor Joseph extended heartfelt gratitude to the United Nations for its unwavering commitment to the people of Pohnpei and Micronesia.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph extends gratitude to the United Church of Christ in the Marshall Islands for courtesy visit

Pohnpei Public Information

October 23, 2024

Kolonia, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang expressed sincere appreciation to the United Church of Christ in the Marshall Islands (UCCP) for their recent courtesy visit to the Governor's Office. The delegation, led by General Secretary Midion Neth and accompanied by Senior Pastors of the

Marshall Islands UCCP, was warmly welcomed to discuss matters of mutual interest and fellowship between the Marshall Islands and Pohnpei State.

Governor Joseph extended his best wishes to the UCCP leadership and the people of the Marshall Islands, reaffirming Pohnpei State’s commitment to strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two island nations.



Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang visit the U.S. Naval Research Vessel, Thomas G. Thompson, at Dekehtik Harbor

Pohnpei Public Information

October 21, 2024

DEKEHTIK, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, together with First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang, made a courtesy visit to the U.S. Naval Research Vessel, Thomas G. Thompson, at Dekehtik Harbor. Governor Joseph was joined by Her Excellency Jennifer Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, who was also visiting the vessel. The dignitaries were given a comprehensive tour of the vessel

and its advanced research capabilities.

The Thomas G. Thompson is owned by the U.S. Navy Office of Naval Research and operated by the School of Oceanography at the University of Washington. It is part of the University National Oceanographic Laboratories System (UNOLS) fleet and is currently conducting research to study the effects of typhoons on the seafloor. This research is critical to understanding how extreme weather events impact oceanic

and coastal environments, particularly in typhoon-prone regions such as the Pacific.

During the visit, Governor Joseph, First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang, and Her Excellency Jennifer Johnson were given an overview of the ship's mission, its scientific capabilities, and the equipment being used to collect data on the seafloor. The tour provided an in-depth look at the vessel's technology and the ongoing research that aims to better understand

the environmental changes caused by typhoons.

The Thomas G. Thompson's visit to Pohnpei underscores the importance of scientific collaboration between the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and U.S. and International research institutions in addressing the challenges of climate change and ocean sustainability.



Toba Aquarium's visit to PICRC and Palau Aquarium enhances partnership

PICRC

November 1, 2024

Palau—Last month, a delegation from the Toba Aquarium in Mie, Japan, visited the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) and the Palau Aquarium. The team was led by Mr. Yoshihito Wakai, President and CEO of the Toba Aquarium, and included key members from the Marine Biological Laboratory: Mr. Shinya Mitani (Executive General Manager), Ms. Yuko Iwade (Chief), and Ms. Ayaka Saito (Curator).

The purpose of this visit was to foster ongoing collaboration between the two aquariums and explore opportunities for future partnerships. One key area of discussion was Toba Aquarium's research on the nautilus, including potential plans to host researchers from the Palau Aquarium at their facilities in Japan to study nautilus spawning.

Since signing a Memorandum of Friendship and Cooperation in 2017, Toba Aquarium and Palau Aquarium have worked closely as sister aquariums. The partnership focuses on capacity building, improving aquarium operations, and enhancing the understanding of marine organisms and ecosystems for better management and conservation. The memorandum outlines mutual assistance in areas such as animal husbandry, coral reef preservation, research, exhibitions, and education.

In addition to these joint efforts, Toba Aquarium has been a long-time supporter of PICRC's Arts & Tides Calendar competition, further strengthening the bond between the two institutions.

"Our partnership with Toba Aquarium has

been a key opportunity for developing our expertise and strengthening our programs. Their visit has deepened our collaboration and opened new doors for shared research and learning," said Asap Bukurrou, Palau Aquarium's Supervisor. "Working alongside such a prestigious institution continues to push us toward excellence."



Office of Insular Affairs opens application season for Technical Assistance Grant Funding

U.S. Department of the Interior

October 24, 2024

Washington D.C.—The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) today announced that applications for fiscal year 2025 funding under OIA's Technical Assistance Division has opened. Applications can be submitted to www.Grants.Gov through assistance listing number 15.875.

The announcements for funding include the Technical Assistance Program (TAP), the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) and the Coral Reef and Natural Resources (CRNR) Program, which includes Invasive Species funding, all now open with a deadline of March 12, 2025. The announcement for the Brown Treesnake (BTS) program will open in December 2024 and interested individuals should continue to monitor www.Grants.gov.

Applications for funding through the Office of Insular Affairs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law program remain open until October 31, 2024. While an initial amount of \$2.5 million in funding for the territories was announced in September, a second and final review of applications will be considered under Activity 6 - Invasive Species, Activity 8 - Revegetation of Mined Lands, Activity 9 - Native Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration, and Advancing the

National Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework: Early Detection Surveillance for Asset Protection.

"We encourage as wide a variety of applications from the Insular Areas as possible for this fiscal year 2025 funding," said Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "However, we continue to prioritize applications that address climate change, energy and natural resources."

TAP, MAP and CRNR funding are made available for short-term projects intended to meet the needs of the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states – the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds are available only to support projects in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It is anticipated that the other competitive financial assistance program provided through OIA, Energizing Island Communities, will be announced early next year.

Eligible applicants for TAP, MAP, CRNR, BTS and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding are detailed in each announcement. For more information and to apply, visit www.Grants.gov and use Assistance Listing #15.875. While the deadlines listed are October 31, and March 12, 2025, it is highly recommended that applications be submitted as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed once OIA receives full-year appropriations. Applications related to public safety and emergencies may be reviewed early, prior to the deadline. All funding decisions will be finalized by September 30, 2025.

UN Resident Coordinator on UN Day 2024 celebration

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this United Nations Day 2024, we unite to reaffirm the values of peace, human rights, and sustainable development. The North Pacific region, particularly Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati, stands as a symbol of the global challenges we face and as a source of inspiration in overcoming them. Your leadership—whether as government officials, development partners, community leaders or otherwise—is not just crucial, but integral to our shared journey towards a sustainable and resilient future. It is your dedication and commitment that will pave the way for a better tomorrow.

One year ago, we discussed the need for transformational change to help accelerate our Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs - at the SDG Summit in New York. SDGs that were far behind their intended targets. This SDG Summit highlighted six key transitions that have catalytic and multiplier effects across the 17 SDGs. These were: "food systems"; "energy access and affordability"; "digital connectivity"; "education"; "jobs and social protection"; and, "climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution". All six transitions are relevant to the North Pacific. A region that has been severely impacted by the Covid19 Pandemic and is at the receiving end of climate change induced sea level rise and worsening weather events. A region that faces significant socio-economic pressures within a complex geopolitical landscape.

One month ago, we held the Summit of the Future in New York. A once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance. A summit that reaffirmed existing commitments, including to the SDGs and the UN Charter. A summit that moved us towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to impact people's lives positively. A summit that resulted in a Pact for the Future, a Declaration

on Future Generations and a Global Digital Compact. A Global Digital Compact that outlined principles, objectives and actions for advancing an open, free, secure and human-centered digital future for all. A future that is anchored in universal human rights.

Please allow me to give some examples of UN's work in the North Pacific in close collaboration with development partners and with the leadership and people of Micronesian countries.

In Kiribati and other island nations, the UN promotes climate-smart agricultural practices that enhance food security and build resilience. In FSM, we are expanding renewable energy projects that power homes, schools, and hospitals while reducing carbon emissions. In Palau and Nauru, we have been working to bridge the digital divide by improving access to digital education and infrastructure. In FSM and Marshall Islands, we are building frameworks to ensure that women, youth, and vulnerable populations have access to employment opportunities and social safety nets. In Kiribati, our UN's climate adaptation efforts focus not just on survival but on transforming affected communities into models of sustainability and resilience for others to follow. And so much more.

We much appreciated the strong supportive voice of Micronesian Leaders at the recently concluded Summit of the Future and look forward to next year's International Conference on Financing for Development.

While the challenges before us are immense, Micronesians have shown that anything is possible with determination, partnership, and solidarity.

Let's continue to work together to build a better future in the North Pacific. A future that treasures our cultural and natural diversity. A future that leaves no one behind.

Thank you,

Jaap van Hierden
United Nations Resident Coordinator



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FSMPC and NORMA sign MOU to enhance bunkering services in FSM

Federated States of Micronesia Petroleum Corporation

28 October 2024

On October 22, 2024, the Federated States of Micronesia Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC) and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Guam, marking a significant step forward in enhancing bunkering services within the FSM. This collaboration, the first of its kind, between a national fishing authority and a fuels provider, is designed to attract licensed domestic and foreign

fishing vessels to refuel at FSM ports. Currently, six domestic fishing companies operate 28 purse seiners that frequent Pohnpei and Kosrae, but none are able to bunker at these locations. Each vessel has a bunker capacity exceeding 50,000 gallons, underscoring the value of accessible local fuel services.

The MoU allows for taxes paid by fishing vessels at national, state, and municipal levels to be incorporated into the cost of bunkering and counted as qualified investments in the FSM. These investments streamline the process for vessels to meet NORMA's annual incentives tied to fishing access fees and the Vessel Day Scheme

(VDS).

The MoU also emphasizes the responsibilities of each party, highlighting the importance of ongoing cooperation, collaboration, and essential information-sharing to achieve the agreement's objectives. FSMPC will provide NORMA and fishing companies with data on the quantifiable benefits of domestic bunkering, showing how the economic gains can have positive effects across the FSM economy through economies of scale.

FSMPC looks forward to a productive partnership with NORMA, fostering valuable outcomes from this initiative that will support both the local

fisheries industry and the broader FSM economy.

Under the MoU, FSMPC has the following obligations to provide, among others:

1. continuous fuel supply at FSM ports at competitive rates;
2. regular reporting to NORMA detailing bunker transactions including value of fuel, FSMNG taxes and State/Municipal taxes, etc.
3. bunker price (CP_BFV01) alert to NORMA for sharing with its customers - price alerts would be provided on regular basis.



*Mathew Chigiya, Acting Executive Director, FSM NORMA
Maderson Ramon, Country Manager, Vital Energy, Inc (Guam, Nauru)*



Maderson Ramon, Anthony Sigeyog (VEI, Inc.), Florian J. Yatilman (FSMR&D), Peter Garamfel (Chairman, FSM NORMA BoD), Mathew Chigiya (Acting Executive Director of NORMA), Eugene Pangelinan (NORMA Consultant)



Eugene Pangelinan, NORMA Consultant, sharing remarks after the successful signing of the MOU.