

4th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade brings joy and awareness to Pohnpei

Pohnpei Public Information

November 22, 2024

Pohnpei—The spirit of unity and holiday cheer filled the air during Pohnpei State's 4th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade, held at the culmination of Public Safety Week. This year's week-long celebration, organized by the Department of Public Safety, highlighted community engagement and appreciation for the work of the department while promoting public awareness on critical issues, such as cyberbullying.

Public Safety Week began with a solemn Church Service, followed by a barbecue, a spirited softball tournament, and awareness campaigns conducted in public schools around the dangers of cyberbullying. These events underscored the Department of Public Safety's commitment to fostering a safer and more connected community.



The grand finale—a parade and tree-lighting ceremony—brought residents and dignitaries together in a festive celebration. The parade, led by the Junior Police, commenced at the historic Spanish Wall and featured vibrant participation from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community groups.

The evening ceremony was attended by prominent dignitaries, including:

H.E. Wu Wei, Chinese Ambassador to the Federated



States of Micronesia

H.E. Jennifer Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia

T.H. Jaap Van Hierden, United Nations Resident Coordinator

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

FSM officials strengthen cooperation with the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers on Labor Deployment

FSM Information Services

November 28, 2024

Manila, Philippines—Earlier this month, FSM Ambassador John S. Fritz

and Secretary of Justice Leonito M. Bacalando Jr. met with Philippine Secretary Hans Leo S. Cacdac of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) in Manila on November 6, 2024 to advance cooperation on labor deployment matters. This meeting marked an important step forward following the agreement reached by President Wesley W. Simina and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. last year to resume labor deployment from the Philippines to the FSM.

During the engagement with the newly established DMW, Ambassador Fritz and Secretary Bacalando Jr. reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to fostering collaboration on labor issues of mutual interest. Both sides agreed in

principle to make every effort to facilitate smoother labor deployment processes, ensuring that this bilateral arrangement benefits both nations.

Building on this momentum, it was agreed for a technical team from the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers to be deployed to the FSM, completing working visits to Pohnpei and Chuuk earlier this month. The team engaged with FSM government officials, private sector representatives, and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive understanding of the existing practices related to hiring Filipino workers in the FSM.

These consultations aimed to identify ways to streamline the recruitment process and enhance mutual understanding.

The FSM and the Philippines are now poised to finalize and formally conclude a Labor Agreement based on the insights and progress achieved during these discussions. This agreement will further strengthen ties between the two countries and pave the way for improved labor mobility.



Ambassador Grant-Curnow visits COM-Kosrae Campus



Australian Embassy to the FSM

November 22, 2024

Kosrae—Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant-Curnow visited the College of Micronesia – #Kosrae Campus to promote the Australia Awards scholarships through an engaging information session.



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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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December 18, 2024

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Monday, December 16, 2024

Assistant Program Manager Roan Cabacungan led the scholarship information session, which featured guest speaker, Donnalyn Waguk, an Australia Awards Pacific Scholarship alumna. Ms Waguk inspired students by sharing the invaluable experiences gained during her scholarship journey in Fiji.

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Delihna Ehmes, Vice President of Instructional Affairs and currently the Acting Dean of the COM-Kosrae Campus and staff for their gracious hospitality and unwavering support in making this event possible. Your dedication to empowering students is deeply appreciated.

The Australia Awards scholarships application for the 2026 Intake will open in February 2025.

Visit our website at www.fsm.embassy.gov.au and follow our Embassy Facebook page for updates. Take the first step toward advancing your education and creating a brighter future for your community!

Vice President Palik highlights urgent health challenges and regional collaboration at PIHOA’s 75th Executive Board Meeting

FSM Information Services

December 2, 2024

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik recently addressed the Pacific Islands’ Health Officers Association (PIHOA) 75th Executive Board Meeting, emphasizing the critical role of regional collaboration in addressing pressing health challenges in the Pacific. The meeting, hosted in Pohnpei from November 18-22, brought together health leaders from across the region to discuss strategies for improving public health outcomes.

Vice President Palik began his remarks by commending PIHOA for its 38 years of impactful work, celebrating its efforts to bring attention to the unique health challenges of Pacific communities, from infectious diseases to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). He acknowledged the leadership of PIHOA Board President, the Honorable

Gaafar Uherbelau, Minister of Health and Human Resources for the Republic of Palau, and the entire PIHOA Board for their dedication to advancing public health in the region.

Highlighting the devastating rise of NCDs, Vice President Palik called the crisis a public health emergency requiring urgent, coordinated action. He stressed that NCDs, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and respiratory diseases, are responsible for the majority of preventable deaths in the Pacific Islands.

“This is not just a health issue; it is a social, economic, and cultural challenge that affects every aspect of our communities,” he said. “We must act swiftly to address the root causes, improve health education, and promote healthier lifestyles while strengthening healthcare systems to meet this growing crisis.”

Vice President Palik also addressed the significant health impacts of climate change, describing it as a health emergency in its own right. Drawing from his recent visit to the outer islands of Chuuk, he described rising temperatures and their direct impact on public health, particularly in exacerbating heat-related illnesses and cardiovascular diseases.

“The effects of climate change are not just environmental—they are profoundly human and deeply personal,” he said. “We must integrate climate resilience into our health strategies and empower local communities to lead in their own resilience-building efforts.”

As the meeting concluded, Vice President Palik urged attendees to

prioritize shared responsibility and collaboration in addressing health challenges. He called for stronger partnerships, knowledge sharing, and investment in sustainable health systems to ensure equitable access to care for all Pacific Islanders.

“Health is a lifelong journey, and the stakes are too high for us to relent in our efforts,” he said. “Together, we can build a brighter, healthier future for our region.”

The FSM government, under the leadership the Simina-Palik administration, remains committed to working alongside regional and global partners to address public health and climate challenges.



World Bank’s implementation and support mission visited PUC power plant

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation

November 20, 2024

Pohnpei—It was a day of hope and progress—the culmination of months of planning, discussions, and implementation of a 7.5 MW diesel plant to improve the energy reliability in Pohnpei. The World Bank had awarded a grant to PUC in the amount of 11.3 million dollars.

PUC’s CEO, Mr. Nixon Anson, led the WB Mission, Project Implementation

Manager and Contractor Sino Soar through the facility and encouraged all parties to collaboratively and aggressively work together to prevent further delays on the project.

The first stop was the dismantling site of the old generators. The sounds of heavy machinery and the determined efforts of workers removing the aging units. CEO stated that the contractor has pumped out used oil from the basement and shipped off island approximately 18,000 gallons. He also showed the Group the proposed

site for the new switchgear and the need to reconfigure the primary lines to

enable demolition of metal structure and old substation transformers.

Nanpohmal Power Plant



Australian Ambassador and delegation visits Kosrae

Australian Embassy to the FSM

November 26, 2024

Kosrae—Ambassador Jenny Grant-Curnow and her delegation recently concluded a successful visit to Kosrae State, aimed at strengthening the partnership between Australia and Kosrae.

The delegation met with leaders of the Kosrae State Government, including Governor Tulensa W. Palik, Vice Speaker of the Legislature Hon Salpasr Tilfas, Acting Attorney General Alikxa Alikxa, and the late Chief of Police Rinson Phillip. These discussions focused on strengthening the partnership between Australia and Kosrae, with highlights including the East Micronesian Cable (EMC) project, grant and scholarship opportunities, police cooperation, and community development initiatives.

The delegation including Ms Roan Cabacungan and Mr Jermis Noket also met with community groups and women’s associations, recognizing the vital role of community leaders in driving local development and fostering social inclusion. These engagements emphasized Australia's commitment to supporting grassroots initiatives and promoting gender equality.

The Ambassador met with the Kosrae Utility Authority (KUA) to discuss recent challenges with power outages caused by generator issues.

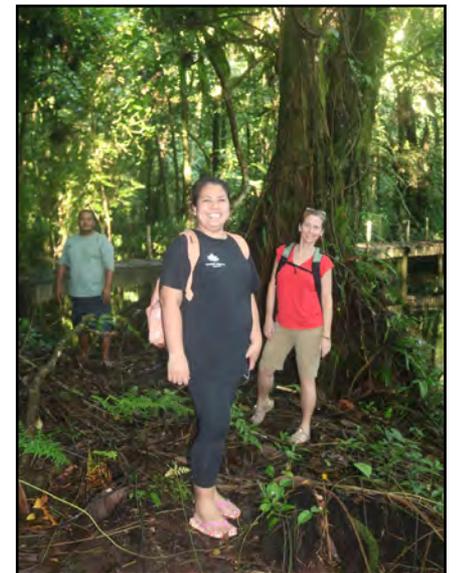
She expressed her concern for the difficulties these outages have posed to the community and commended KUA for their efforts to restore services. Discussions emphasized the need for sustainable energy solutions and explored avenues for future cooperation to strengthen energy resilience.

The Ambassador and her team also explored Kosrae’s rich cultural and

natural heritage, including the historic Lelu Ruins and the pristine Yela Ka Forest, underscoring the importance of preserving these treasures for future generations.

A heartfelt thank you to the Kosrae

Government, the Legislature, and the community for their warm hospitality and collaboration during the visit. Australia is proud to partner with Kosrae in advancing shared goals and creating lasting opportunities for sustainable development.



...Tree Lighting

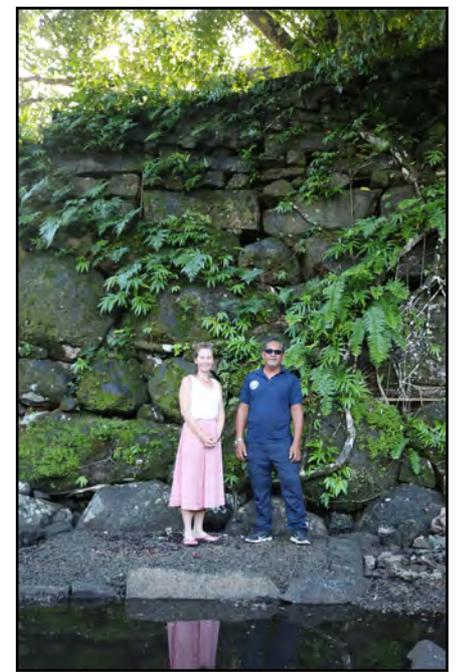
Continued from front page

Director of Public Safety, Mr. Eltes Pelep, delivered the welcoming remarks, emphasizing the importance of community support for public safety initiatives. Governor Stevenson A. Joseph was represented by Chief of Staff Benjamin Rodriguez, who highlighted the dedication of public safety personnel and the role of the community in creating a secure and joyful environment.

As part of the festivities, the Public Safety Week Softball Tournament winner, ISA Security Company, was presented with a trophy during the ceremony and applauded for their spirited participation and teamwork.

The evening’s most anticipated moment was the lighting of the Christmas tree. Second Lady Lilly Jean Ioanis, accompanied by Ambassadors Jennifer Johnson and Wu Wei, flipped the switch, illuminating the tree and delighting the crowd gathered at the Governor’s Compound.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph extends his heartfelt gratitude to all participants, organizers, and attendees for making the event a resounding success. The Pohnpei State Government remains committed to fostering a sense of community, appreciation, and safety throughout the State.



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Sea cucumber processing trainer's training - A collaboration effort between the College of Micronesia Land Grant Program, Pohnpei State R&D and OFA



COM-FSM Land Grant Program

November 29, 2024

Pohnpei—The College of Micronesia's Land Grant Program (COM LGP), in partnership with the Pohnpei State Offices of Resources and Development (R&D) and the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA), recently conducted a two-day trainer's training on sea cucumber processing led by Mr. Masaya Miyazaki of Ama Cho, Japan, on Tue Nov 26th and Wed Nov 27th. The event took place at COM LGP Program hatchery facility in Nett Point. The main focus of this training was to train selected key trainers on how to process sea cucumbers, particularly the sandfish that's being hatched by aquaculture researcher Dr. Manoj Nair and his aquaculture research team at the experimentation station at Nett Point. Ultimately after the trainers satisfactorily complete the training, they would then provide the same training in each of their communities with the goal of promoting food security, health and economic development throughout.

The 2-day training program commenced with an opening ceremony at the research station in Nett Point where Master of Ceremony R&D Director Mark Kostka called to order the event and gave his brief welcome remark by acknowledging and thanking the dignitaries including Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson Joseph along with other diplomatic representatives such as the Deputy Chief of Mission from the U.S. Embassy to the FSM, and the Ambassador of Japan



to the FSM. In his opening remarks, the Governor expressed his sincerest gratitude to both the Ambassador and the Deputy Chief of Mission for their ongoing support and steadfast contributions, providing a vital role in capacity-building efforts for economic development in the Micronesian region.

Following the opening ceremony, participants engaged actively in the demonstration and eagerly learned new processing techniques and explored strategies to incorporate these skills into marketing initiatives for local businesses. This interactive approach ensured that attendees not only acquired practical knowledge but also understood how to apply it in a business context, thereby enhancing local economic opportunities.

The event concluded with Administrator Jorg Anson of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture delivering the closing remarks, expressing gratitude to all participants for their unwavering commitment and hard work, which significantly contributed to the success of the training program. Day 2 concluded with a presentation of certificates of completion by Executive Director Stanley Lorennij, trainer Masaya Miyazaki, Dr. Monoj Nair and the COM LGP executive secretary.



NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY: AMBASSADOR'S SELF-HELP FUND

November 29, 2024
U.S. Embassy Kolonia
KoloniaPAS@state.gov

The U.S. Embassy is announcing the Ambassador's Self-Help Fund, a small grant open for application to eligible organizations interested in submitting proposals at USD \$24,900 or less. This program is intended to support local solutions and build local capacity to address the impacts of climate change, mitigate disaster risk, and address environmental degradation. This initiative offers grant agreements no greater than the amount stated to support impactful community development projects in the FSM.

This year, selection focuses on projects that address one or more of the following areas: supporting community adaptation efforts, including nature-based solutions; addressing climate change through ingenuity and innovation; advancing clean energy targets for the Pacific region; improving disaster risk management; increasing food and water security through climate-smart agriculture and other projects; combatting marine debris and pollution; and improving waste management practices.

The embassy welcomes applications from foreign-based non-profit/non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including universities; communities and community-based organizations; U.S.-based non-profits; government entities; international organizations, and Micronesian regional organizations. \$100,000 USD is available this year to support successful applications from these organizations. Proposals should not request more than \$24,900 USD and should include an anticipated start date between this year and next year, and the period of performance should be between 6 to 24 months.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply on the embassy website: <https://fm.usembassy.gov/invitation-to-planning-call-for-pacific-ambassadors-self-help-small-grants-fund/>. The deadline is January 31, 2025. Let's work together to turn great ideas into meaningful action!



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POHNPEI TIME



College of Micronesia-FSM

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Health & Nutrition Extension Agent I

Under the supervision of the CRE Coordinator, the incumbent will develop health and nutrition information such as brochures and other outreach materials; Develop individual plan of work for approval; Provide information and management advice directly to homemakers, schools, non- government organizations and interested individuals; Develop collaborative efforts with government and non-government agencies/ organizations in planning, organizing effectiveness of program activities and implementing suggested changes in areas of responsibilities; Input and maintain computer data base of clients and program activities; Prepare public service announcement for the media, radio and TV awareness programs; Develop and maintain an individual Plan of Work. Train and assist CRE staff in area of specialty.

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

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Pacific Sub-Regional Office



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

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Qualification and Experience:

Your Education

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

Your Experience

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

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

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

Closing Date: Tuesday, 10th December 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.

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U.S. INDOPACOM representatives, FSM hold virtual Joint Committee Meeting in wake of Tropical Storm Man-yi

By Petty Officer 1st Class Samantha Jetzer, Joint Task Force - Micronesia

November 18, 2024

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Senior Military Official in Guam and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Rear Adm. Greg Huffman, commander, Joint Task Force-Micronesia (JTF-M), the FSM Secretary Department of Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert, and the U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Jennifer Johnson hosted a bilateral FSM-U.S. Joint Committee Meeting (JCM), Nov. 13-14.

The JCM was held in Chuuk, with some virtual participation due to Tropical Storm Man-yi, which prevented travel. The meeting underscored the mutual commitment and cooperation between the two countries to continue open conversations about security, international partnership and environmental stewardship in Micronesia. State leaders, FSM

representatives, and U.S. military and Department of Defense leaders attended the event.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to build upon our relationships, to continue to strengthen our ties and to develop the partnerships we have fostered over the years,” Huffman said. “I look forward to making progress, and I look forward to building upon the tremendous Joint Committee Meeting that we had last time in Guam.”

Discussions centered around four goals and objectives – foster open discussions about security and defense between the U.S. and FSM, develop a pathway forward for posturing in the Pacific Islands, deepen and refine mutual security and defense priorities by developing lines of effort to strengthen the Pacific homeland, and plan for the next JCM in 2025.



and taking action.”

Subject-matter experts from the U.S. and FSM provided briefs about various program- and construction-project updates in the region over the last six months as well as updates to the current state of security and maritime domain awareness.

This was the first FSM-U.S. JCM held since Huffman assumed responsibilities as the first commander of JTF-M

in June. The mission of JTF-M is to synchronize operations and activities across all domains in the Indo-Pacific area, enabling a robust warfighting posture while enhancing partner nation capacity. Dedicated to promoting regional stability, JTF-M will perform homeland defense, Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), and foreign humanitarian assistance through a whole-of-government approach within its assigned joint operations area.

“Our bilateral relationship is rooted in a long history of cooperation and friendship,” Johnson said. “Since the end of World War II, the U.S. and FSM have worked together to promote peace, security and prosperity throughout the region. While political regimes may transition, the enduring nature of treaties and commitment to our allies remain foundational,” she added, “I look forward to fruitful dialogue and frank discussion through the next two days and properly addressing issues

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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 ISIAH
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
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MUNRO LEYS

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MUNRO LEYS

President Simina and Vice President Palik continue nationwide outreach efforts in historic visit to the outer islands of the Mortlocks

FSM Information Services

November 28, 2024

Mortlocks, Chuuk—Earlier this month, His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina and The Honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik concluded an official visit to the outer islands of the Mortlocks region as part of their ongoing outreach efforts to connect with communities across the nation. From October 28th to November 2nd, the delegation, which included Madame First Lady Ancelly Simina, Second Lady Adelita Palik, Chuuk State Governor Alexander Narruhn and the First Lady of Chuuk along with other leaders, senior officials and technical staff from both the FSM and Chuuk state governments, visited the islands of Ta, Kuttu, Moch and Satowan.

The visit began on the island of Ta, where President Simina and Vice President Palik officiated the opening of the newly upgraded airstrip, now spanning approximately 3,000 feet. This upgrade is a significant step in boosting connectivity and accessibility for the Mortlocks region. Madame First Lady Simina, Second Lady Palik, and the First Lady of Chuuk joined together to cut the ribbon in a symbolic celebration of this achievement. The visit coincided with Ta's Inauguration of their locally elected leaders, adding a festive spirit to the occasion.

In Kuttu, President Simina and Vice President Palik and the delegation participated in the inauguration of the newly elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor and members of their Council, marking another memorable event in their historic visit.

Moch Island, celebrating the inaugural visit of President Simina and Vice President Palik, welcomed them and their delegation with enthusiasm. During their visit, representatives from Moch's Catholic Church requested support for additional kneeling pews, an appeal that further highlights the FSM leadership's commitment to community needs and support for cultural and spiritual practices.

On Satowan, President Simina, Vice President Palik and the delegation



joined the community in celebrating the opening of the new gymnasium, named the Florencio Harper Gymnasium in honor of the late Honorable Senator Harper. Madame First Lady Simina, Second Lady Palik, and the First Lady of Chuuk state had the honor of cutting the ribbon, followed by President Simina, Vice President Palik, and Governor Narruhn taking the honorary first shots on the new basketball court. This new facility is a testament to Satawan's commitment to youth development and recreational opportunities, underscoring the importance of health and community activities.

The visit to the Mortlocks region reflects the Simina-Palik administration's dedication to bridging the distances between the outer islands and the capital, reigning in a spirit of national unity. On all the

islands, President Simina announced the national greeting of unity, "KAMORALE", explaining its meaning and significance. President Simina and Vice President Palik's support for community events, infrastructure improvements, and cultural celebrations reaffirms their commitment to preserving the unique heritage of each FSM community while strengthening ties across the FSM through people-to-people relations. As they continue their outreach across the nation, the Simina-Palik administration remains dedicated in its mission to support and uplift all citizens, celebrating the shared identity and spirit of unity that unites the Federated States of Micronesia.



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	Eimy E Koni	P. O. Box 1151	Weno	CHK
Aaron C Alokoa	P. O. Box 1022	Tofol	KOS	China Jiansu International	P.O. Box 1475	Weno	CHK
Arthur S. Cornelius	159 Makalea St	EWA Beach	HI	Economic, Tec			
Sunia A Welly	P.O. Box 310	Tofol	KOS	Angkily Salle	P. O. Box 636	Weno	CHK
Moses P Olter	P. O. Box 953	Tofol	KOS	Rawwas Organization	P.O Box 411	Weno	CHK
Erine S. Jonathan	P.O. Box 584	Tofol	KOS	Atland Harper	98-731 Moanalua	Aiea	HI
Job D Kephas	P. O. Box 12	Tofol	KOS	Winiplat Bisalen AND	P.O.Box 6	Weno	CHK
Lewis S. Brooks	P.O. Box 36	Tofol	KOS	Ophilia Esetok	P. O. Box 776	Weno	CHK
Takasy S Shrew	P.O. Box 540	Tofol	KOS	Arene G Setik	P.O Box 37	Weno	CHK
Marcella B Sound	P.O. Box 314	WENO	CHK	Friends of Xavier Community Fox C	P.O box 220	Weno	CHK
Jack H Sham	P.O Box 1611	Weno	CHK	Nancy S Lippwe	Eot Peniemwan Village	Weno	CHK
Aces Mijares	P.O. Box 369	Weno	CHK	Tomoich John	P.O. Box 475	Weno	CHK
Asuncion Meneky	1134-15 PLACE	KENNEWICK	WA	Suda Tamasy	P.O. Box JB	Weno	CHK
Chuuk State Housing Authority	P.O. Box 849	Weno	CHK	Antolin Martin	P.O Box 1225	Weno	CHK
ERC (EVEANN REALTY CONSTRUCTION)	P.O. BOX 369	Weno	CHK	CHATT CHURCH RENOV. PROJECT	P.O. BOX 4599	Weno	CHK
DEAL FAIR, INC	P. O. Box 185	Weno	CHK	Rosemary Wengu	94-875	Honolulu	HI
Chuuk State Chamber of Commerce	P.O. BOX 74	Weno	CHK	Sablon Besiwey	Polowat Rewou Village	Weno	CHK
Ipwe Pan Fishing Association	P.O Box 1604	Weno	CHK	McRaffy Estepa or Misiem Estepa	Weno Iras Village	Weno	CHK
Eoranei Youth Association	P.O Box 576	Weno	CHK	R.S Ruda	Sopotiw Village Fananu Island	Weno	CHK
Kathy Sound or				Romolou Mike	P. O. Box 731	Weno	CHK
Christian Ted C Mijares	Box 369	Weno	CHK	Jonathan Ruben	Iras Village	Weno	CHK
DANNYBOY NACHU	PO BOX 1541	Weno	CHK	Joses R Gallen	P.O Box 255	Kolonia	PNI
J & H STORE	P.O BOX 527	Weno	CHK	Keichy Simor or Nanacy S. Lippwe	Eot Peniememwan Village	Weno	CHK
Achina N Sonis	P.O BOX 864	Weno	CHK	Merialen Salle	Nema Eor Village	Weno	CHK
Sherlyn B Episom	* DO NOT MAIL *		CHK	Martin Namwel	P. O. Box 1258	Weno	CHK
Mervina Victor	P.o Box 1119	Weno	CHK	Joel Liemam	Eor Village	Weno	CHK
JOCELYN DAVID	P.O. BOX 1877	Weno	CHK	Aisek W. William	P.O. Box 558	Weno	CHK
Sanlyn Mwaramwar	P.o Box 2008	Weno	CHK	Mwichen Maria me Asor	P.O. BOX 1304	WENO	CHK
Northwest Financial Serv.	P.O Box 6	Weno	CHK	Polowat Catholic			
Copr.-Loan Fun				Michiuo Alipich	P. O. Box 784	Weno	CHK
Imwenipin Eot	P.O. Box 250	Weno	CHK	Koutan Imwen Fen Non Foupo	P.O. Box 122	Weno	CHK
Chuuk Priest-Sister Scholarship Fund	P. O. Box 250	Weno	CHK	Ichkumi Association	P. O. Box 752	Weno	CHK
Arso Kony	P. O. Box 1259	Weno	CHK	Chuuk State Hospital By	Re-Chuuk	Weno	CHK
Katery Yongeran Pulap Island		Weno	CHK	St. Cecilia School Rosendo	Weno Tunnuk Village	Weno	CHK
HOUK CATHOLIC MISSION	P.O. BOX 358	Weno	CHK	R, Francisca			
Midasy Aisek	P. O. Box 185	Weno	CHK	Achilina Sana	P.O. Box 329	Weno	CHK
Taitos Konno	P.O. Box 559	Weno	CHK	Nataniel Gouland	828 Puuhale Rd.	Honolulu	HI
Liza Mersai	P. O. Box 787	Weno	CHK	Mr. & Mrs. J/M Adalbai	P.O. Box 101	Colonia	YAP
Sinchy Billy	PO Box 93	Weno	CHK	Agnes G. Fanechigi	P.O. Box 1626	Hanalei	HI
Edwin Ueda	Weno Sapuk Village	Weno	CHK	Lucas L. Ruuema	P.O. Box 366	Colonia	YAP
Mortlocks Parish	P.O. Box 202	Weno	CHK	Pacific Bus Company			
Clement Killocho	P.O. Box 908	Weno	CHK	Aff Tomil	P.O. Box 422	Colonia,	YAP
Pius May	Pulap Island	Weno	CHK	Micronesia Red Cross Society - Yap	P.O. Box 1460	Colonia	YAP
Manuel Sound	P.O. Box 314	Weno	CHK	St. Matthew Church	P.O. Box 148	Colonia	YAP
Mayumi M. Lomongo	P.O. Box 87	Weno	CHK	DABOCH HOUSING	P.O. Box 402	Colonia,	YAP
Erencia M Gruber or	P.O. Box 92-1147	Weno	CHK	MAINTENANCE FUND			
Lenelo	Kuttu Island	Weno	CHK	Jerry K Yirimyad	P.O. Box 1028	Colonia	YAP
Lydia Ruback	P. O. Box 201	Weno	CHK	Isabel M Rungrad Taleng itf	P.O. Box 45	Colonia	YAP
Oliver Keller	P.O Box 12	Weno	CHK	Rawai Community	C/O Ifalik Atoll	Colonia	YAP
Kabino Weriey	P.O. Box 15	Weno	CHK	Hermana R Kenyel	P.O. Box 1106	Colonia,	YAP
Killion Achina	P.O. Box L86	Weno	CHK	Gillippin Dugwen	P.O. Box 40	Colonia,	YAP
7 U. C. C. Fin Anisi	P.O. Box 822	Weno	CHK	Louisa Mangalchuu	P.O. Box 174	Colonia	YAP
Nasarama Church	P.O. Box 626	Weno	CHK	Clara Fanapin ITF Kabetin Giltamag	P.O. Box 488	Colonia	YAP
				Andre' Couture	P.O. Box 1581	Colonia	YAP



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Maria Laamar ITF Irene & Daniel Tafoya	P.O. Box 585	Colonia YAP
Vanessa Fread	P.O. Box 488	Colonia YAP
Peigiefand Women's Organization	Faraulep Island	Colonia, YAP
Christina J. Gapthey	P.O. Box 555	Colonia YAP
Lawrence C Yinolang ITF	P.O. Box 451	Colonia YAP
Elizabeth F Maag	P.O. Box 862	Colonia YAP
Ifalik Christian Organization	Ifalik Island	Colonia YAP
Brett Mayer	CMR 421 BOX 504	APO AEUSA
Bugol Village	P.O. Box 451	Colonia YAP
Nimgil Catholic Youth for Christ (NCYC)	P.O. Box 302	Colonia YAP
Aff Youth Club	P.O. Box 712	Colonia YAP
Talngith Youth Club	P.O. Box 624	Colonia YAP
Yap State Baseball Association	P.O. Box 130	Colonia YAP
Joyce Lathperang and Joy Yigwedoh	P.O. Box 1154	Colonia YAP
Robert Belarmino Church	P.O. Box 148	Colonia, YAP
Gaudencio S Agapito	P.O. Box 478	Colonia YAP
Jacquelin Ilemangibung	P.O. Box 722	Colonia YAP
Runuw Women's Organization	P.O. Box 40	Colonia YAP
Joseph A. Tayin	P.O. Box 444	Colonia YAP
Antonia Diguem	P.O. Box 212	Colonia YAP
Susana Reetam	P.O. Box 509	Colonia YAP
Roslina R Gidbmaa	P.O. Box 515	Colonia YAP
Steven Matay	P.O. Box 151	Colonia YAP
Pingelap People Organization, Inc., Ping	P.O. Box 2255	Kolonia PNI
BOFSM/RBM Escrow	P.O. Box 640	Weno CHK
Welson E. Santos	P.O. Box K 3114	Kolonia PNI
Pohnpei Japan Club	P.O. Box 484	Kolonia PNI
Gregory Z Grosz	5762 Pumpkin Ridge Dr.	Sparks NV
LAMP Association, Inc.	P. O. Box K2564	Kolonia PNI
Ahina-Dau O Kapingamarangi, Inc.	P. O. Box 2174	Kolonia PNI
Young Executives Society, Inc., YES!	PO BOX 159	Kolonia PNI
SCOTT D SNADEN	PO BOX C/O 159	Kolonia PNI
Pohnpei Athletics Club	Box 1480	Kolonia PNI
Marshall Islands Holdings, INC.	P. O. BOX J	Majuro
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
Briana S. Welly	P.O.Box 1064	Kolonia PNI
Ekarihne D Handy	P.O. Box 2525 E 32	ND Joplin MO
Mikel Kosmas	No Address from source	Kolonia PNI
Bernard F Weilbacher	P. O. Bx 815	Kolonia PNI
Enipein Powe Youth	P.O. Box 1143	Kolonia PNI
Sinalita Peter	P.O.Box 617	Kolonia PNI
Loraine Obed	P.O.Box PS-24	Kolonia PNI
Rither Olter	P.O. Box 91	Kolonia PNI
Joseph Seneres	P.O. Box 1371	Kolonia PNI
Akilino Susaia	P.O.Box 12	Kolonia PNI
Pohnpei World Food Day	P.O. Box 1995	Kolonia PNI
Go Local Agroforestry Island Food	P.O. Box 1995	Kolonia PNI
Prilihne Silbanus	P.O. Box 1151	Kolonia PNI
Hilla Tolenoa	P.O. Box 601	Tofol KOS
Howard L Rice	P.O.BOX 1831	Kolonia PNI

Stephanie E Remeliik	P.O. Box 1841	Kolonia PNI
Hirofumi Ishizaki	P.O. Box G	Kolonia PNI
Moringiana M Peter	P.O. Box 654	Kolonia PNI
Brigida Carl	P.O. Box 2042	Kolonia PNI
Justin Wichilig	PO Box 28	Kolonia PNI
Lisa Augustine	P.O.BOX 1761	Kolonia PNI
Jose M SanNicolas	P.O. Box 132	Kolonia PNI
Brianne M Atwood	P. O. Box 2387	Kolonia PNI
Yapese Community of Pohnpei (YCOP). Inc.	P. O. Box 1047	Kolonia PNI
Sensiana Amon	P.o Box 2480	Kolonia PNI
Neelma P Skilling	P.O. Box 358	Tofol KOS
Nien Northern Namoneas	P.O. Box 2093	Kolonia PNI
William H Hoffman	P.O. Box 1748	Kolonia PNI
Samuel D Apuechy	P. O. Box C/O 914	Kolonia PNI
Yapese Student Organization (YSO)	C/O P.O. BOX 159	Kolonia PNI
Ponfacio Amor	P.O. Box 412	Kolonia PNI
Isamu Nakasone	P.O.Box 922	Kolonia PNI
DIEGO A AGRIPPA	PO BOX 515	Kolonia PNI
Anselina R Ludwig	P.O. Box 75	Kolonia PNI

Kosraean:

In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemye nusin Customers nukewa ma e akkalemyeyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemyeyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfeh 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.

Chuukese:

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.

Yapese:

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.

Pohnpeian:

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. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo 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.

H.E. Ambassador Wu Wei meets with T.H. Daniel Edgar, District Administrator of Nett, Pohnpei State

Embassy of China to the FSM

November 27, 2024

Pohnpei—On November 22, 2024, H.E. Wu Wei, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the FSM, met with T.H. Daniel Edgar, District Administrator of Nett of Pohnpei State, and exchanged views on friendly cooperation of local governments between China and the FSM.

Ambassador Wu Wei introduced the

relations between China and the FSM, and expressed China’s readiness to work with the FSM and actively implement the important consensus between H.E. President Xi Jinping and H.E. President Wesley W. Simina. On the basis of one-China principle, China would like to improve friendly exchange of local governments between China and the FSM, including Nett District, deepen cooperation in various fields, and benefit peoples of the two countries.

Mr. Edgar highly appreciated China’s development, thanked China for all supports in the past, said Nett would continue firmly abiding by one-China principle, explore to establish sister cities with Chinese counterparts, improve practical cooperation, and make contribution to the bilateral relations.



Ambassador Wu Wei invites First Lady of the FSM to visit the “China Orchid Exhibition”

Embassy of China to the FSM

November 29, 2024



Pohnpei—On November 27, 2024, H.E. Wu Wei, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the FSM, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ancelly Simina, First Lady of the Federated States of Micronesia, with experts from the Orchid Conservation and Research Center of Shenzhen (China National Orchid Conservation

Center). H.E. Ancelly Simina pleasantly accepted the invitation to visit the "China Orchid Exhibition" at the Embassy. Hon. Elina Akinaga, Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development of the FSM, Ms. Yolanda Joab Mori, Acting Chief of Staff of the President Office of the FSM, and officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the FSM accompanied First Lady to the Embassy.

in various fields. As an important measure to actively implement the important outcomes of H.E. Wesley Simina’s state visit and promote friendship between China and the FSM, orchid experts’ visit to the FSM promoted new progress in China-FSM floral cooperation. Ms. Wang Meina, Deputy Director of the Orchid Conservation and Research Center of Shenzhen, briefed the recent outcomes of floral cooperation between China and the FSM.

Ambassador Wu Wei said that at the invitation of H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China, H.E. Wesley Simina, President of the FSM, successfully paid a state visit to China in April this year, and the two heads of state reached important consensus on deepening practical cooperation between China and FSM

H.E. Ancelly Simina welcomed the visit of Chinese experts, and spoke highly of floral cooperation as the beauty of the friendship between China and the FSM. She thanked China for its full efforts to promote floral cooperation from vision towards reality.



Resisting Resistance: Training Pacific health professionals to tackle dengue mosquitoes

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

November 27, 2024

Suva, Fiji- The 2024 PacMOSSI hands-on training for insecticide resistance in Aedes mosquitoes begins today in Suva, Fiji. This intensive, week-long program brings together nominated public health professionals from 11 Pacific Island countries, equipping them with critical knowledge and practical skills for monitoring and mitigating insecticide resistance—a key factor in effective vector control strategies.

Resistance of mosquitoes to insecticides is a critical challenge for public health. As mosquitoes become resistant, common control methods like insecticide sprays lose their effectiveness. This makes it harder to combat diseases like dengue, Zika and chikungunya. Monitoring and understanding resistance patterns is crucial for selecting the right tools and strategies to control mosquito populations and protect communities. Without addressing resistance, efforts to reduce mosquito-borne diseases could be severely undermined.

Hosted by the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the Aedes resistance training is being conducted in collaboration with James Cook University, The Pacific Community (SPC), the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and Beyond Essential Systems. Through this partnership, participants will receive comprehensive instruction that integrates classroom learning with lab and field-based activities.

At the opening ceremony, Acting Chief Health Inspector of the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services Mr Luke Vonotabua said “Mosquito-borne diseases are a burden not only to Fiji but to all of our neighbours. So far this year, Fiji, Samoa, Tokelau and French Polynesia have declared dengue outbreaks. To put an end to this, we need to work together. We need to have a well-trained workforce who are equipped with the resources to be able to respond to health threats when needed”.

"This training is an important component of broader initiatives of the PacMOSSI consortium" said Dr Amanda Murphy,

PacMOSSI Coordinator, James Cook University. "By empowering local staff with techniques, supplies and data systems for resistance monitoring, we are fostering stronger vector control programs across the Pacific."



The training curriculum covers essential areas such as:

- Identifying mosquito species to understand their local distributions.
- Collecting larvae and raising Aedes mosquitoes in insectaries for testing.
- Performing WHO tube tests to determine their susceptibility to insecticides.
- Using resistance data for effective intervention planning.

The training will run from 25 to 29 November, concluding with participants ready to apply their skills in local settings and contribute to national and regional data on insecticide resistance. This

data is essential for informing public health strategies and ensuring effective mosquito control measures.

Pacific Mosquito Surveillance Strengthening for Impact (PacMOSSI) is a consortium supporting Pacific Island Countries and areas to combat mosquito-borne diseases through strengthened surveillance and control. It is coordinated by James Cook University in collaboration with The Pacific Community and other international partners like the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and Beyond Essential Systems.

PacMOSSI is supported by the Australian Government through Partnerships for a Healthy Region, the French Government, the New Zealand Government and the European Union.

FSMTC HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMMISSIONED THE ROHI CELL-TOWER

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

Predicted Coverage for Rohi Cell Tower is based on three sectorized antennas.

- > Sector 1, **Blue**: Provides coverage to Rehntu & surrounding areas.
- > Sector 2, **Yellow**: Provides coverage to Rohi Channel & Souther part of Rohi Site.
- > Sector 3, **Red**: Provides coverage to Lohd Pah and surrounding areas.



China donates 3000 solar lamps and 3000 solar torches to Yap outer islands

Embassy of China to the FSM

November 18, 2024

Pohnpei—Recently, T.H. Thomas Falngin, Chairman of Council of Pilung in Yap State and T.H. Paul Marlul, Chairman of Council of Tamol in Yap State wrote to H.E. Wu Wei to extend gratitude for the Embassy of China in the FSM donating 3000 solar powered lamps and 3000 solar powered torches to Yap State.

The letters say that the solar lights are symbols of the enduring friendship and cooperation between the two peoples. They will provide a sustainable and reliable source of light, enhance safety, support educational activities

within villages and promote a better living environment for the families with insufficient energy access, like those in outer islands. This generous contribution will be remembered for years to come.

The donation of solar lights was advised by T.H. Joseph J. Urusemal and T.H. Isaac V. Figir, the senators of the FSM Congress and supported by T.H. Charles S. Chieng and T.H. Francis Itimai, governor and lieutenant governor of Yap State, especially by Council of Pilung and Council of Tamol. The solar lights are distributed to municipalities of Yap's main island and outer islands by the two Councils.



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Notice is hereby given that our client, **Cerebos (Australia) Limited** of the address **2 Costello Place, Seven Hills, New South Wales, Australia**, is the sole proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the following trade mark:

F. WHITLOCK & SONS

The above trade mark is used with respect of goods falling in International Classes 29 and 30, including:

Class 29: *Meat, fish, seafood, poultry and game; food and beverages made wholly or predominantly of milk substitutes; canned fruit, vegetables, legume, meat, poultry and seafood products; cheese products; dairy products; dried seafood; edible oils and fats; eggs; food preserves; food protein products for human consumption consisting predominately of meat, seafood, fruit, vegetables, or dairy products; frozen fruit ; fruit sticks and bars; legumes (not fresh); meat, chicken, seafood or vegetable stock; milk beverages; milk substitutes; pates; pickles; potato, seed, fruit, nut or vegetable based snack foods; prepared meals and frozen prepared meals consisting predominately of meat, fish, poultry, game, seafood, legumes or vegetables; prepared snacks made from fruit or nuts; preserved, dried, dehydrated, cooked or processed fruits and vegetables; preserves; salads, including, fruit salads, prepared salads, and vegetable salads; soups, broths and broth concentrates, consommés and soup preparations; tofu; vegan cheese; vegan and vegetarian meat, poultry and seafood substitutes; dips and spreads; vegetable products; yoghurt;*

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Hand over of first government EV in FSM marks historic milestone

Yap Public Transportation System, a semi-autonomous government entity, moves toward e-mobility.

Green Economy Vision (GEV)

November 27, 2024

Yap Living History Museum, Colonia – The private sector-led Green Economy Vision (GEV) initiative supported another first for the Federation with the recent handover of the first government use electric vehicle (EV) in the FSM, commemorating a historic milestone for green technology in the transport space in the nation.

GEV, through an MOU with the Yap Public Transportation System (PTS), helped to supply an EV SUV to the Yap Department of Education (DOE), to start the move toward e-mobility for both agencies in Yap State, which goes down in history as the first fully battery powered vehicle to be registered in Yap, and first for government use anywhere in FSM.

According to Yap DOE Director Dominique Fanasog, a man who has a long interest in green technologies, “I

think this is something we really need to work on, because of the high interest here in Yap, and using it with other green technologies, such as solar.” Director Fanasog said that the next EV purchase for DOE would be a school bus.

GEV and PTS worked together to set up an EV charging station at the DOE compound in Colonia, with several charging points and charging speeds.

According to PTS GM Adalbai, whose agency handles most of the O&M for the government vehicle fleet in Yap, while addressing several of the Cabinet level government personnel in attendance, “In speaking with some of you earlier, your main concern (on EVs) is the maintenance aspect. I think you’re very aware that an EV does not have an (combustion) engine, so it does not require an oil change and many of the other ongoing maintenance (of a combustion engine), so those are eliminated. That’s an elimination of about 60% of a regular vehicle O&M

cost,” adding, “This is going to be very good for Yap in terms of savings. This is the first EV in Yap and we hope to bring in more next year.”

GM Adalbai noted that as the partnership develops between PTS and GEV, there will also be a combined focus on training and capacity building in EV technology, so that users of EV technology can feel comfortable knowing that there are competent after-care service providers on the islands.

Theo Thinnifel, Director of Public Health, stated that “the trickle will become a big wave” for BEV technology in Yap, and that he would be looking to have his Medical Supplies unit be the first to start with using this low-carbon technology.



Yap DOE Director Dominique Fanasog (left) and the Yap Public Transportation System General Manager, Jeffrey Adalbai, commemorate the ceremonial key handover for the first EV in Yap State at the Yap Living History Museum grounds.

To obtain more information on the GEV initiative, or if interested in purchasing an EV, one can visit the GEV Facebook page at Green Economy Vision, or email at greenconomyvision@gmail.com, or call at +691-320-3181.

COP29 climate finance deals leaves millions of lives on line

Global Climate and Health Alliance

November 24, 2024

Baku, Azerbaijan—As UN member states launched a barrage of objections to the gavelling through of the climate finance deal - the, New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), the Global Climate and Health Alliance reacted:

“The USD\$300 billion per year deal negotiated in Baku is weak, shortsighted and wholly inadequate to address the mounting threats of the climate crisis, and fails to protect the millions of lives on the line”, said Jess Beagley, Policy Lead at the Global Climate and Health Alliance, a consortium of more than 200 health professional and health civil society organisations from around the world.

“Countries, especially those of the global south, are facing extreme weather that is causing huge economic losses, overburdening health systems, and causing injuries, death, and disease for the people of developing

countries”, said Beagley “Without adequate financing, developing countries will not be able to build any sort of resilience to the threats from the climate crisis - so wealthy countries must take responsibility and agree to scale up public funding. The health of people in every country depends on it.” “At COP29, the US and other developed countries failed to meet their responsibilities under the Paris Agreement to financially assist developing countries to deal with the devastating impacts of climate change”, said Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance. “

“One billion people live in the least developed countries and small island nations that are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, facing ongoing major threats to their health. These countries are already investing their own public funds responding to the impacts of a climate crisis that they did not cause, and desperately need additional support to make their

communities more resilient and to save lives”, said Miller.

“Developed countries failed to deliver on this support at COP29, which not only hurts the people of developing countries, but also weakens global cooperation on climate and has serious implications for health, trade, security, and an array of other issues essential to all of our well being, in our globally interconnected world”, added Miller.

“The heated negotiations regarding the weak COP29 finance deal cast a pall over many of the other issues under discussion, resulting in limited progress on ways to implement last year’s call to ‘transition away from fossil fuels’ - crucial to protecting people’s health in all countries from climate change, air pollution, and the myriad health harms of fossil fuel production and use.”

“Lack of adequate finance will also make it difficult for countries to deliver on their new round of national climate plans, due next February as required under the Paris Agreement. It is deeply discouraging to yet again see governments of wealthy countries that claim to be leaders kick the can on climate down the road, at the cost of the lives and health of their populations, and of everyone around the world”, said Miller. “We can’t afford for the UN climate process to break down, it’s critical to have it working , if we want to secure a safe and healthy world for humanity”.



COP29: health community slams proposed climate finance deal

Global Climate and Health Alliance

November 22, 2024

Baku—Reacting to the latest proposed COP29 agreement on climate finance - published on Friday afternoon, the Global Climate and Health Alliance called on national delegations to urgently work for a deal that protects people's health and wellbeing before the climate summit ends.

"If COP29 agrees on the text shown to us today, it would sign a death sentence for millions", said Jess Beagley, Policy Lead at the Global Climate and Health Alliance, a consortium of more than 200 health professional and health civil society organisations from around the world. "Such a deal would

be a bad deal not just for developing countries already under pressure from the climate crisis, but for the entire world."

"Before COP29 closes, negotiators must come up with a near term, concrete commitment at a scale commensurate with the health threats already faced by communities, based on grants from wealthy countries", added Beagley. "The current text leaves the doors wide open to loans and private sector finance, which risk locking developing countries into further cycles of debt, poverty and disease. While human lives hang in the balance, COP29 risks offering fossil fuel companies a get out of jail free card, with references to fossil fuel subsidies and the obligation

of polluters to pay removed from the text."

"The latest COP29 climate finance proposal makes a mockery of the UNFCCC process that should not only address the legitimate needs of developing countries, but also drive home the legitimate responsibilities of wealthy, developed nations", said Dr Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance. "Many of the countries most impacted by climate change are already paying more to service their international loans than the combined budgets for their health systems and education, with devastating impacts on people's health and wellbeing. It is unconscionable that wealthy countries

are proposing a climate finance deal that could worsen the debt burden of countries facing the brunt of a climate crisis they did not cause."

"As people around the world experience first-hand the devastating impacts of heat, storms, floods, and droughts, the failure of developed countries to step up to their responsibilities is completely unacceptable, not to mention profoundly shortsighted", added Miller. "COP29 negotiators have got to go back into the negotiating rooms and fix this, in the remaining hours of this summit. The people of the world, and their health care providers, are watching, and lives are at stake."

The FSM advances digital security with Inaugural Cybersecurity Symposium

FSM Information Services

November 28, 2024

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Department of Justice successfully hosted its inaugural Cybersecurity Symposium from November 5-6, 2024, at the FSM-China Friendship Gymnasium in Palikir, Pohnpei. This landmark event gathered government officials, cybersecurity professionals, and key stakeholders from across the FSM to address the growing challenges of digital security and discuss strategies for building resilience against cyber threats. With a focus on safeguarding critical infrastructure, enhancing threat detection, and securing citizens' personal data, the symposium underscored FSM's commitment to strengthening its cybersecurity framework and digital future.

The symposium centered around four key themes: the development of a comprehensive National Cybersecurity Strategy, protection of critical infrastructure (with a particular focus on education), addressing regional cybersecurity threats, and building capacity for cybersecurity resilience. Participants emphasized the urgent need for legislative action to establish crucial cybersecurity laws and policies, such as the Cybersecurity Act, Personal Data Protection Act,



and Cybercrime Act, which are expected to strengthen FSM's legal framework and enhance the nation's cybersecurity posture.

Vice President Aren Palik opened the Cybersecurity Symposium 2024 by emphasizing the urgent need for a national cybersecurity policy to protect the Federated States of Micronesia's critical infrastructure and national security. He highlighted the alignment of the country's cybersecurity strategy with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific, focusing on peace, security, and human security. Palik stressed the importance of regional cooperation and capacity building, alongside implementing a national cybersecurity roadmap. The symposium aims to foster collaboration, share expertise, and develop innovative solutions to enhance digital resilience and national security.

Secretary of Department of Justice, Leonito Bacalando Jr. welcomed participants to the Cybersecurity Symposium 2024, acknowledging the hard work of his Department of Justice colleagues in organizing the event. He emphasized the importance of developing a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy as a crucial part of the Federated States of Micronesia's national security framework. Secretary Bacalando

encouraged active participation in discussions, highlighting the need for a whole-of-government approach to cybersecurity that impacts all sectors of society. He outlined key objectives for the symposium, including enhancing FSM's digital defenses, fostering international cooperation, and protecting critical infrastructure to ensure national stability, economic resilience, and public trust in governance.

Key highlights included a keynote address from Minoru Stephen, Assistant Secretary for FSM's Cybersecurity Division, who outlined the nation's cybersecurity roadmap and prioritized the creation of a Computer Emergency Readiness Team (CERT). Sessions led by experts from various sectors focused on protecting educational institutions, understanding regional cybersecurity threats, and improving risk assessment strategies. The symposium also underscored the importance of regional cooperation and information-sharing, with a particular focus on enhancing digital security across the Pacific Islands.

The symposium concluded with strong support for building a well-trained cybersecurity workforce, promoting public awareness, and fostering collaboration across government, private sectors, and international partners. The establishment of FSM CERT and ongoing legislative reforms were identified as critical steps toward strengthening the nation's digital infrastructure and safeguarding its economic and national security interests. FSM's commitment to cybersecurity will ensure its resilience against evolving cyber threats and position the nation as a regional leader in digital security.

Ambassador John Fritz presents his credentials to President of the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

FSM Information Services

November 28, 2024

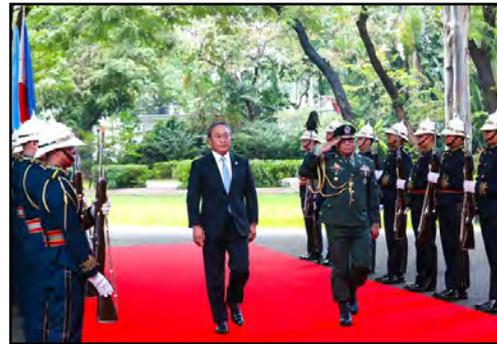
Manila, Philippines—Earlier this month, on November 7th, 2024, in a significant step to further enhance the relationship between the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. John Fritz, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Philippines, presented his credentials to His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines, during an official ceremony held at the Malacañang Palace.

Ambassador Fritz conveyed the FSM’s commitment to strengthening the long-standing bonds of friendship and cooperation with the Philippines. Highlighting shared values and mutual interests, he also affirmed the FSM’s aim to establish a diplomatic mission in Manila in the near future, further solidifying diplomatic and economic relations between the two nations.

In addition to presenting his

credentials, Ambassador Fritz held productive meetings with key officials in the Philippine government. These included the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers, and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, who formerly served as the Honorary Consul of the FSM to the Philippines. Discussions covered a range of collaborative priorities, including the formalization of a Labor Mobility Agreement between the FSM and the Philippines. This agreement is expected to facilitate enhanced employment opportunities and the movement of skilled workers between the two countries.

Ambassador Fritz also acknowledged the contributions of the Filipino community in the FSM, whose vibrant presence has enriched FSM society and fostered cultural bonds. He praised the Philippines’ active role in supporting regional stability and prosperity across the Pacific and Asia, underscoring the



FSM’s commitment to deepening this partnership.

The FSM and the Philippines look forward to expanding their collaboration in labor, capacity building, agriculture, and environmental resilience, with both sides optimistic about future endeavors through existing agreements and regional platforms. Ambassador Fritz’s appointment reflects the FSM’s dedication to building strong partnerships within the Asia-Pacific region, aligned with the FSM’s broader foreign policy objectives.

Ambassador John Fritz was accompanied by his wife, Momoe Fritz,

the Secretary of Justice, the Honorable Leonito Bacalando Jr., Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure, Mr. Dickson Wichep, Chief of Immigration, Mr. Apiner Hadley, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia Affairs, Mr. Sohses Calvin Ehmes, Employment Service Office, Mr. Dickson David, and the FSM Embassy in Tokyo’s Social and Political Officer, Ms. Yoriko Nanpei. Profound appreciation to the FSM Honorary Consul in Manila, Mr. Floyd Tiu-Laurel, and his team for the wonderful hospitality arrangements and support provided to the FSM delegation while in the Republic of the Philippines.

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.



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FSM hosts 2024 Joint Committee meeting with the United States

FSM Information Services

November 28, 2024

WENO, Chuuk—The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) hosted the 2024 Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) with the United States of America from November 13-14, 2024, in Chuuk State. This two-day meeting brought together officials from both nations to discuss key aspects of their bilateral defense and security partnership under the Compact of Free Association.

The Honorable Lorin S. Robert, FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs, opened the meeting by welcoming the two delegations. The U.S. delegation was led by Her Excellency Jennifer Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, while prominent U.S. military representative Rear Admiral Gregory Huffman joined virtually due to travel disruptions caused by Tropical Storm Man-Yi.

The meeting began with the adoption of the 2024 Mid-Year JCM minutes, followed by a review of key developments since the last meeting. Topics included the agreement of the Defense Site Working Group, updates on port improvement projects, FSM's request for the return of CAT Camps to the four states, and proposals for future military operations, activities, and investments. Subject-matter experts from both the FSM and the U.S. provided detailed briefs on regional program updates, construction projects, and security initiatives over the past six

months.

A major focus of the discussions was FSM's security concerns. Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando Jr. highlighted the challenges faced by FSM law enforcement, including the urgent need for training programs and U.S. assistance in patrolling FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The presentation underscored the difficulties caused by mechanical issues with the Guardian-class patrol boats, which have hindered FSM's maritime enforcement capabilities.

Updates were also provided on U.S. Department of Defense construction and infrastructure projects across the FSM. These include airfield modernization and seaport upgrades in Yap, commercial port improvements in Kosrae, the construction of a pre-engineered warehouse in Pohnpei, and basic harbor infrastructure enhancements in Chuuk. These projects are aimed at improving FSM's critical infrastructure and supporting regional security.

The meeting featured briefings on recent and upcoming U.S. military engagements in the FSM. The U.S. Marine Forces Pacific (MARFAC) outlined the success of Taskforce Koa Moana, which conducted small-scale construction projects, health training, and community engagement in FSM states from August to September 2024. The U.S. Air Force provided updates on the ongoing airfield modernization



project in Yap and confirmed the return of Operation Christmas Drop, scheduled for December 8-13, 2024, to deliver humanitarian aid to FSM's outer islands.

Pacific Partnership initiatives were another key topic of discussion. The Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) highlighted the success of the Pacific Partnership 2024 missions in Kosrae and Yap, which strengthened regional ties through community engagement and humanitarian projects. It was announced that Pohnpei and Chuuk will host the Pacific Partnership 2025 missions, scheduled for August to September 2025, further deepening collaboration between FSM and its partners.

The U.S. Coast Guard also shared updates on its activities in FSM, including recent search and rescue operations in Yap and Chuuk and

funding for boat safety workshops. Discussions explored the possibility of utilizing Coast Guard cutters to transport humanitarian goods to FSM's outer islands when operational in the region.

During the meeting, Secretary Robert re-submitted the Simina-Palik Administration's proposal to construct a memorial shrine at the FSM National Capitol Complex in Palikir. The shrine would honor FSM citizens who made the ultimate sacrifice in military service, reflecting the nation's enduring commitment to its defense and security partnerships.

The meeting concluded with both governments agreeing on a list of Working Action Items, which will be closely monitored in preparation for the next Mid-Year JCM, tentatively scheduled for May 2025 in Guam.

Omar Lucas Mori interviews President Simina as part of World Children's Day

FSM Information Services

November 20, 2024

In celebration of World Children's Day, President Wesley W. Simina had a fun interview with 12-year-old Omar Lucas Mori, a World Children's Day Champion from Pohnpei Catholic School.

Together, they discussed important topics, including access to healthcare, education opportunities and environmental protection.

Special thanks to UNICEF North Pacific for spearheading this inspiring initiative that empowers young voices across the FSM.

Happy World Children's Day!



Six ocean innovators selected for Blue Prosperity Entrepreneur Fellowship

Blue Prosperity Micronesia

November 20, 2024

FSM—Six ocean entrepreneurs and innovators in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) have been selected for the Blue Prosperity Entrepreneur Fellowship. Over the next year, with support from Blue Prosperity Micronesia (BPM) and Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA), the selected fellows will develop projects that will benefit local economies and contribute to a healthy and sustainable future for FSM. The fellowship provides mentorship, resources, and global exposure to help scale these initiatives for a more sustainable future in FSM.

The selected projects include:

- Carlos (Douglas) Kusto, a member of the U Katengen MoaroSed community organization with extensive experience in natural resource management, will work to expand a pilot clam farm project in Awak Pah's nearshore areas. The expansion aims to revive local clam stocks to generate community income and promote food security.

- Russell Figueras, Principal of Our Lady of Catholic Mercy School in Pohnpei, alongside Environmental Science teacher Pearcylyta Cubacub, will engage students in transforming recyclable waste into products and preparing locally-sourced food items for sale, with proceeds supporting school activities. The project includes collecting and repurposing waste, such as tires, into local products to instill entrepreneurial skills and environmental responsibility in students.

- Yamado Melander, a Kosrae State Senator, will establish clam farms in Utwe to restore clam populations, clean coral reefs, boost local income, and promote sustainable coastal management. He has previously worked in fishing, farming and clam aquaculture at the Utwe Biosphere Reserve.

- Krystle Melander, a Kosrae native and board member of the Utwe Youth Group, will implement dual farming of Kosraean mud crabs and srohsrohl to combat overharvesting of the mud crabs and create a sustainable food source for the community. She will work with the state legislature to make them aware of ways to improve mud crab conservation and promote sustainable aquafarming practices in Kosrae.

- Jason Reiong will lead efforts to preserve and responsibly harvest sea cucumber in Sapuk, Weno, Chuuk by establishing a farm with the village chief Berencher Wainis. The project will start with an environmental assessment and

community workshops to enroll stakeholders and educate them about sea cucumber farming and how it can preserve local reefs and marine resources while utilizing traditional practices and bring economic benefits for the community.

- Allois Malfitani is the founder of Pohnpei Surf and Dive Club, a sustainable tourism business operating in Pohnpei for twenty years. Allois centers his business around environmental sustainability, and performs regular cleanups on reefs, beaches and tourist-trafficked areas, which he documents and shares on social media. This grant supports Allois in developing a campaign highlighting how responsible exploration of the jewels of Pohnpei—like reefs and ancient ruins like Nan Madol—preserve marine life and provide sustainable livelihoods. To augment the impact of this year-long campaign and expand FSM tourism into new markets, Allois will attend a large international dive trade show and upgrade their website.

Over the next year, these projects will receive:

- A grant to support project implementation
- Virtual training workshops
- Mentorship opportunities facilitated by SOA's global network, including leaders in business, technology, finance, and more

The Blue Prosperity Entrepreneur Fellowship is a partnership between Blue Prosperity Micronesia and Sustainable Ocean Alliance to support entrepreneurs and sustainable businesses in the FSM advancing ocean health, community livelihoods, and sustainable economic growth.

About Blue Prosperity Micronesia (BPM)

Blue Prosperity Micronesia (BPM) is a program to support the sustainable growth of marine resources in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This program is government-led, with the goal to optimize ocean uses, protect 30% of FSM's waters, strengthen fisheries management, and support the development of marine industries.

About Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)

Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to activating young people, developing and implementing innovative solutions, and mobilizing a global movement of ocean allies to restore the health of the ocean.

Founded in 2014, SOA has developed the world's largest network of young ocean leaders, ecopreneurs, and advocates, all committed to solving the greatest threats facing our ocean. To date, the organization has accelerated over 470+ ocean-based solutions, including for-profit startups and community-led nonprofit projects worldwide.

SOA is proud to provide grant support as well as tailored coaching to Fellowship participants to help them build capacity and advance their sustainable blue economy initiatives.



Krystle Melander



Russell Figueras



Yamado Melander



Allois - Pohnpei Surf Club



Carlos Kusto



Jason Reiong

Twelve Pacific Island government audit office staff trained as HR Champions

PASAI

November 22, 2024

Auckland, New Zealand--The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) in collaboration with the Swedish National Audit Office (Swedish NAO) have completed an 18-month program to develop human resource (HR) management capabilities of staff from Pacific Island government audit offices.

Twelve staff (9 female, 3 male) from 8 supreme audit institutions (SAIs) in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have today completed the last of 6 modules in a comprehensive HR Champions program.

The program finished with a 5-day, in-person workshop in Auckland, bringing participants together for a final time

after an initial gathering in May 2023

The program facilitators included senior advisors from Swedish NAO, Ingela Ekblom and Carolina Bjerström, and PASAI Program Director, Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo.

Of the partnership, Ms Palamo-Iosefo said, "Swedish NAO is very active internationally in capability development and since 2020 its HR experts have supported many audit offices in our region to develop their own HR strategies and operational plans.

"Their support and expertise have been invaluable to run this broad program that asked a lot from its participants."

Historical SAI Performance Measurement Framework assessments identified that most Pacific Island audit



offices were not well-resourced to coordinate and manage human resource issues ranging from recruitment, appraisal and staff well-being to professional development and training.

Through the HR Champions program, participants have addressed some of the gaps identified in their respective SAIs' assessments.

The program aimed to create a regional pool of staff capable of supporting their

own SAIs and those of others in the region in a self-sustaining model, minimising a reliance on external expertise for HR support.

For Ms Ekblom, ensuring the training had tangible benefits was paramount. "For us, it wasn't enough to merely present international good practices – participants had to devote about 20% of their working time to demonstrate how they had succeeded in implementing HR strategies that were practical for their local context.

"We are really impressed with the deliverables and knowledge acquired by the participants," she said.

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

Guam's Governor Gutterez thanks Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for donation Special ceremony held at Governor's complex

At a special ceremony at the Governor's Complex on November 22, 2024, Guam's Governor Leon Guerrero thanked representatives from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for a donation of wheelchairs, rollators, and hospital beds.

The healthcare equipment had previously been donated and delivered to the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID), which is tasked with making sure the items make it into the homes and facilities where they are needed.

In total, the Church donated 200 wheelchairs, 100 rollators (walkers), and 10 hospital beds.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were representatives of other government entities whose efforts to serve the communities of Guam will be enhanced by the donation.

Notably, members of the Guam Fire Department were present. In addition to their many duties in responding to fire and other emergencies, fire stations "serve as emergency centers for our villages,"

explained Governor Guerrero. The fire stations will receive wheelchairs from the donation to aid in providing these essential services.

Michelle Perez, Director of DISID spoke first at the ceremony. "The most gratifying part of the process of providing this equipment is seeing the grateful expressions of those who have been on waiting lists when they arrive and pick up their wheelchairs, walkers, and other donated items!" she said.

Governor Guerrero then spoke and thanked the Church for its donations, past and present.

"Your church is very much aligned with our values as island people and Christians, and our values of honesty, trust, integrity and respect," stated the Governor. Your donation is a great testament of your connection to our people, not just on Guam, but throughout the whole of Micronesia."

The governor went on to express her pride in Guam as an island of very blessed



people who live together peacefully and lovingly. "That to me is our uniqueness and our strength," she said. "You don't know how much this donation has gone a long, long way to make our lives so much better. I thank you on behalf of the people of Guam."

Brett Child, Director of humanitarian efforts in the Guam/Micronesia area concluded the ceremony by thanking the governor and all present for the privilege of working together to serve Guam.

Click here for continuation on page 32

Pohnpei State launches training program on banana and coconut production technology

Pohnpei Public Information

November 19, 2024

Kolonia, Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development (R&D) officially launched a three-day training program on Banana and Coconut Production Technology during an opening ceremony held today, November 18, 2024.

Acting Director of R&D, Mr. Kordy Carl, welcomed participants from the Pohnpei Farmer's Association (PFA), underscoring the importance of this initiative in advancing local agriculture. A representative from the Chinese Embassy also delivered remarks, highlighting the collaborative efforts between Pohnpei and the People's Republic of China to promote sustainable agricultural development in the region.

The program features two expert instructors from the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Science (CATAS), who bring extensive knowledge in tropical agriculture. They will lead sessions covering topics such as:

- Seedling breeding techniques,
- Efficient cultivation practices, and
- Advanced methodologies for the production of bananas, coconuts, and other tropical crops.

From November 18 to November 20, 2024, the training aims to equip Pohnpei's farmers with innovative techniques to enhance productivity, improve food security, and contribute to the state's economic development.

This partnership reflects Pohnpei State's commitment to empowering its agricultural sector by providing opportunities for skill development and promoting collaboration with international experts.

For further inquiries, please get in touch with the Department of R&D at 320-2712.



Ambassador Kagomiya meets with SPREP representatives

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

November 25, 2024

Pohnpei—On November 25, 2024, Ambassador Kagomiya met Mr. Dean Solofa and Mr. Nicollo Moeono-Alaiasa, the representatives of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), an intergovernmental organization in

the Pacific area.

These experts came to the FSM to discuss their project planning in 2025 with the FSM government counterparts and the development partners.

Ambassador and the experts exchanged their views on various issues including waste oil management, other waste

management and youth enlightenment about reuse of plastic products.

Embassy and SPREP will continue their efforts for environmental protection while both Ambassador and the experts acknowledged that the waste management here is a difficult problem.



IOM Consultant visits with Ambassador Kagomiya

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

November 20, 2024

Pohnpei—On November 18, 2024,

Ambassador Kagomiya met Ms. Jelena Kelly, an IOM consultant, at the Embassy.

Ms. Kelly is supporting the FSM Government for the development of a national migration policy and conducting interviews with various stakeholders.

Ms. Kelly and Ambassador discussed various issues related to emigration and immigration.

During the discussion, Ambassador showed worry on brain-drain and decreasing population caused by emigration from the FSM.



FSM Senators meet with Ambassador Kagomiya

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

November 19, 2024

Pohnpei—On November 15, 2024, Ambassador Kagomiya had a meeting with Senator Merlynn Abello-Alfonso and Senator Perpetua S. Konman and exchanged views on various issues including water security, climate change and energy.

Senator Konman from Chuuk State and Senator Alfonso from Pohnpei State are respectively the first and the second female senators in the FSM.

The two senators appreciated Japan's official aid programs and Embassy is

pleased to continue cooperation with the FSM.



Governor Joseph commends sea cucumber training initiative at Nett Point

Pohnpei Public Information

November 26, 2024

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph addressed dignitaries including H.E. Nobuo Kagomiya Japanese Ambassador to FSM and Vincent Mut-Tracy, U.S. Embassy Charge’ d’affaires, local chief executives, and community members at Nett Point, marking the launch of a specialized sea cucumber training program. The initiative is a collaborative effort between the College of Micronesia (COM) Land Grant program—a U.S.-funded institution—and Japanese trainer Masaya Miyazaki, facilitated through the Embassy of Japan in Pohnpei.

In his remarks, Governor Joseph reflected on his childhood memories of Pohnpei’s once-abundant sea cucumber population. “I remember stepping on sea cucumbers as I walked the shores, and we could easily fill 50-pound rice bags with our harvest,” he said. “But today, in the same area, I see only one or two every couple of feet.”

Governor Joseph applauded the program’s focus on restocking sea

cucumber populations, emphasizing that such scientific and community-driven initiatives are essential for sustainable resource management. He said that training like this gives us hope to restore what we’ve lost and strengthen our natural resources for future generations. He thanked the organizers for adopting a "train-the-trainer" approach, which empowers participants to share their newfound knowledge within their communities.

Quoting the proverb, “Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime,” Governor Joseph highlighted the importance of self-reliance. He urged development partners to support Pohnpei’s economic growth in a way that aligns with local traditions and environmental stewardship. “We don’t just want handouts; we want to build a stronger economy that reflects who we are as Pohnpeians,” he said.

The Governor commended the COM Land Grant program for its innovative work over the years, which has consistently provided solutions for sustainable economic development in the FSM. He also encouraged the trainers to use their expertise to create a

ripple effect across their communities, benefiting not only Pohnpei State but the nation as a whole. Governor Joseph expects the sea cucumber training initiative to:

- Restock depleted sea cucumber populations.
- Provide an additional source of food security for local communities.

- Offer opportunities for supplemental income through sustainable harvesting practices.

Governor Joseph concluded his remarks with a message of unity and progress, noting that by working together and combining traditional wisdom with modern science, we can ensure a better future for Pohnpei.



New server for Palau Customs to optimize operations

European Union UN Trade and Development

November 13, 2024

Koror, Palau—The Republic of Palau’s Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP) received an advanced server to host the recently implemented ASYCUDA, a state-of-the-art customs management software, streamlining customs and border processes.

The arrival of the upgraded server

marks a significant step in enhancing Palau’s customs infrastructure.

The Director of the Republic of Palau’s Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Mr. John Tarkong Jr. said the server will become the backbone of the administration’s operations.

“It will manage customer databases, process online transactions, and store critical business data and without this server, our current modern businesses would struggle to operate efficiently and

compete in the digital marketplace,” Mr. Tarkong Jr. stated.

Consequently, the server will allow BCBP to implement access controls, encryption, and data backups to safeguard sensitive information deemed “crucial in an era of increasing cyber threats and data breaches,” Mr. Tarkong Jr. said.

The server is designed for high performance, reliability, and scalability, ensuring it can handle numerous

simultaneous requests from clients.

Previously, BCBP relied on an older server to run ASYCUDA, which constrained the system’s performance, limiting reliability and scalability.

With the new server, BCBP now has greater processing power and expanded storage capacity, enabling faster transaction processing, improved data handling, and more efficient real-

Continued on next page

Governor Stevenson Joseph welcomes Czech Republic Ambassador to Pohnpei

Pohnpei Public Information

November 27, 2024

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph attended the credentialing ceremony of His Excellency Karel Hejc, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Federated States of Micronesia, held at the President’s Office in Palikir. Following this formal event, Governor Joseph warmly received Ambassador Hejc and his wife at his office, where they engaged in productive discussions on potential areas of collaboration between the Czech Republic and Pohnpei State.

During their meeting, Ambassador Hejc highlighted his country’s manufacturing portfolio, including the production of short- and medium-distance aircraft. This portfolio aligns

with the goals of FSM Airlines’ Task Force, which is actively evaluating aircraft options for inter-island connectivity. Czech-manufactured airplanes, with a proven track record in the Pacific Islands region, were noted as strong candidates.

Governor Joseph and Ambassador Hejc also explored opportunities for small-scale development grants, complementing existing initiatives supported by larger development partners. Reflecting on the success of a 2008 Czech-funded donation of dental instruments and equipment, which enhanced healthcare services in Pohnpei, they discussed replicating similar initiatives to address other pressing health needs.

Governor Joseph emphasized Pohnpei’s greatest healthcare

challenges, particularly the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and women’s health concerns. Ambassador Hejc shared insights from other countries, such as Ethiopia and Seychelles, that incentivize healthier lifestyles. Governor Joseph highlighted the importance of food security as a critical component in combating NCDs, advocating for greater reliance on local staples like banana and breadfruit, while recognizing the impracticality of growing crops such as rice.

Other topics of discussion included Pohnpei State’s potential to develop niche markets in eco-tourism, sea cucumber processing, and other locally produced products. Ambassador Hejc expressed interest in initiatives like kayaking through Pohnpei’s mangrove swamps and

the promotion of cultural diplomacy, including annual children’s art competitions showcasing the beauty of Pohnpeian culture.

Governor Joseph expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Hejc for the Czech Republic’s continued interest in supporting development in Pohnpei and the FSM. Both parties agreed to explore further opportunities for collaboration, strengthening the ties between their nations.

The meeting concluded on a hopeful note, with Ambassador Hejc reaffirming his commitment to fostering a fruitful partnership and Governor Joseph expressing optimism about the potential benefits for the people of Pohnpei.



...Palau

Continued from previous page

time communication with customs stakeholders.

This upgrade will support Palau’s ongoing efforts to modernize and optimize its customs operations.

The purchase of the new server was made through the European Union funded Improving Pacific Islands Customs and Trade (IMPACT) Project implemented by the UN Trade and

Development.

The UN Trade and Development’s Regional Coordinator for the ASYCUDA Programme in the Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Jayvee Santos, said the Programme was proud to support the initiative.

“The high-performance servers supplied through the EU-funded IMPACT project will play a crucial role in modernizing the BCBP’s infrastructure. They will enable the handling of increasing volumes of data with greater speed and security, bringing additional resources to interface with other government systems, and prepare for the implementation of an electronic Single Window system,” Mr. Santos said.



Governor Joseph welcomes U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché and Assistant Defense Attaché

Pohnpei Public Information

November 27, 2024

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph hosted Commander (CDR) Jason Neal, USN, Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy Kolonia, and Ms. Carol DeFord, the newly appointed Assistant Defense Attaché, during a courtesy visit to the Governor's Office. CDR Neal introduced Ms. DeFord, highlighting her expertise and her commitment to strengthening defense and security cooperation between the United States and Pohnpei. Ms. DeFord, in her remarks, expressed eagerness to engage with Pohnpei's leaders and communities in her new role.

The visit included updates on ongoing U.S. initiatives in Pohnpei, such as a warehouse construction project at Dekehtik led by the U.S. Navy Seabees. Plans to deploy purpose-built, shallow-draft small boats were also discussed, designed to meet Pohnpei's unique coastal needs, and the floating jetties/dock concept was again raised for the outer islands.

Governor Joseph and CDR Neal also explored long-term infrastructure and security priorities, with U.S. Military assistance including addressing the erosion of Nanpil River road and designating land for a potential new airport. Additionally, discussions focused on enhancing U.S. military recruitment outreach, with a

special emphasis on encouraging Micronesian youth to consider service opportunities. The introduction of drone operators by CDR Neal for improved disaster monitoring and response capabilities was also highlighted as a collaborative goal.

Governor Joseph expressed his appreciation for the strong partnership between the United States and Pohnpei State, stating, "These initiatives reflect our shared commitment to building a safer and more resilient future for our communities." He also welcomed the news of an upcoming visit by CAPT Styles, Commander of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment in January 2025 from Guam, which will further



underscore the continued collaboration between the two nations.

Pohnpei welcomes the 75th Pacific Island Health Officers Association meeting

Pohnpei Public Information

November 19, 2024

Palikir, Pohnpei--The 75th Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) Executive Board meeting commenced this morning at the College of Micronesia-FSM Friendship Gym, bringing together healthcare leaders from across the Pacific. Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, currently off-island on official business, was represented by his Chief of Staff, Mr. Benjamin Rodriguez, who delivered warm and engaging welcome remarks on behalf of both the Governor and Acting Governor Francisco L. Ioanis, who was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Mr. Rodriguez greeted participants with traditional salutations and lightened the mood with humorous remarks that were warmly received. In his address, he emphasized the vital role PIHOA plays in fostering collaboration and coordination among healthcare systems across its jurisdictions, which include the United States-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI): Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) (consisting of Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau.

He commended PIHOA for its longstanding commitment to improving healthcare delivery, particularly in addressing disparities faced by Pacific Island jurisdictions. He highlighted the importance of sharing expertise, resources, and innovative solutions to strengthen the region's health systems.

Dignitaries present included Vice President Aren B. Palik, FSM Secretary of Health Marcus Samo, Pohnpei Director of Health and Social Services, Stuard Penias, Her Excellency, Jennifer Johnson, US Ambassador to FSM, Chairman of PIHOA Board of Executives Gaafar Uherbelau, Republic of Palau Minister of Health.

The week-long PIHOA meeting will include discussions on regional health priorities, capacity-building initiatives, and strategies to enhance collaboration in healthcare services delivery.

The Pohnpei State Government expresses its gratitude to PIHOA and its partners for their dedication to advancing public health in the Pacific. Governor Joseph and Acting Governor Ioanis extend their best wishes for a productive and successful gathering.

For further information, please contact the Governor's Office at 320-2235.

About PIHOA:

Founded in 1986, PIHOA is a regional association of health leaders dedicated to strengthening health systems and improving the quality of healthcare in the United States-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI). You can visit their website for more information on their work: <https://www.pihoa.org/>



Governor Joseph congratulates High School students for creativity and environmental stewardship in Christmas Tree Contest

Pohnpei Public Information

November 29, 2024

Nett, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph extended his heartfelt congratulations to the talented high school students who participated in the annual Christmas Tree Contest. This year's theme focused on creativity and environmental sustainability, as students crafted stunning Christmas

trees entirely from recycled materials.

Governor Joseph, who attended the event, delivered inspiring remarks celebrating the students' imagination and innovation. "You have taken trash and turned it into Christmas trees," the Governor noted that their creativity is a shining example of how we can all do our part to protect our environment.

The Governor commended the

participants for their efforts in recycling and emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship. He encouraged the youth to continue leading the way in sustainability, highlighting recent progress in solid waste management under his administration.

The Christmas Tree Contest is a testament to the dedication and ingenuity of Pohnpei's youth. Each tree on display was a unique work of art, demonstrating not only the participants' creativity but also their commitment to promoting environmental awareness.

The Governor's Office congratulates all participating schools, students, and their mentors for their outstanding contributions to this year's contest. Your efforts inspire us all to find innovative

solutions to global challenges and foster a culture of sustainability in Pohnpei.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's contest: Nanpei Memorial High School, who received the most points. Followed by: Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, Calvary Christian Academy, Madolenihmw High School, Pohnpei Catholic School, Pohnpei Adventist High School, and PICS High School.

The winning tree can be seen outside the Governor's Office in Kolonia.



USAID and CCBO representatives meet with Governor Stevenson A. Joseph to strengthen waste management and environmental standards in Pohnpei

Pohnpei Public Information

November 27, 2024

Pohnpei—Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph hosted a courtesy visit from representatives of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Clean Cities, Better Oceans (CCBO) initiative on November 27, 2024. The meeting centered on advancing waste management infrastructure, modernizing landfill operations, and improving environmental standards in Pohnpei.

The delegation included USAID representatives Zoilo Andin Jr., Policy and Legal Compliance Adviser; Stella Maris Salas, Finance Adviser; Roger Gardner, Country Coordinator; Herman

Semes Jr., Project Management Specialist; and Kohen Weirlangt, FSM Program Coordinator for CCBO.

The meeting highlighted the urgent need for landfill rehabilitation and immediate work to prepare the site before new equipment arrives, supported by a draft layout and aerial photography. Discussions included updating Pohnpei's EPA laws, improving coordination among task force members, and setting performance and environmental standards for contractors. Plans were outlined for roadside drop-off points, material recovery facilities (MRF), and transport stations while exploring multi-year budgeting and leveraging external support from partners like JICA and the Compact of Free Association (CoFA). Emphasis was placed on modernizing waste management infrastructure, ensuring compliance with disposal standards, and aligning efforts with insights gained from a recent Los Angeles study tour.

Governor Joseph commended USAID and CCBO for their ongoing commitment to modernizing and supporting

Pohnpei's waste management systems. He emphasized the urgency of rehabilitation efforts and the importance of setting high environmental standards to ensure a sustainable future for the state.



Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General delivers urgent climate plea at COP29

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

November 20, 2024

Baku, Azerbaijan—Baron Waqa, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, delivered a powerful statement at COP29, emphasizing the dire climate challenges faced by Pacific Island nations. He called on global leaders to intensify efforts to combat climate change, asserting, "For our Pacific Island nations, climate change poses the single greatest existential threat to our survival."

Speaking to a global audience,

Secretary General Waqa stressed the importance of the 1.5-degree Celsius goal outlined in the Paris Agreement, describing it as a "critical threshold" for the survival of small island developing states. He highlighted the urgent need for substantial and accessible climate finance, particularly through the forthcoming New Collective Quantified Goal, which he urged to be tailored to the unique vulnerabilities of Pacific nations.

A key focus of Waqa's address was the Pacific Resilience Facility, a regionally-driven initiative designed to improve access to climate finance.

Slated to become operational in 2026, the Facility has already garnered significant international support. "Your contributions are not just financial; they are a lifeline for our future," Waqa said, as he extended an invitation for additional funding to bolster the initiative.

While emphasizing the importance of financial aid, Waqa also addressed the root causes of climate change, advocating for a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels. He noted that such a transition is essential to prevent undue hardship on vulnerable Pacific communities.

Looking ahead, Waqa announced the Pacific region's co-hosting role for COP31 alongside Australia. "This partnership will allow us to welcome you all to our shores and underscore the urgent threat climate change poses to our communities and our future," he said, regarding the region's leadership in global climate discourse.

In closing, Waqa issued a rallying call to the international community: "We save the Pacific; we save the world. Let us not leave here with the future of our Blue Planet hanging in the balance."

Adventist health volunteers conduct RHD screening in Micronesia

By *Kim Strobel*
Northwest Adventists

November 21, 2024

Chuuk—A team of 11 Adventist Health volunteers spent six days in the Federated States of Micronesia conducting childhood screening for rheumatic heart disease. The team screened 765 children with a 12.7% positive rate for RHD.

RHD is caused by rheumatic fever, an autoimmune inflammatory reaction to Group A streptococcal infection — strep throat — which can lead to inflammation and scarring of the heart valves. More than 90% of cases identified during the trip will be treated with prophylactic antibiotics to keep in check further strep infection.

"We also found some very advanced RHD in children who will need surgery on their heart valves immediately," said John Schroer, Adventist Health global mission system lead. "We often don't think about rheumatic fever and RHD because in the U.S. we just treat strep when it comes up, but other locations in the world don't always have this opportunity."

The Adventist Health team partnered with Payne Perman, a local physician who started the screening program more than 10 years ago. His goal is to screen every child in the FSM every year. After screenings take place, Perman partners with local public health officials to begin treatment and ongoing care.

"I've never seen more tears shed on a mission trip than this one," said Schroer. "Our team experienced so much joy and purpose from being able to change the direction of these kid's lives. One of our providers said this trip brought them back to the reason they wanted to be in healthcare in the first place."

The FSM is a federation of four states — Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae —

comprised of 607 islands. After screening 25% of the children on three islands in Chuuk, the Adventist Health team found 97 cases of RHD. There are 29 more islands in Chuuk alone yet to hold screenings. More than 52% of the population on each of the 607 islands is under the age of 18 and in need of screening. The majority of screenings, roughly 98%, will identify infection in time for effective treatment without surgery.

"We didn't see enough people,"

Schroer said. "We need echo-techs, cardiologists and nurses for our next trip. Taking a team of eight to 10 providers each month would change the direction of countless lives in the FSM."

John said the physical hardship of traveling to screening locations and conducting the screenings is intense in terms of logistics, but trip participants consistently report the physical hardships don't compare to the joy of the work.



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U.S. supports Sea Cucumber Project

U.S. Embassy Kolonia

November 29, 2024

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Vincent Mut-Tracy joined Governor Stevenson Joseph, Ambassador Kagomiya Nobuo, Land Grant Executive Director Stanley Lorennij, and Director and Aquaculture Chief Scientist Dr. Manoj Nair at the COM-FSM Land Grant Program's Sea Cucumber Processing Demonstration ceremony held at Nett Point on November 26. This ceremony kickstarted a two-day sea cucumber processing training sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA).

The College of Micronesia's Land Grant is a fully funded program approved by the U.S. Congress as

part of the Compact of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia. This program was awarded its Land Grant status in 1862 and now employs 90 hardworking people from Palau, Marshall Islands, and the FSM. It conducts research in areas including food production, aquaculture development, community issues, climate change, food and waterborne illnesses, and childhood obesity.

The Land Grant Program promotes food security, health, and economic development through the sea cucumber project. This project develops technology for sea cucumber farming, which has now resulted in hatchery systems being established in Pohnpei, Yap, and Palau. Led by



Japanese trainer Masaya Miyazaki, this processing training hopes to teach local participants about sandfish sea cucumber processing and how they can in turn generate income for local farmers looking to sell sea cucumbers in the marketplace.



The U.S. Government is a proud sponsor of the Land Grant Program

for over 20 years and the sea cucumber project since 2014!

UNFPA supported Health Department FSM to strengthen health system response to gender-based violence in the FSM

UNFPA

November 28, 2024

FSM--UNFPA is working with the health departments in the FSM to strengthen the capacity of the health system to respond to gender-based violence, mainly domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sexual violence. This is being done by supporting the development of state-level standard operating procedures (SOPs) and building the capacity of health care workers to provide survivor-centered care.

Since 2020, UNFPA has supported Pohnpei, Yap and Kosrae states to develop and implement SOPs for GBV response. UNFPA is currently supporting the validation and finalization of Chuuk State's SOP and capacity building for health care workers in Chuuk and Pohnpei.

This month, UNFPA trained more than 30 doctors, midwives, nurses, and health assistants from Chuuk and Pohnpei on service provision for GBV survivors. This training is part of UNFPA's ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of the health system in the FSM to respond to GBV.

The two-day training equipped health care workers with the knowledge and skills to recognize signs of violence, provide first-line support to survivors through psychological first aid, deliver appropriate clinical care, and provide referrals to counseling, social, and legal support services and justice, respecting the choices

of the survivor. The training was based on WHO evidence-based recommendations and national and state-level legislation and policies on GBV.

"While developing SOPs and facilitating training, it is essential to translate evidence-based recommendations to the realities of the country/state, respond to practicalities and address challenges," said Ms. Megin Reijnders, the UNFPA regional consultant who facilitated the training in Chuuk and Pohnpei. "This can help ensure that minimum standards can be met and survivor-centered care is provided".

GBV is a widespread violation of human rights with serious public health consequences. According to prevalence estimates for FSM from the 2014 Family Health and Safety Study, one in every three women have experienced psychological, physical, or sexual violence in their lifetime. In Chuuk state, nearly one in two ever-partnered women (49,9%) experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner in their lifetime and 42.6% experienced this in the 12 months preceding the study. Two in five women across FSM who ever experienced partner violence (41%) were injured at least once in their lifetime due to the violence. Eight per-cent of women in FSM has experienced sexual abuse by a non-partner at least once since age 15.

"The training highlighted the importance of confidentiality and a survivor-centered

approach. These values are important to us, as they will help build survivors' trust in the health system and empower them to seek help, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment," shared one of the participants of the training.

UNFPA's work on GBV in the FSM is informed by the National Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Policy, and

findings from its Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability Assessment, which monitored levels of training of healthcare staff on GBV across FSM.)

The training in Chuuk and Pohnpei was funded by UNFPA and the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (BHA).



U.S. Coast Guard supports FSM Joint Committee Meeting to deepen partnerships and enhance maritime security

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

November 29, 2024

Chuuk--The U.S. Coast Guard reaffirmed its commitment to maritime safety, security, and stewardship during the recent Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Joint Committee Meeting (JCM), held in Chuuk from Nov. 13 to 16, 2024.

The event brought together FSM leaders, U.S. government officials, and regional stakeholders to address shared priorities under the Compact of Free Association (COFA).

Capt. Jessica Worst, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, underscored the importance of collaboration between the United States and FSM, "The JCM is vital to maintaining our shared commitment to maritime safety, security, stewardship, and prosperity. These engagements allow us to address challenges together and build pathways for a stronger, safer maritime domain."

During the JCM, Lt. Cmdr. Derek Wallin and Lt. Anna-Maria Vaccaro presented a comprehensive update on U.S. Coast Guard activities in the FSM since May 2024. The presentation highlighted

efforts across maritime safety, security, and stewardship, showcasing progress in areas such as fisheries enforcement and capacity building.

FSM Maritime Wing commander highlighted the ongoing efforts and challenges his team encounters in patrolling the nation's expansive exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which spans over one million square miles. The Maritime Wing aims to increase their patrol days in the coming year to further enhance efforts against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU-F) and other maritime threats, which also provides more opportunities for combined operations.

Wallin reiterated the U.S. Coast Guard's dedication to addressing resource gaps. "We're committed to strengthening maritime domain awareness, working with partners to enhance bilateral maritime law enforcement (MLE) agreements, and provide essential tools and training to the extent possible to help FSM protect its EEZ from illegal activities," he said.

Looking ahead, the U.S. Coast Guard and FSM partners outlined several priorities for future collaboration. These include formalizing requests for aids to navigation (ATON) support in Kosrae and increasing shiprider operations,



under the bilateral MLE agreement, to improve fisheries enforcement and SAR capabilities. Additionally, discussions focused on FSM's interest in acquiring new patrol assets and integrating advanced technologies such as thermal imaging and weatherproof drones to enhance maritime response.

The U.S. delegation also participated in community-building events, including a camaraderie boat tour and barbecue hosted by the FSM delegation in Chuuk Lagoon. "These moments of connection underscore the strong bonds between

our teams and our shared commitment to advancing maritime resilience," said Capt. Worst.

The JCM concluded with a continued shared vision for the future, emphasizing the importance of partnership in addressing environmental concerns, enhancing enforcement capabilities, and strengthening the region's maritime domain. The next JCM is tentatively scheduled for mid-2025 in Guam, where stakeholders will evaluate progress and refine their collective goals.

Ms. Rose N. Nakanaga joins APAFS Board of Governors

APAFS

Nov. 10, 2024

Hagatna, Guam: The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) is pleased to announce that Ms. Rose N. Nakanaga, Secretary of Federated States of Micronesia National Government, Department of Finance and Administration, has joined the APAFS Board of Governors. She will assume the position vacated by Mr. Eugene Amor, former Secretary.

In her current role with FSM National Government, Department of Finance, and Administration, Secretary Nakanaga provides critical leadership in managing financial and administrative functions, ensuring compliance with regulations, and fostering a culture focused on efficiency and problem-

solving. Her career reflects a robust background in strategic planning, financial management, and executive advisory roles, underpinned by a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Finance from Central Michigan University.

Previously, she served as the Senior Vice-President of Bank of the FSM for Branch Banking, where she optimized operations and drove business growth. She has also served as Senior Advisor at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where she provided advisory support on economic development initiatives and collaborative solutions.

Ms. Nakanaga's expertise in strategic leadership is complemented by her longstanding dedication to public

service, demonstrated through her previous roles as Chairperson of the FSM Social Security Board and Board Member of People of the FSM Trust Fund.

APAFS (www.apafs.org) is a Guam-based 501c3 association whose membership includes institutional investment funds throughout the Pacific Region. Its mission is to promote prudent stewardship and leadership through fiduciary education and to lead advocacy efforts on behalf of its membership. The organization recently celebrated its 22th anniversary. Annually, APAFS hosts a week-long educational conference in Manila. Notable keynote speakers have included, Fareed Zakaria (CNN host and commentator), Mark Mobius (former

Executive Chairman of Templeton), and Marc Faber (author and Swiss investor living in Thailand).



Challenging future projected for children in 2050 in world transformed by extreme climate crises, population shifts, and tech disparities

Childhood 'hangs in the balance' unless urgent measures adopted to protect children's futures globally, according to new report

UNICEF

November 20, 2024

New York/Suva—The future of childhood hangs in the balance if urgent action is not taken to safeguard children's rights in a changing world, UNICEF warned in its flagship report released on World Children's Day today.

The State of the World's Children 2024: The Future of Childhood in a Changing World, projects how three major global forces – or megatrends – will impact children's lives by 2050 and beyond. The megatrends – demographic change, climate and environmental crises, and breakthrough technologies – provide key indications of the challenges and opportunities children may face in the future.

"Children are experiencing a myriad of crises, from climate shocks to online dangers, and these are set to intensify in the years to come," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "The projections in this report demonstrate that the decisions world leaders make today – or fail to make – define the world children will inherit. Creating a better future in 2050 requires more than just imagination, it requires action. Decades of progress, particularly for girls, are under threat."

The climate crisis is already dire, with 2023 being the hottest year on record. According to the report, in the decade of 2050-2059, climate and environmental crises are expected to become even more widespread, with

eight times as many children exposed to extreme heatwaves, three times as many exposed to extreme river floods, and nearly twice as many exposed to extreme wildfires, compared to the 2000s.

How these climate hazards impact children will be determined by their age, health, socioeconomic setting, and access to resources. For example, a child with access to climate-resilient shelter, cooling infrastructure, health care, education, and clean water has a greater chance of surviving climatic shocks compared to a child without access. The report underscores the urgent need for targeted environmental action to protect all children and mitigate the risks they face.

By the 2050s, there will be an increase to approximately 1.3 million children living in 14 Pacific Island Countries including Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu (according to the SPC Pacific Data Hub Mid-Year Population Estimates 2050).

These demographic shifts present both opportunities and challenges. While a larger number of children and youth will be the backbone for achieving 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Pacific Island nations, increasingly under pressure to expand delivery of essential social services, need to prioritize their investment in children so that they can survive,

thrive, and reach their full potential.

Young children born here today are only going to achieve about 47 per cent of their development potential, according to the World Bank. A lot more needs to be done.

Meanwhile, the report acknowledges that frontier technologies – like Artificial Intelligence (AI) – offer both promise and peril for children, who are already interacting with AI embedded in apps, toys, virtual assistants, games, and learning software. But the digital divide remains stark.

The report notes that a large percentage of youth in low-and middle-income countries, including the Pacific, have difficulty accessing digital skills, and this will impact their ability to effectively and responsibly use digital tools in education and future workplaces. These barriers are often linked to socio-economic settings, gender, linguistics, and accessibility.

The report contains some good news. Gains in children's access to education over the last 100 years are also projected to continue, with nearly 96 per cent of children globally expected to have at least a primary education in the 2050s, up from 80 per cent in the 2000s. Likewise, with increased investment in education and public health, and more stringent environmental protection, the report states that outcomes for children could improve significantly. For example, the gender gap in educational attainment would narrow, and exposure to environmental hazards would be reduced.

The State of the World's Children 2024 underscores the importance of centering child rights, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in all strategies, policies and actions. It calls for meeting the challenges and opportunities posed by the three megatrends by:

- Investing in education, services, and sustainable and resilient cities for children.
- Expanding climate resilience in infrastructure, technology, essential services and social support systems.
- Delivering connectivity and safe technology design for all children.

This year, World Children's Day - UNICEF's annual day of action for children, is being commemorated under the theme, "Listen to the Future". As part of the campaign, UNICEF asked children to write letters about the world they would like to see in 2050. Responses have poured in from all over the world – including Fiji and the Federated States of Micronesia – expressing children's wishes to be safe, healthy, and educated – and shielded from war and climate hazards. The letters can be viewed here.

"World Children's Day is a moment for leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the rights and wellbeing of every child," said Russell. "We can shape a better future for tomorrow's children, and we have to get started today."

Congress pass Statutes on Non-Profit Corporation and Dual Citizenship

FSM Congress

November 18, 2024

PALIKIR, POHNPEI – The Fourth Special Session of the Twenty-Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia have enacted amendments to the FSM Code, one of which is to address the matter of non-profit corporations in the Nation, and the other amendment is the implementation of the issue on Dual Citizenship.

Speaker Esmond B. Moses convened a 10-day Special Session on November

12, 2024, to tackle matters pending before the Body with its first Act being the establishment of the incorporation requirements for non-profit corporations operating in the FSM. Following an extensive review process that started in 2021 of state laws and corresponding regional laws The Congress passed Congressional Act (CA) 23-134, to amend Title 26 of the FSM Code by enacting a new Chapter 7 to:

- establish the incorporation requirements for non-profit corporations operating in the FSM;

- to establish the fee structure associated with the filing requirements of non-profit corporations;
- to set the mechanisms for dissolution of non-profit corporations;
- to require non-profit corporation to maintain articles of incorporation, by-laws and financial records for 6 years and make available the records for inspection by the Registrar of Corporations;
- to require non-profit corporations to submit annual reports to the Registrar of Corporations; and
- to authorize the Secretary

of Justice with rulemaking authority to implement the Act; and for other purposes.

The Congress believes that the statute is a good baseline structure to "begin building a Non-Profit Corporation Law into the Code without being unduly restrictive on any activities. The structure of the provisions is intended to be an umbrella for Non-Profit Corporations to fall under without holding them to the intensive

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...Donation

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“We love being part of this community,” he said. “We are here because of our love for our Savior Jesus Christ,” he said. “As a community of fellow Christians, we are grateful to be with you. These donations are all a result of the charitable donations of members of our church. It’s our way of giving back.”



Ms. Mae Bruton- Adams joins APAFS Board of Governors

APAFS

Nov. 10, 2024

Hagatna, Guam: The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) is pleased to announce that Ms. Mae Bruton-Adams, Executive Director of Micronesian Conservation Trust (MCT) has joined the



APAFS Board of Governors. She will assume the position vacated by Mr. William Kostka, former Executive Director of MCT.

Mae Bruton-Adams is the founder and former managing director of APLŸS Consulting, an environmental consulting firm focused on sustainable development and climate resilience. She is also the founder of the Kaselehlie Press, the longest-running newspaper in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Since 2003, she has served as the French Honorary Consul to the FSM.

Mae has nearly two decades of experience in conservation management and government relations through her work with the FSM Mission to the United Nations, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the French Honorary Consul to the FSM. Earlier in her career, Mae worked in investment banking with the Unit Investment Trust department at Reich and Tang in New York, blending financial expertise with her passion for

environmental advocacy.

Mae is also actively involved in promoting health and fitness as the president of the FSM Swimming Association and the founder of the Micronesia Fitness Club. A lifelong sports enthusiast, she played tennis and ran track during her school years. Since joining CrossFit Kona in 2019, she has continued to stay active with CrossFit workouts in Pohnpei. Her hobbies include tennis, hiking, and writing poems and short stories.

Mae was born in Texas and raised on the island of Chuuk. She is married and a proud mother of four children.

APAFS (www.apafs.org) is a Guam-based 501c3 association whose membership includes institutional investment funds throughout the Pacific Region. Its mission is to promote prudent stewardship and leadership through fiduciary education and to lead advocacy efforts on behalf of its membership. The organization recently celebrated its 22th anniversary. Annually, APAFS hosts a week-long educational conference in Manila. Notable keynote speakers have included, Fareed Zakaria (CNN host and commentator), Mark Mobius (former Executive Chairman of Templeton), and Marc Faber (author and Swiss investor living in Thailand).

...FSM Congress

Continued from previous page

requirements of the Corporate Code that has previously been implemented.

“It would also allow provisions to be updated and amended should changes be called for without requiring a complete overhaul of the non-profit corporations’ law once implemented,” the committee report [SCR No. 23-73] concluded.

Another amendment to the FSM Code is through the passage of a statute which called to amend various sections of Title 7 on Citizenship to align the statute with the Dual Citizenship amendment adopted during the recent 4th FSM Constitutional Convention.

The amendment to Article III [CITIZENSHIP] of the Constitutional states the following:

- for Section 3, ‘citizen of another country shall not affect a person’s FSM citizenship’; and
- for Section 4, ‘a person who knowingly renounced their FSM citizenship remains an FSM national and as a national may regain their citizenship in accordance with the residency requirements and other conditions as may prescribed by law.’

Basically, the Constitutional Amendment recognizes dual citizenship for all FSM citizens and as a result: 1. the FSM nationals that lost their citizenship by virtue of not registering their intent to remain FSM citizen prior to age 21 are now automatically FSM citizens; and 2. FSM citizens who knowingly renounced their FSM

citizenship, are eligible to regain their citizenship under the naturalization process.

Accordingly, the Congress passed Congressional Act 23-137 and made amendments to Title 7 in the following sections:

- to amend section 202 to align the statute with the dual citizenship constitutional amendment;
- to further amend section 203, and remove the provision which requires an FSM citizen entitled to foreign citizenship to register their intent to remain an FSM citizen within three years of their eighteenth birthday. Instead, a new section 203 is inserted to establish that FSM Citizens whom have knowingly renounced their FSM Citizenship are FSM Nationals and are eligible to apply to regain FSM Citizenship in accordance with the naturalization process under section 204 of title 7 FSM Code;
- to amend section 204 to remove the provision that requires an FSM national or child of an FSM citizen to renounce all previous citizenship and allegiance to all foreign powers upon naturalization; and finally
- to amend section 206 of the Code to remove the provision that an FSM citizen can lose FSM citizenship if obtain naturalization in a foreign state, take an oath of allegiance to a foreign state or vote in a foreign state election.

Both Acts have been transmitted to the President to sign into law or it automatically becomes law within 30 days of transmittal.

The sessions of the Congress are open to the interested public or can be viewed live online at www.c fsm.gov.fm.