

# U.S. Coast Guard sails to outer islands of FSM with needed equipment and supplies

By Sara Muir  
Public Affairs Office  
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/  
Sector Guam

February 1, 2024

**POHNPEI**—The USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) crew arrived at Dekhitik Harbor in Pohnpei on Feb. 1, 2024, as part of an international effort to deliver essential supplies and equipment to the drought-affected outer islands of Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi Atolls.

Due to the El Niño weather phenomenon, these remote communities required immediate assistance, including water purification solutions, to combat the scarcity of potable water.

Technicians Mr. Dudley Lorrin from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Mr. Jimmy Edward from the



Pohnpei Department of Public Safety (DPS) embarked on the ship for this vital mission. The mission was critical in providing immediate relief, including the transportation and operational setup of Reverse Osmosis (RO) units capable of converting seawater into drinkable water. These units, crucial for the survival of the island communities, can produce up to 350 gallons of fresh water daily and are powered by solar panels or high-capacity batteries.

Significantly, various partners



supported the effort. The U.S. Navy Seabees repaired an IOM Reverse Osmosis unit in preparation for the mission. The Government of Australia's Pacific Maritime Security Program donated specialized heavy-

duty batteries to ensure the RO units' functionality. Additionally, the Pohnpei State Government contributed one ton

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# Australian Defense Vessel Reliant arrives in Pohnpei as part of yearlong deployment in the Pacific

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

February 6, 2024

**Pohnpei**—This morning, the Australian Defense Vessel Reliant arrived in Pohnpei. The ADV Reliant is an Australian Government asset supporting Australia in responding to the priorities of the Pacific family and its regional partners. ADV Reliant will spend most of the year deployed in the Pacific, improving Australia's ability to respond quickly in times of crisis. ADV Reliant's role can include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, training, regional engagement, search and rescue, and maritime surveillance.

[Click here for continuation](#)



## The birth of a namesake during Pacific Partnership 24-1



*Story by Seaman Apprentice Gavin Arnoldhendershot  
Commander, Logistics Group  
Western Pacific*

**January 29, 2024**

**Pohnpei**—Near the Christmas holiday 2023, on a small island in the Pacific Ocean, a young woman prepared for her child's birth, her emotions obscured behind an unreadable mask. At the same moment, a U.S. Navy midwife entered the delivery room at the last chance she had before going to the next island on her mission. When the day is done, they will share a remarkable bond as strong as steel.

During a fly-in only mission stop to Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia with Pacific Partnership 2024-1, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Cheryl Castro and other service members provided medical, humanitarian

assistance/disaster relief, host nation outreach events and engineering support to the island over a 10-day period.

"On the very last day, I was able to go to labor and delivery," Castro said. "A young lady walked in who didn't seem like she was in labor, but I thought I should stick around just in case."

The young woman went in and out of consciousness while being questioned by local nurses. When Castro asked, the nurses told her that the patient was dilated at eight centimeters.

Ten centimeters of dilation is when the mother has to begin pushing. It didn't take long before she reached that point.

The young woman was moved to the operating room in preparation for her

delivery. She sunk into the mattress, her mask slipping, revealing the shift of her emotions as the time drew closer. In a single hour, the young woman was on the cusp of becoming a new mother.

Castro, representing the USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), Pacific Partnership and the United States of America as a whole, stood beside her in support throughout the delivery process.

"There were no vocal signs of pain, it was almost like she breathed the baby out," Castro said. "I said happy birthday to him and asked the mother what the baby boy's name was."

The mother didn't have a name picked out. Traditionally, mothers in Pohnpei don't name their children at birth, Castro said. "Mothers often wait for the child to grow bigger before giving them a name." Castro jokingly mentioned that her only son's name is Jacob, bringing some chuckles from the room. Immediately, the mother said, "That's the baby boy's name."

"To have a baby named after your son creates a strong bond," Castro said. "Jacob isn't a common name in Pohnpei, so whenever he or his mom are asked where the name Jacob came from and they say 'a U.S. Navy midwife came to Pohnpei when I was born to deliver me,' I think that speaks volumes to the partnerships that we're building."

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



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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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## Fiscal responsibility a priority for Simina-Palik Administration: EBRC concludes first rounds of annual budget review exercise

*FSM Information Service*

January 30, 2024

*Palikir, Pohnpei*—The FSM National Government is presently engaged in its annual fiscal year 2025 budget review, a



process being carried out by the Executive Budget Review Committee (EBRC), led by T.H. Vice President Aren B. Palik. The EBRC is composed of key members of the Cabinet, including the Secretary of the Department of Finance & Administration and the FSM Acting Attorney General. This first round of the exercise took place from January 22nd to January 26th.

During this initial phase, all FSM National Government departments were tasked with revisiting their budgets to ensure their alignment with essential services and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. This exercise underscores the Simina-Palik administration's on-going commitment to

due diligence and fiscal prudence.

The EBRC conducted thorough consultations with each department, emphasizing the need for adjustments or cuts in specific areas while ensuring the preservation of essential services and duties provided to the FSM people. Follow-up rounds of review will be conducted in the coming weeks, affording departments the opportunity to make necessary adjustments before submitting their finalized FY25 budgets to the EBRC for the final review. The final FY25 budget is due to be submitted to Congress by April 1, 2024.

## Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and NGOs collaborate for sustainable coastal management

*Pohnpei Public Information*

January 24, 2024

*Pohnpei*--Governor Stevenson A. Joseph was honored to host a courtesy call from a delegation of representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively engaged in the MiCoast program under the Kiwa initiative. Led by Mr. Eugene Joseph from the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, the delegation included Mr. Charles Franchi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of One Reef, Dr. Nicole Yamase a native of Pohnpei and Marine Scientist, Mr. Patterson Shed and Wayne Andrew from One Reef, along with Mahe Charles from the Kiwa Initiative.

The meeting, which took place following a successful 3-day inception workshop at the Island Palms Hotel, was an important moment in the collaboration between the government and NGOs to enhance coastal management through the MiCoast program. Governor Joseph expressed his gratitude for the workshop and emphasized the vital role of community fisheries in his administration's priorities.

Food security was a focal point, with Governor Joseph outlining plans to merge Aquaculture and Agriculture to address this concern. He eagerly anticipated the contribution of initiatives like MiCoast and the Kiwa program to bolster the government's commitment to food security.

Chris LaFranchi, CEO of One Reef, affirmed his organization's dedication to working in tandem with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei to ensure the success and sustainability of the MiCoast program. LaFranchi highlighted key lessons learned in the



sector, underscoring the importance of enforcement, research, community awareness, and collaboration with local communities in conservation efforts.

Governor Joseph stressed the significance of cultivating and strengthening relationships with NGOs operating at the community level, recognizing their vital role in achieving shared goals.

Mr. Joseph from the Conservation Society of Pohnpei echoed the governor's sentiments, emphasizing that effective conservation goes beyond restricting fishing areas. Instead, it involves collaborative efforts at the municipality level, working hand in hand with communities to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of marine resources for future generations.

Mahe Charles, representing the five donor countries for the Kiwa initiative, expressed satisfaction that the MiCoast program aligned with both government priorities and the community's needs. Charles eagerly anticipated the positive impact of the project and expressed a commitment to continued learning.

As the MiCoast program unfolds, the collective efforts of the government and NGOs promise a brighter and more secure future for coastal communities.

# ...Reliant

*Continued from front page*

The vessel has the capability of purifying seawater through reverse osmosis. During the upcoming visit, ADV Reliant will have the capacity to provide up to 200,000 liters of fresh water as part of the response effort to the Pohnpei drought. This potential depends on Pohnpei authorities having the capacity to receive, transport, and store the water.

Pohnpei State prepared several large catchment containers belonging to several of Pohnpei's Elementary Schools. At press time, it was not clear whether they would be able to handle the remaining volume of water.

Limited invitation-only tours will be conducted on February 7.

The ADV Reliant has a 1300-ton open deck cargo capacity and can carry and move significant amounts of heavy

cargo. Its crane can lift up to 150 tons, and the vessel can tow other vessels up to 3500 tons. Reliant can carry over 500,000 liters of water and can produce approximately 20,000 liters per day at sea. It carries ready-to-use humanitarian and disaster response supplies and is ready to respond quickly in times of crisis. It also carries a number of different shore connectors to facilitate access to shore when not alongside at port. ADV Reliant has accommodations for personnel from partner nations to support capacity-building activities.

In October 2022, the Reliant arrived in Tarawa, Kiribati, to deliver humanitarian assistance, disaster relief supplies, desalination equipment, and other essential cargo as part of Australia's response to the severe drought at that time in Kiribati. The desalination equipment serviced the South Tarawa community, providing thousands of liters of potable water a day converted from seawater to the residents there during the drought.

The ADV Reliant is scheduled to depart Pohnpei on February 9, 2024.



# ...Coast Guard

*Continued from front page*

of rice, emphasizing the collaborative nature of this humanitarian operation.

Upon reaching Nukuoro, the USCGC Oliver Henry crew swiftly made an existing RO unit operational with the newly transported batteries, demonstrating adaptability and technical proficiency. Petty Officer 1st Class Kai Ruiz, an electrician's mate connected two 12V batteries to the island's RO pump using spare parts from both the cutter and the local community—a testament to the crew's resourcefulness and commitment to the mission.

In Kapingamarangi, the crew performed a successful systems check on the local RO unit, confirming its full mission capability. Troubleshooting efforts also extended to the solar system and HF radio, identifying the need for replacement of the decade-old solar batteries and the HF radio antenna—issues earmarked for future attention by local government authorities.

The mission's cargo included 2,000 lbs of rice, two RO generator kits, three solar panel kits, and medical supplies, directly addressing the immediate needs of Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi.

Upon departure, three medical kits, 80 gallons of bottled water donated by U.S. Coast Guard members and brought from Guam, diesel fuel, and various paper products were offloaded in Kapingamarangi, reflecting a comprehensive approach to aid delivery.

"Our visit was more than a delivery mission; it was an opportunity to strengthen ties with the island communities," said Lt. Ray Cerrato, commanding officer of Oliver Henry. "The crew's engagement with local schools and villages left a lasting impression, underscoring the U.S. Coast Guard's commitment to the well-being of these remote populations. The gratitude expressed by

the village chiefs and the anticipation of future visits highlight the enduring relationships fostered by these endeavors."

This mission exemplifies the U.S. Coast Guard's dedication to humanitarian aid and international cooperation, ensuring the well-being of vulnerable communities in the Pacific. The collective effort of all parties involved, from the initial loading in Guam to the final delivery and operational support on the islands, showcases a unified response to the challenges faced by Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi, reinforcing the U.S. Coast Guard's role as a pivotal force for good in the region.

USCGC Oliver Henry's crew is conducting the first U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam expeditionary patrol of 2024 under Operation Rematau and Operation Blue Pacific. The Oliver Henry is the 40th 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter named for Oliver T. Henry, Jr., an enlisted African American Coast Guard member first to break the color barrier of a then-segregated Service. It homeports in Guam, working with U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, which comprises nearly 300 personnel to provide a significant portion of the U.S. Coast Guard's enduring regional presence in Oceania.




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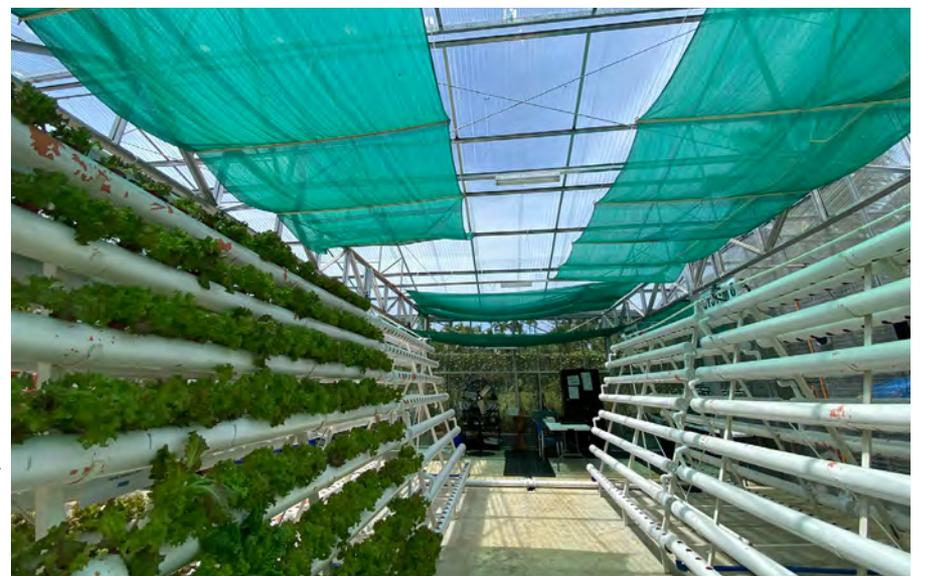


## New Roofings for Greenhouse

The Center for Entrepreneurship-COMFSM (CFE) successfully replaced the current roofing of its Pohnpei Hydroponic Greenhouse with clear polycarbonate sheets. Polycarbonate roofs provide better insulation from sunlight and effectively diffuse up to 88%, stopping harmful UV rays from benefiting all crops in the greenhouse evenly.

This is just one of the improvements resulting from the consultative meetings between COM-FSM's hydroponic technicians and the team of researchers from Rutgers University and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This change is expected to extend and increase vegetable harvest all year round while providing an optimum environment for seed germination and sprouting. For more information and assistance on greenhouse farming and specifically on hydroponic farming alternatives, please feel free to reach us by phone via +691-320-2480 ext. 149 and/or 150, or drop us an email at [ecenter@comfsm.fm](mailto:ecenter@comfsm.fm).

“The Center for Entrepreneurship (Center) of the College of Micronesia – FSM (College) was founded in 2015 with the mission to identify and foster entrepreneurship and innovation within the College and its surrounding communities. For nearly a decade the Center has promulgated a culture of innovativeness and dedication exploring a range of practical and entrepreneurial solutions to emancipate its surrounding communities; thus, becoming a critical hub for innovating local entrepreneurs and promoting professional development across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)”.



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

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# U.S. Embassy Kolonia hosts Pacific Islands Young Economic Empowerment leader

*U.S. Embassy Kolonia*

*February 5, 2024*

**Pohnpei**—U.S. Embassy Kolonia hosted Pacific Islands Young Economic Empowerment Leader Camille Inatio last Friday as part of her pre-departure program. She met with Ambassador Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Chief of Mission Alissa Bibb, and Public Affairs Officer Andrew Posner.

Mrs. Inatio was previously the Assistant Secretary for Trade and Investment, FSM Department of Resources and Development. She is currently the Co-Owner & Manager of Fusion, and Co- Founder of the Pohnpei Women

Empowerment Association, Kolonia. Her passion for mentoring and supporting young women and girls in her community is a great fit with her selected exchange program, as she departed on February 4th for a 3-week customized work placement with the Girl Scouts of Hawaii. The exchange concludes with an American counterpart coming to Pohnpei for a multi-day exchange later this year.

The Special Professional Fellows Program for Young Economic Empowerment Leaders from the Pacific Island is part of East-West Center's Professional Development Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. U.S. Embassy Kolonia has sponsored three young professionals from the FSM for these intensive five-week programs that build significant new capacity and facilitate enduring professional bonds between industry leaders in the United States and the Pacific Islands.



# President Simina attends Nauru's Independence Day and commemorates the return of Nauruans from Chuuk State

*FSM Information Services*

**January 31, 2024**--In keeping with the spirit of Micronesian solidarity, and as the current Chair of the Micronesia Presidents' Summit (MPS), President Wesley W. Simina made his first official visit to Nauru on January 27th, 2024, to attend the commemoration of the 56th Independence Day of Nauru and the 78th Anniversary of the return of Nauruans from Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in 1946.

As the first head of government to arrive in Nauru for the celebratory events, President Simina joined Nauru's President H.E. David Adeang for a Church service held at the Orro Congressional Church in honor of the historic milestone. The following day President Simina had an opportunity for an official courtesy call on President Adeang where a plethora of issues of mutual importance were exchanged, including the ongoing fiber optics cable project that would connect the FSM to Nauru and Kiribati, prospects for expansion of the shipping sector and air transport connectivity in Micronesia, people-to-people exchanges, prospects for strengthening of trade, among others. The main underlying message that was mutually supported by both principals was the need for enhanced cooperation, unity and solidarity among the family members of the Micronesia Presidents'

Summit process, the next of which will be hosted by the Republic of Kiribati.

The main Independence Day celebratory event was held on January 31, 2024 and involved a solemn flag raising ceremony held at Nauru's Government Building where President Adeang delivered his state address to the people of Nauru, witnessed by a variety of invited dignitaries including President Simina and First Lady Simina.

President Simina also joined and observed a special presentation offered by the Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. with emphasis on Nauru's ongoing effort toward diversification of resources within the context of seabed minerals. Observing the presentation were representatives from Kiribati, Samoa, and the Marshall Islands.

While in Nauru, President Simina visited Nauru's memorial shrine constructed in honor of the Nauruans who returned from Chuuk after World War II. In connection, the President also met with members of the FSM/Nauru community, which included descendants who have familial ties in Chuuk.

President Wesley W. Simina was accompanied by First Lady Ancelly Simina with support staff from the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs.



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# Governor Stevenson A. Joseph attends Pre-Development Partners Round Table planning meeting

*Pohnpei Public Information*

*January 25, 2024*

**Pohnpei--**Governor Stevenson A. Joseph participated in a pre-development partner's round table planning meeting hosted by the FSM Overseas Development Assistance Office for Pohnpei State. The meeting convened to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects, strategic development plans, data accuracy, and stakeholder engagement, in order to pave the way for the second round table with development partners scheduled for March.

Ms. Yvonne Johnny, Special Assistant to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) for Overseas Development Assistance, inaugurated the meeting, acknowledging the history of such gatherings, with the first round table initiated in 2012 under then-President Manny Mori.

Governor Joseph, in his remarks, expressed gratitude for the initiative and stressed the importance of a master plan guiding the state's development efforts. With the new compact in place, he highlighted the significance of thorough preparation for the upcoming round table, ensuring as much as possible, alignment between state and national strategic development plans when seeking assistance from donors and development partners.



The meeting, facilitated by Mr. Patrick Blank, aimed to foster collaboration, align priorities, and enhance coordination for effective and impactful development initiatives.

As Pohnpei State prepares for the next round table with development partners, Governor Joseph reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that state and national strategies are synchronized as much as possible, maximizing the potential for successful partnerships and positive outcomes.



# FSM Senators acknowledge China's role in their country's development

Chinese Embassy in the FSM

January 24, 2024

**Pohnpei**—On January 24, 2024, Ambassador Wu Wei met with T.H. Joseph J. Urusemal, Senator of the FSM Congress and former President of the FSM, and T.H. Isaac V. Figir, Senator of the FSM Congress and former Speaker of the FSM Congress, and exchanged views on China-FSM relations.



T.H. Figir have long firmly adhered to the one-China principle and made important contributions to China-FSM friendship. Wu expected that the two Senators will continue to care for and support China-FSM relations.

Urusemal and Figir appreciated the achievements of China's diplomacy in the new era, thanked China for its significant support and assistance for the independence and development of the FSM, and said that they will firmly support the one-China policy and continue to contribute to the development of FSM-China relations.

Ambassador Wu Wei elaborated on the concept of building a global community of a shared future, and the propositions of promoting an equal and orderly multipolar world and advancing a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. Wu said that the Chinese side stands ready to deepen the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and together with the FSM to promote building a closer China-Pacific Island countries community with a shared future. Wu appreciated that T.H. Urusemal and

# UNICEF courtesy call with Chief of Gender Support Office and Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

January 31, 2024

**Colonia, Yap** – On Tuesday, January 23, 2024, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) paid a courtesy call to Ms. Rozseanne Gumtin, Chief Officer of the Gender Support Office and the Department of Youth of Civic Affairs.

In attendance at this meeting was Ms. Sylvia Elias, representing UNICEF and serving as a Child Protection Specialist. Accompanying her was Mr. June Haleyalbug from the Division of Public Health at the Department of Health Services.

The primary focus of the meeting was UNICEF's overarching objective to extend its reach to every state within the Federated States of Micronesia

(FSM). The aim is to collaborate with the state government to prevent and respond effectively to any form of abuse of children. To facilitate this mission, UNICEF has engaged with the Yap State DYCA Gender Support Office, seeking a partnership where UNICEF can assist by identifying potential funding sources or sponsors for planned programs, conventions, and other initiatives.

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# President Simina sends delegation to present the FSM's extended continental shelf claim at the UN

*FSM Information Services*

*February 1, 2024*

**New York**—The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) formally presented its submission claiming an extended continental shelf over the Area North of Yap to the 21-member Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (“Commission”) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. An extended continental shelf is a seabed area beyond a country’s regular 200 nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, as identified in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“UNCLOS”), of which the FSM is a State Party. The submission is based off of the latest map series for the FSM that President Simina approved last December.

The FSM Delegation was composed of H.E. Ambassador Jeem S. Lippwe, the FSM’s Permanent Representative to the UN in New York; Deputy Permanent Representative Universe Yamase Lawrence; Acting Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando, Jr.; Legal Advisor of the FSM Mission in New York, Mr. Clement Yow Mulalap; and the Members of the FSM Continental Shelf Task Force with NORMA, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice, Department of Resources and Development, and Office of National Archive, Historic and Cultural Preservation. The FSM team is supported by consulting experts, Dr. Alain Murphy and Mr. Scott Sweet.

The claim for the Area North of Yap, once approved and finalized, will bring



over 188,000 square kilometers of additional seabed under the national jurisdiction of the FSM. This is the fourth area of interest for the Nation that has been considered by the Commission. Other areas claimed by the FSM are the Mussau Ridge, the Eauripik Rise, and the Ontong Java Plateau (a joint submission by the FSM, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands). Recently, President Wesley W. Simina issued an updated map series of the FSM showing a collection of extended continental shelf areas claimed by the FSM.

In pursuing its claims over extended continental shelves, including the Area North of Yap in particular, the FSM is committed to utilizing international law principles and accepted practices under UNCLOS as bases for its action.

Continental shelves have gained increasing interest and attention due to their potential sources of oil and gas, and possible deposits of rare Earth metals that are critical components of semiconductors, smartphones, and solar panels.

During the formal presentation to the Commission, Deputy Permanent Representative Universe Yamase Lawrence delivered the political statement on behalf of the FSM Government and requested the Commission to establish as soon as possible a sub-commission to examine in detail the technical justification for the FSM’s submission. Upon establishment, the sub-commission and the FSM technical team will begin the ongoing process of the technical review.

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Class 14: Clock and watchmaking articles, namely watches, wristwatches, components for clock and watchmaking articles and accessories for clock and watchmaking articles not included in other classes, clocks and other chronometric instruments, chronometers, chronographs (clock and watchmaking), watch bracelets, watch straps, dials (clock and watchmaking), boxes and presentation cases for clock and watchmaking and jewellery, watch movements and parts thereof; jewellery; precious stones and semi-precious stones; precious metals and their alloys; pins (jewellery)

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MUNRO LEYS



# Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lt. Governor Francisco L. Ioanis lead special meeting with administrative officers

## Pohnpei Public Information

January 25, 2024

**Pohnpei**—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lt. Governor Francisco L. Ioanis convened a meeting with the Administrative Officers of the Executive branch of the Pohnpei State Government at the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) conference room.

The meeting commenced with a solemn prayer led by the Administrator of OFA, Hon. Dahker Abraham. Governor Joseph delivered opening remarks, expressing sincere appreciation for the important role played by Administrative Officers. He emphasized the need for a uniform and streamlined process in administrative work, stressing the importance of adhering to uniform reporting timelines.

Governor Joseph encouraged the thorough familiarization of the Financial Management Regulations

(FMR) and advocated for a comprehensive update of the Public Service System Regulations (PSSR). Additionally, he briefly discussed the reinstatement of merit increases for deserving employees as a testament to recognizing and rewarding excellence within the government workforce.

The Director of Treasury and Administration, Ms. Christina Elnei, also addressed the gathering, recognizing Administrative Officers as the frontline of their respective departments. Lt. Governor Ioanis echoed Governor Joseph's sentiments in his remarks, emphasizing that the state's greatest investment lies in the salary received by every government employee, underscoring the need for dedicated and competent administrative officers to support and appreciate this investment.

From a legal perspective, Attorney General Belsip Mikel-Isom reiterated the vital role of Administrative

Officers in ensuring the legality of all governmental work. She requested additional time with the Administrative Officers to review relevant correspondence, policies, and regulations to uphold legal compliance.

The meeting provided a platform for constructive dialogue and collaboration, reaffirming the commitment to effective administrative processes and support for government employees.

## Courtesy visit of Asian Development Bank (ADB) delegation to Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph



### Pohnpei Public Information

January 24, 2024

Pohnpei--ADB Senior Senior Country Officer for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Mrs. Maybelline Bing, and Senior Operation Assistant, Mr. Alan Semens paid a courtesy call on Governor Stevenson A. Joseph at the Governor's temporary office in downtown Kolonia.

During the meeting, Mrs. Bing provided insights into the contributions of ADB to various sectors within the FSM. The discussions encompassed ADB's involvement in areas such as energy, roads, education, and technical assistance in the land sector. Mrs. Bing spoke of the ongoing efforts and plans of ADB in these domains, emphasizing their commitment to sustainable development in the region.

Of particular note was the revelation

that ADB recently conducted an assessment on tourism in the FSM. Mrs. Bing conveyed that the findings of this assessment would be shared with relevant stakeholders once they are available. This initiative aligns with ADB's dedication to understanding and supporting sectors essential for the economic growth and well-being of the FSM.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph expressed his sincere appreciation for the collaborative efforts of ADB and its positive impact on the development landscape in the FSM. He acknowledged the important role played by ADB in fostering growth, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting sustainable practices. He assured Mrs. Bing and Mr. Semens of his continued support and cooperation, emphasizing the importance of such partnerships for the prosperity of the FSM.

### TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

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

#### MUNRO LEYS

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[www.munroleyslaw.com](http://www.munroleyslaw.com)

#### MUNRO LEYS

# Courtesy call on Governor Stevenson A. Joseph by H.E. Wu Wei, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the FSM

**Pohnpei Public Information**

**January 24, 2024**

**Pohnpei--**Today, His Excellency Wu Wei, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Federated States of Micronesia, paid a courtesy visit to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph at the Governor’s temporary Office in Kolonia. Warm exchanges and fruitful discussions on matters of mutual interest and cooperation marked the meeting.

Governor Joseph extended a heartfelt welcome to Ambassador Wei and his esteemed delegation, expressing gratitude on behalf of the people of Pohnpei for the continuous support and assistance provided by the People’s Republic of China. He particularly acknowledged China’s contributions to infrastructure projects such as the Luhkop road and Kahmar bridge, emphasizing the positive impact on Pohnpei’s development.

Ambassador Wei congratulated Governor Joseph on his dedicated service and the vision he brings

to his administration. He conveyed China’s commitment to fostering close partnerships and cooperation with Pohnpei. In discussing the priorities of Governor Joseph’s administration, the Governor highlighted the reorganization of the Executive branch to enhance efficiency and the amalgamation of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and natural resource management to address Food Security.

Governor Joseph emphasized the importance of preventive measures in healthcare, especially in combating Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). He outlined his administration’s focus on promoting a healthy lifestyle to increase productivity and benefit future generations.

The discussion also touched upon infrastructure projects, including plans for future developments. Ambassador Wei affirmed the significance of



agriculture and expressed admiration for unique local products like Pohnpei Coffee and Karat banana, suggesting their potential as export items.

Ambassador Wei shared updates on medical support that was delayed due to the pandemic and is now ready to commence. He encouraged participation in Chinese Government scholarships, offering opportunities to attend prestigious Chinese universities.

Reiterating the One China policy, Ambassador Wei mentioned potential

cooperation projects between Pohnpei and Pohnpei’s sister state in China, Zhejiang Province. He highlighted innovative solutions, such as a trash processing plant in Guangzhou generating electricity without producing odors.

Governor Joseph expressed gratitude for the information shared by Ambassador Wei, emphasizing its potential to address pressing needs in Pohnpei. He reaffirmed support for the FSM National Government’s One-China Policy and discussed the urgent need for transportation infrastructure for the outer islands.

In conclusion, Governor Joseph asked for regular updates on the Governor’s building renovation progress through the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure, emphasizing Pohnpei State Government’s readiness to assist in any way necessary.



## FSMTC HAS SUCCESSFULLY UPGRADED PENIA CELL TOWER.

### This site will support 2G, 3G and 4G services.

FSM Telecom is pleased to announce the successful 4G upgrade of the Penia, Chuuk cell site from Omni 2G/3G service to 3 Sectors, 2G/3G and 4G service.

- > Blue sector covers the Peniesene bay area.
- > Yellow sector points inland-west of Penia.
- > Red sector covers east of Penia to Sapuk area.



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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
SEEKS QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES COORDINATOR FOR NORTHERN MICRONESIA (FSM, RMI AND  
ROP)  
as Special Service Agreement (SSA)**

**APPOINTMENT:**

12 months based in Palikir, Pohnpei State, FSM (with possible extension beyond 12 months)

**Background**

WHO/Country Liaison Office for Northern Micronesia is providing technical assistance to the national and state governments of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) and Republic of Palau (ROP) in the prevention and control of communicable diseases, including vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs), neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and others. These three countries in Northern Micronesia have triple burden of public health programme, Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), Communicable diseases (CDs) and the consequences of the global climate change which also increase risks of vector- and water- borne diseases. While there are tropical diseases such as lymphatic filariasis (LF), soil-transmitted helminthiases (STH), dengue fever, zika infection and others, the prevalence of tuberculosis and leprosy is also high in the Pacific Region. WHO has been assisting the government's programs to eliminate those diseases and identified the need to bring more intensified technical and financial support to progress them. In addition, routine immunization remains the backbone and main element of the primary health care programme. Vaccine-Preventable Disease (VPD) surveillance is critical and allows sensitive and timely detection, investigation, and response to VPDs. A well-functioning routine immunization including high vaccination coverage and VPD surveillance system are critical to achieving and sustaining national and regional Vaccine-Preventable Disease and Immunization (VDIs) elimination and control goals.

**Objectives**

Provide general and technical assistance to the government of Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau in the area of communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases, vaccine preventable diseases and other key public health programmes in collaboration with relevant technical units of WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support. The **Coordinator, Communicable Diseases** will have the following terms of reference:

**Description of Duties**

Under the overall supervision of the Country Liaison Officer, WHO Office for Northern Micronesia:

1. Provide general and technical support in implementing the WHO Country workplan on communicable diseases and NTDs. This includes a focus on helping countries to adopt integrated approaches to implementing communicable disease and NTD programs, and improving overall surveillance systems (data collection, reporting, storage, analysis, dissemination and data-based decision making);
2. Provide technical support in planning and implementing immunization and vaccine preventable disease activities;

3. Assist Tuberculosis/Leprosy Elimination Program including integrated mass screening;
4. Plan and implement the Lymphatic filariasis (LF) Transmission Assessment Survey (TAS) in Chuuk State, FSM;
5. Assist in the reporting, management and analysis of data related to Neglected tropical Diseases (NTDs) in FSM;
6. Assist initiatives to develop environmentally sustainable and climate change resilient health systems including measures against vector- and water-borne diseases; and
7. Perform other related duties as assigned by the Country Liaison Office (CLO) pandemic preparedness and response.

**Education/Experience**

Education required: Bachelor's degree in medicine, nursing, public health, science or other relevant field in health or social science. Post graduate degree in relevant field is desirable. Knowledge in programme/project management is an asset.

**Experience required:**

At least two years of working experience in public health sector, health service delivery or relevant field. Work experience with the UN system or international organization is an asset.

**Language**

- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential.

**Other skills**

- Working knowledge of standard MS Office software applications. Presentation skills.

**Competencies**

- Communicating in a credible and effective way;
- Producing results;
- Moving forward in a changing environment; and
- Fostering integration and teamwork

**Salary range**

- The salary package will be based on academic qualifications and experience in line with the revised job evaluation for civil servants in FSM.

**Medical clearance**

The selected SSA will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

Interested applicants should complete the WHO Vacancy Application Form (WHO-PHF) together with a letter of interest and resume/CV via email by **27 February 2024**:

Mr Matthew Shortus, OIC, Country Liaison Officer, World Health Organization Office for Northern Micronesia shortusm@who.int

# Palau International Coral Reef Center reaches over 700 students during 2024 Education Carnival

## *Palau International Coral Reef Center*

The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)'s annual Education Carnival took place over three days from January 23-25, 2024. The Education Carnival runs every year as part of PICRC's anniversary celebration. This year's theme was "Navigating Changing Seas", which acknowledges the transitions that the Center faced over the last few years, the challenging nature of ocean conservation, the Center's expansion into Palau's deep open ocean, and the further development of nearshore research and monitoring.

In total, over 700 students, from Grades K to 10, attended the Education Carnival. They came from 12 different schools. These were elementary schools, SDA, George B. Harris, Melekeok, Ngaremlengui, Aimeliik, Ngardmau, Ibobang, Meyuns, Koror, Ngarchelong and Ngaraard, and high school, Belau Modekngi School.

Each school received an hour-long program, which included an introduction presentation and visits to four different activities. They also had the option of touring the Palau Aquarium.

The first activity looked at how the seeds, roots, and leaves of mangroves can survive in their unique, coastal environment. The second activity explored how different fishes have adapted to live in the deep ocean. Another activity discussed research into sustainable fisheries. The final activity was run by partner organization, Friends of the PNMS, who talked with the students the importance of different sustainability initiatives.

The Education Carnival also saw the launch of the 2025 Arts & Tides Calendar contest. With the theme "Exploring our Sanctuary", this year's contest challenges Palau's students to think about different ways the Palau National Marine Sanctuary could be explored. Artwork must be submitted by March 29, 2024.

"I would like to thank the Friends of the PNMS, the Ministry of Education Minister, Directors, Chiefs, and all teachers for their partnership on working with us to educate our children about our marine environment and the importance of conserving it and for another successful Education Carnival," stated PICRC's Interim CEO, Caryn Lkong Koshiba.



# Governor Stevenson A. Joseph hosts Board of Education for a courtesy call

## *Pohnpei Public Information*

*January 24, 2024*

**Pohnpei--**Governor Stevenson A. Joseph warmly welcomed the Board of Education, led by Chairperson Alice B. Ehmes, during a courtesy call at the gubernatorial office. Also joining Chair Ehmes was Vice Chair, Phyllis Silbanuz, Director Joseph Diaz, and staff Merlinda Donre Hawley.

Chairperson Ehmes provided a comprehensive overview of the Board's purpose, functions, historical context, and areas of responsibility. She shared insights into the Board's commitment to education excellence and presented Governor Joseph with the recently completed board policy manual, offering valuable insights into the workings of the Board and the Department of Education.

Expressing gratitude for the visit, Governor Joseph conveyed his vision for the Department of Education in his administration. He highlighted his interest in enhancing Pohnpeian history within the curriculum and sought advice from the Board on this matter. Vocational training was a key focus, with Governor Joseph briefly discussing a proposed World Bank-funded vocational program at the former PATS High School.



Governor Joseph and Board members engaged in discussions about scholarships, unanimously recognizing their importance. The parties expressed a collective commitment to exploring ways to increase scholarship support for deserving students.

Governor Joseph thanked Chairperson Ehmes and the entire Board for their valuable insights and collaboration, emphasizing the importance of working together to advance education in the region.

### TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN MICRONESIA

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in relation to:

Air conditioning installations; ventilation [air-conditioning] installations and apparatus; air re heaters; radiators, electric; heat accumulators; laundry dryers, electric; fans [air-conditioning]; air dehumidifiers; air purifying apparatus and machines; cooking apparatus and installations; extractor hoods for kitchen use; coal gas water heaters; electric water heaters; electromagnetic oven; cooking utensils, electric; electric drinking water dispensers; electric kettles; air humidifiers; electric pressure cookers [autoclaves]; air conditioners for vehicles; fans (parts or air conditioning installations); filters for air conditioning; heater for vehicles; air dryers; air sterilizers; electric hair dryers; evaporators; sterilizers; dish sterilizing cupboard; heat exchangers [not parts of machines]; exhaust fans; solar energy water heaters; electric iron pans; heaters for baths; gas burners; air refreshers; refrigerators; microwave ovens [cooking apparatus]; water purification installations; dish washers; egg boilers; electric appliances for making yogurt; steam facial apparatus [saunas]; bread toasters; electric coffee machines; electric foot washers; bakers' ovens; electric slow-cookers.

Advertising services for others; import-export agencies; promoting sales of products or services for others; systemization of information into computer databases; preparation and/or co-ordination of bids on behalf of others in tender processes; professional business consultancy; advisory services for business management; marketing analysis for others; personnel management consultancy; accounting; commercial and industrial management assistance; auditing.

Air conditioning apparatus installation and repair; upholstering services; heating equipment installation and repair; machinery installation, maintenance and repair; electric appliances installation and repair; freezing equipment installation and repair; computer hardware installation maintenance and repair; office machines and equipment installation, maintenance and repair; eliminating interference in electrical apparatus; cleaning clothes for others.

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[www.munroleyslaw.com](http://www.munroleyslaw.com)

**MUNRO LEYS**

## Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang attend Education Day 2024 with Lt. Governor Francisco L. Ioanis

### Pohnpei Public Information

January 26, 2024

**Pohnpei**—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, accompanied by First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang and Lt. Governor Francisco L. Ioanis attended Education Day 2024. The event, held under the theme "Supporting Our Children Today to Succeed Tomorrow" or "Koupwelki Sapwelimatail Seri Kan Rahnwet ohng Pweida kan Lakapw" in Pohnpeian, brought together leaders, educators, and community members to celebrate and emphasize the importance of education.

The occasion commenced with opening remarks by Kolonia Town Mayor, Kumer Biza, setting a tone of enthusiasm and dedication for the day's proceedings. Governor Joseph, a stalwart advocate for education, was introduced by Mr. Jerome Silbanuz, who listed the governor's notable educational and professional achievements.

In his address, Governor Joseph emphasized the significance of Education Day as a platform to honor and celebrate the pivotal role education plays in shaping the future. The theme, "Supporting Our Children Today to Succeed Tomorrow," served as a poignant reminder of the collective responsibility to nurture and empower the youth.

Advocating for the well-being of Pohnpei's students, he stressed the importance of a nutritious start each morning. He said that a healthy diet is

essential for students to be strong and think clearly, underscoring the vital role nutrition plays in shaping the minds of the precious future of Pohnpei.

Highlighting the unique opportunity provided by public schools for all children in Pohnpei to receive an education, Governor Joseph urged parents to take full advantage of this essential resource. He called for a collaborative effort among parents, teachers, and educators to prioritize the needs of children and ensure they are always at the forefront of educational initiatives.

As Education Day 2024 concluded, Governor Joseph left the audience with a compelling call to action, reminding everyone present to never forget the paramount importance of educating the youth. He urged the community to work together to create an environment where every child can thrive and become a positive force for the future.

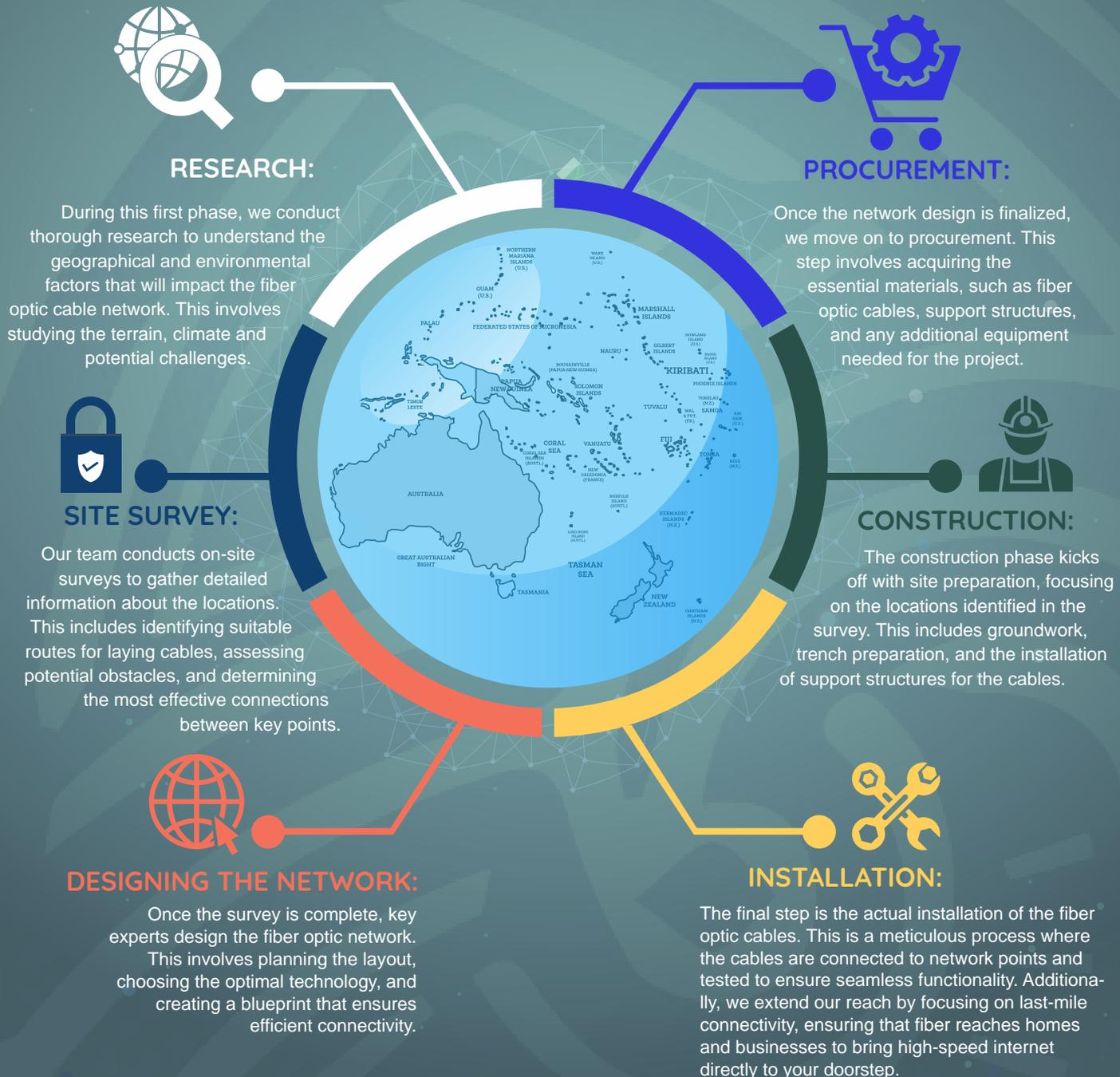
Governor Joseph also extended recognition to local leaders, including Senator Mitaro Simina, Senator Merlynn Abello-Alphonso, Mayor of Kolonia Town, Hon. Kumer Biza, and his classmate, the Speaker of the Kolonia Town Council, Hon. Yuko Nakasone. Additionally, he acknowledged the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Australia, H.E. Jo Cowley, Chinese Ambassador H.E. Wu Wei, and U.S. Charge' d'affaires Alissa Bibb, International organizations, religious leaders, and the Board of Education for their invaluable contributions to the educational landscape.





# Connecting the Dots: FSM's Fiber Optic Cable Deployment

Introducing fiber to the home is a resource-intensive project that requires careful research and planning. From start to finish, there are six main phases of our process, each with its sub-steps and processes. Let's take a closer look at what it takes to get fast and reliable internet to your home.



Visit <https://www.facebook.com/DigitalFSMProject> to learn more.

# Vice President Palik continues dialogue with Yap leadership and kicks off R&D Conference

*FSM Information Services*

*February 1, 2024*

**Colonia, Yap**—T.H. Vice President Aren B. Palik is in Yap State to attend the 3rd FSM Resources & Development Conference. Prior to the convening of the conference, Vice President Palik paid a courtesy call on the leadership of Yap State – T.H. Governor Charles Chieng, T.H. Lt. Governor Francis Itimai, members of their cabinet, T.H. Speaker Nicholas Figirlaarwon and members of the Yap State Legislature. The meeting served as an opportunity to follow-up on discussions that were initiated during His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina’s state visit last September. Joining the courtesy call with the Vice President were T.H. Senator Fabian Nimea, the Chairman of the R&D Committee in the FSM Congress, several cabinet members and senior staff, including T.H. Secretary Elina Akinaga, T.H. Secretary Carl Apis and T.H. Secretary Andrew Yatilman.

In Governor Chieng’s welcoming remarks, he conveyed his appreciation to the Vice President and delegation for the visit and emphasized the great responsibility they as leaders have as the stewards of the “biggest body of water on Earth” being “our home”. Vice President Palik shared his gratitude for the warm welcome and reiterated the Simina-Palik administration’s principle value of unity. He said he was there to “take this opportunity to sit down and listen”.

The candid discussions revolved around the process of accessing overseas development assistance or grants, how to resolve bottleneck issues in the drawdown process, considerations towards the Arngel Formula, potential implications of centralizing



Vice President Palik’s opening remarks highlighted three significant events that have a direct impact on the discussions that will transpire over the course of the conference: the nation being on the dawn of a newly amended Compact III which will extend the economic and financial provisions for the next 20 years, the recent amendments made to the FSM’s Constitution, and the fairly new administrations that exist not only in Palikir

administration but also throughout the states, providing opportunities to work together in pursuing shared goals ahead.

Vice President Palik encouraged active participation throughout the week and also posed to the audience some questions to consider during the conference. “What mistakes did we make in the last 20 years under Compact II; why does our economy remain stagnant and undeveloped? What can we do to improve our trade deficit? And what must we do to address those challenges? I encourage all of us to think about those questions in our deliberation and discussions during this conference.”

The week’s agenda is focused on taking stock of R&D’s key sectors, reporting back on progress based on the recommendations made in the last conference hosted in Chuuk, and creating a platform for the nation to discuss the challenges and opportunities that exist in the Trade & Investment, Statistics, Energy, Marine, Agriculture and Tourism sectors, as well as the FSM’s progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Representatives from the private sector, banking and several development partners are also in attendance, including SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community), Micronesia Conservation Trust, the Waitt Institute, Rutgers University, FSM Development Bank, and USAID.

By the end of the conference an outcome document will be produced, which will capture the key action items and recommendations that will guide the FSM’s path forward for its overall development.

infrastructure projects at the national government, balances owed to vendors in Yap by the national government and the distribution of Yap’s share of fishing fees. By the end of the meeting, Vice President Palik was able to confirm that Yap’s shares of fishing fees from July to December of last year were deposited to Yap State’s treasury. In regards to clearing previous unpaid balances owed by national government departments, the Vice President also shared that the Simina-Palik administration is currently undergoing its budget review exercise and that unpaid balances are an area of focus. The Vice President also shared that Congress recently passed legislation to appropriate funds to address Yap’s unpaid balances from previous fiscal years.

The meeting concluded on a high note with a renewed sense of cooperation and working together to solve the problems that affect the state of Yap and, ultimately, the nation.

Following the courtesy call on the leadership, Vice President Palik officially opened and kicked off the 3rd FSM Resources and Development Conference. The bi-annual conference brings together key actors in the resource management and development space from throughout the nation.

Lt. Governor Itimai’s said during his welcoming remarks, “Although separated by the largest body of water in the world, our sister states of the FSM, along with our National Government, have, for the last 30 plus years, strived to bridge the vast distances between us, by embracing the shared vision of achieving economic growth in Unity.”





PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

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

## Opportunities at the Forum

### The Pacific Islands Forum

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

### The Opportunities

Applications are invited to fill three vacant international positions at the Secretariat in Suva, supporting the interests of member countries. These positions will provide leadership, strategic advice and coordination across the organisation focussed on: 2050 Strategy implementation; climate and disaster risk finance at the national and regional levels; coordination of Forum's international advocacy and engagements; and build operational capacity of out information technology systems and equipment. The positions are as follows:

1. **Programme Adviser – Climate Mobility**
2. **Engagement Officer – Regional Governance and**
3. **System Analyst**

#### 1. Programme Adviser – Climate Mobility

The Programme Adviser – Climate Mobility role will support the finalisation of a rights-based regional framework on climate mobility in accordance with the mandate by the Pacific governments. It will also support Pacific governments by developing a toolbox to strengthen knowledge, awareness, understanding, coordination and capacity to manage climate mobility. The key responsibilities are:

- Technical support and coordination of climate change and disaster risk related mobility
- Peer learning and capacity building
- Applied research, political advocacy and policy advice
- Other related duties as required

#### 2. Engagement Officer – Regional Governance

The Engagement Officer – Regional Governance role will assist and support the Engagement Adviser – Regional Governance to ensure an effective and inclusive approach to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration with its members, and stakeholders across the region, inclusive of the CROP, subregional organisations, and civil society organisation stakeholders. The key responsibilities are summarised as:

- Coordination of Regional and Sub-Regional Stakeholder Relations
- Management of the Smaller Island States Portfolio
- Support Regional Policy Development Processes
- Organisational and meetings support.

#### 3. System Analyst

The System Analyst will be required to provide oversight, planning, monitoring, development, maintenance, and analysis of all applications, databases, software interfaces, web, and mobile applications, for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The key responsibilities are summarised as:

- Strategy & Planning; Acquisition & Deployment; Operational Management
- Project Management; Change Management; Incident/ Problem Management
- Application Administration; Continual Business Improvement; Enterprise Reporting
- Administrative Duties

#### The Package

The positions carry a competitive and attractive remuneration and benefits

package including medical and life insurance. The starting salary for the positions is as follows:

#### Programme Adviser – Climate Mobility

- The positions are placed at Band 12 / Adviser level of our salary scale
- Starting at SDR 44,447 to 50,002 equivalent to FJD 132,995 to 149,617.

#### Engagement Officer – Regional Governance

- The position is placed at Band 9 to 10 / Officer level of our salary scale
- Starting at SDR 28,325 to 31,958 equivalent to FJD 84,755 to 95,625.

#### System Analyst

- The position is placed at Band 9 / Officer level of our salary scale,
- Starting at SDR 28,325 to 31,866 equivalent to FJD84,755 to 95,350

#### How to apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through the PIFS website: [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org) where information packages containing the position descriptions and full remuneration details. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

To be eligible for these positions, applicants must be nationals of Forum member countries. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline for applications is **5pm, Friday 1 March 2024 (Fiji Time)**.

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

## Mayor of Pingelap, Hon. Smithy Clark, pays a courtesy call to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph

### Pohnpei Public Information

January 25, 2024

**Pohnpei**—The Mayor of Pingelap, Hon. Smithy Clark, made a courtesy call to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, marking the first municipal government visit to the Governor's office. During the meeting, Mayor Clark introduced Mr. Makio James, Acting Mayor Designate, who will represent the Mayor in his absence.

Mayor Clark shared insights into innovative coconut projects on Pingelap, where copra is being utilized for pig grower feed and ice pahr production to sell. These projects not only contribute to the local economy but also demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices on the island.

In the discussion, Mayor Clark pointed out some of the challenges facing Pingelap, particularly in the area of health services. However, he shared positive news about school infrastructure, noting that Pingelap's school infrastructure was recognized as the most improved last year.

Governor Joseph expressed his gratitude for Mayor Clark's visit, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and close cooperation with local governments. He commended the coconut projects as examples of sustainable development and innovation. The governor also conveyed his admiration for the efforts to improve school infrastructure, recognizing the impact it has on the community's well-being.



## Joint leadership meeting addresses implications of pending Compact of Free Association ratification

*Pohnpei Public Information*

January 26, 2024

**Pohnpei**—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, Lt. Governor Francisco L. Ioanis, and Ms. Christina Elnei, Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration, spearheaded a joint leadership meeting with the 11th Pohnpei Legislature to address the critical issue of cash flow affecting government operations due to the delayed ratification of the Compact of Free Association by the U.S. Congress.

Governor Joseph led the discussions, emphasizing the challenges posed by the prolonged uncertainty surrounding the ratification of the Compact. He highlighted the recent visit by a delegation from the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning (JCRP), noting that, while unable to provide a clear timeline, the delegation expressed confidence that ratification

would occur soon.

Discussions among Senators, Governor Joseph, and Lt. Governor Ioanis covered several topics, including the formulation of an action plan, the imperative need for proactive measures, the development of contingency plans, and a unified response to mitigate potential challenges arising from the still delayed Compact ratification.

Governor Joseph conveyed the government's commitment to transparency and active engagement, assuring the public that leaders are actively working towards a resolution. The leaders acknowledged the importance of unity and collaboration in navigating these uncertainties, and they expressed their dedication to ensuring the stability and well-being of Pohnpei amidst the challenges posed by the Compact's delayed ratification.



## Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) expands water distribution network to address community needs

*Pohnpei Public Information*

January 30, 2024

**Pohnpei**—In response to the ongoing water supply challenges faced by various communities, the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) is pleased to announce significant updates in its response to the current emergency declaration due to water scarcity and dry weather conditions. Several new filling stations have been established

and are now operational, ensuring that residents have access to reliable water sources during this critical time.

The following filling stations are now ready to serve the public:  
 Upper PICS  
 Ukhahlek Well at Palikir  
 Public Market – Serving Sapwitik, Lengar, Parem, and local fishermen.  
 Lukop Well  
 Wapar Well

## Groundbreaking ceremony marks the commencement of Saladak gymnasium construction

*Pohnpei Public Information*

January 31, 2024

**Saladak, U**—A groundbreaking ceremony was held today in Saladak, U, to commemorate the initiation of the construction of the Saladak Gymnasium.

The Saladak Gymnasium project is made possible through the generous contributions of multiple donors. The Government of Japan pledged \$252,000, the FSM Congress allocated \$100,000, and the Pohnpei State Legislature contributed \$18,638.00 towards the construction. J&P Construction Company has been selected as the construction contractor for the new gym.

Chief Minister of U, Hon. Rofino Primo, welcomed the attendees with remarks expressing gratitude to the donors and recognition of the important role the gymnasium will play in the community. Mr. Stanley Etse, speaking on behalf of Acting Governor Francisco L. Ioanis, extended appreciation to the donors and acknowledged the support from the U traditional and municipal leadership. He said that the gymnasium would benefit not only the youth of U but all residents, saying that Kitti remains the only municipal area in Pohnpei without a community



gymnasium.

Wasalalalap Iso Sangohro added a touch of dignity to the occasion with his remarks, expressing support and cooperation for the construction of the gymnasium.

Attending the event were esteemed dignitaries, including Mr. Stanley Etse, Director of Education who represented Acting Governor Ioanis, U Chief Minister Hon. Rofino Primo represented the U Municipal Government, and Hon. Esmond B. Moses, Speaker of the 23rd Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Notable figures such as Wasalalalap Iso Sangohro Nahmwarki of U, along with Likend Pah U, graced the occasion.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Mr. Peteriko Hairens, Pohnpei State Public Affairs Officer.

Nan U water spigot – Providing water to residents from Depehk and Takaiu.  
 Kipar U Souna – Catering to the water needs of Mwand residents.  
 Pohnrakied Village – Ready for water distribution.

Residents utilizing the filling stations are urged to boil water before consumption to ensure its safety.

## Meninkeder Lapalap and Madolenihmw delegation pays courtesy call on Acting Governor Ioanis

### Pohnpei Public Information

January 30, 2024

**Pohnpei**—Meninkeder Lapalap Hon. Kiomy Albert, Speaker Hon. Wetsin Pelep, Chief Justice Hon. Jackson Luke, members of the Madolenihmw council, and employees of the Madolenihmw Municipal Government recently paid a courtesy call on the Acting Governor Francisco L. Ioanis.

During the meeting, Acting Governor Ioanis conveyed the regrettable absence of Governor Joseph, who is currently in Yap for an economic summit and is expected to return next week. Despite the absence of Governor Joseph, the Meninkeder Lapalap and her delegation engaged in meaningful discussions on various important topics that impact the Madolenihmw Municipality.

One of the key subjects brought forth was the matter of revenue sharing. Acting Governor Ioanis, along with Mr. Anthony Dainard from the Budget Office and Ms. Christina Elnei, Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration, assured the delegation that the 30 percent revenue allocated

by law to the Municipal Governments is forthcoming. The release of funds is pending the required audits and has already been included in the upcoming budget.

Additionally, the Meninkeder Lapalap and her delegation raised concerns about the establishment of a recycling center in Madolenihmw. In response, Acting Governor Ioanis pledged to collaborate with the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to explore viable solutions and streamline recycling initiatives in the municipality. The commitment to environmental sustainability and waste management was emphasized as a shared goal between the Madolenihmw Municipal Government and the Pohnpei State Government.

During the discussions, Acting Governor Ioanis provided updates on the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation's (PUC)



response efforts in light of the currently amended emergency declaration. He emphasized the corporation's proactive measures, highlighting the availability of both wells and water tanks to meet the water needs of municipal governments, including Madolenihmw. This strategic approach aims to ensure a reliable and sufficient water supply during emergencies.

The delegation also brought up the subject of a possible dump site in Madolenihmw. Acknowledging the significance of proper waste

management, Acting Governor Ioanis expressed the need for collaborative efforts and further research to identify suitable locations and implement effective waste disposal strategies.

Lastly, Acting Governor Ioanis touched upon the concerns raised by Governor Joseph regarding the yet-to-be-ratified Compact of Free Association with the USA.

He shared insights into the ongoing discussions and the hopeful outlook for the ratification process, echoing the sentiments of the Joint Committee on Committee Review and Planning (JCRP) that ratification is anticipated shortly.

The courtesy call served as a platform for open dialogue, collaboration, and a reaffirmation of the strong ties between the Madolenihmw Municipal Government and the Pohnpei State Government.

## UN Resident Coordinator Jaap Van Hierden extends congratulations and updates to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph

### Pohnpei Public Information

January 25, 2024

**Pohnpei**—UN Resident Coordinator Jaap Van Hierden, along with Ms. Kay Schwendinger, Head of Office, and Ms. Mary Ann Eperiam, Partnerships Officer, paid a courtesy call on Governor Stevenson A. Joseph. During the visit, Mr. Van Hierden extended his congratulations to Governor Joseph and expressed appreciation for the support of the One UN Micronesia House at the Pohnpei Botanical Gardens.

Mr. Van Hierden provided updates on the project, mentioning potential design changes while assuring that the overall Micronesian design principle would remain intact. He also shared plans for charging stations at the new

office location, aiming to stimulate interest in electric-powered vehicles.

Highlighting the significant contributions of UN agencies in Pohnpei, Mr. Van Hierden noted the presence of 12 UN organizations already involved in various sectors, including water, migration, health, education, and youth. With the addition of the One UN Micronesia House, the number of agencies in Pohnpei is expected to increase to 18.

Governor Joseph expressed gratitude for the visit and the updates, assuring Mr. Van Hierden of Pohnpei's ongoing support for the One UN Micronesia House project. He also noted that while concessionary requests could

be expected, the construction's full support remains, recognizing the economic benefits the project will

bring to Pohnpei for the greater overall benefit of the state.



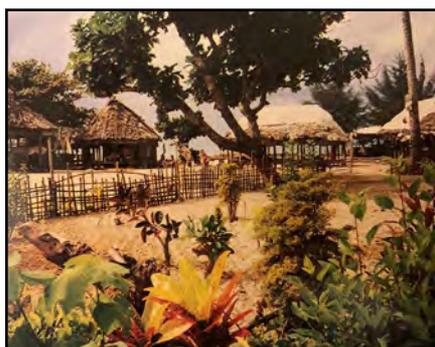
# Opinion Editorial

## Fire, floods, drought: over two decades of navigating through climate challenges in the Pacific

**KEVIN PETRINI**  
Deputy Resident Representative,  
UNDP Pacific Office in the  
Federated States of Micronesia

Pohnpei, FSM – In November 1998, I arrived in the Pacific for the first time to the island of Samoa. I was a young man just out of college with my Master’s degree studying environmental science with particular focus on the atmosphere. At the time, I learned about air quality, ozone depletion and other related issues, but the reality of these issues were still theoretical.

It happens that in November 1998, the planet was in the middle of a strong El Nino, and what shocked me most upon my arrival was that the lush rainforest was on fire. How could that be? Smoke in the air, blackened rainforest and the crunch of dry leaves underfoot. This is where I learned the reality of El Nino



Village in Samoa in 1998. Photo by Kevin Petrini.

and over the coming years working in the Pacific, the insidious impacts of climate change.

Fast forward to January 2024, I have had the privilege of living in Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) since 2021. Another lush island in the Pacific that is in the middle of another El Nino event.



Rehabilitated deep well and water tanker in Chuuk State, FSM. Photo by CPUC

Whereas we don’t have any forest fires here, Pohnpei State has declared an emergency because of the persistent dry conditions and the associated water stress and limitations have been put on water usage.

The impacts were quickly apparent, when schools turned to half days and water at the office going on and off as well as at our staffs’ homes. But it is the outer islands, with limited



Installation of the first flatpack modular tank in Enebuuj, the RMI. Photo by UNDP

water catchments that are facing the brunt of this issue through health and agricultural related impacts. On top of this massive swells overtopped some low-lying islands and compounded the issue. The intersectionality of disasters is all too common in the Pacific.

It does concern me that it is expected that the El Nino will persist through

*Continued on next page*



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

### UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - JOB DESCRIPTION

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the knowledge frontier organization for sustainable development in the UN Development System and serves as the integrator for collective action to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. This position is located at the UNDP Pacific sub-office in Pohnpei State in the Federated States of Micronesia which was established in October 2021. This office is set up to serve the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The office will work to deliver the UNDP multi-country programme document (MCPD, 2023-2027) in these five countries.

UNDP in the Pacific has developed its MCPD, 2023-2027 to guide its interventions in the next five years in full alignment and directly to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development

Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, 2023–27). The UNSDCF and UNDP MCPD are designed in full alignment with the 2030 agenda, Samoa Pathway, and 2050 Blue Content Strategy, which is endorsed by the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) among others.

The UNDP Pacific Office next five-year plan strategic priorities are encapsulated under three outcome areas: (i) Planet, (ii) Prosperity, and (iii) Peace. The programme portfolio will include mutually reinforcing work streams crafted around two clusters (i) Resilience and Climate Change; and ii) Inclusive growth and Effective governance, supported by a policy and innovation team, Operations team, Management and Oversight team that provides strategic guidance on results Management and compliance entrusted with the corporate alignment, programme finance management and quality assurance, and strategic communications team that provides knowledge management and communication support to all programme interventions.

**Job Vacancies: Deadline for all applications is 12 February 2024, 11:59 PM, Pohnpei time. Please call 3204456 for more information**

**Job Title:** Driver  
**Department:** Operations  
**Reports to:** Operations and Travel Associate  
**Grade Level:** NPSA3  
**Salary Range:** \$1,158 – \$1,254 Monthly

**Position Number:**  
**Duty Station:** Pohnpei, FSM  
**Career Track:** General Service  
**Contract Modality:** Regular PSA National  
**Link to advertisement:** [www.undp.org/pacific/jobs](http://www.undp.org/pacific/jobs)

# Op-Ed

Continued from previous page

March and possibly through June not only here in Pohnpei but across the North Pacific in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau and FSM.

My mind turns to how we, as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), can support these affected communities. This starts by looking at our work across the North Pacific that is currently helping the people related to water security and resilience.

In the RMI, we have a transformative Green Climate Fund project that is working to bring water security to nearly 100 percent of the outer islands, which is over 35 percent of the population of the RMI. This project ensures that each person has at least 20 liters of drinking water per day, even if no rain falls for four months. The science behind this project fascinates me as this underpins the sizing of tanks. We are very proud to

be serving the RMI with this project. In the FSM, over the past two years, we have supported water security through drilling wells in Yap and Pohnpei states as well as having provided a water truck in Chuuk. These small interventions all translate to people being provided with access to water, even with the current drought.

Moving forward, UNDP stands ready to support communities affected by drought and link this back to the long-term goal of water resilience in the face of climate change, which will only exacerbate these events further.

It is important that everyone takes action to conserve the limited water resources during this time, but also for Governments and development partners to work together to support impacted populations.

Finally, climate science and collection of scientific data is critical, because based on this information, early action can be taken by decision-makers to reduce the worst of the impacts.

## Senator Shelten G. Neth, Chairman of Health Committee, pays courtesy call to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph

Pohnpei Public Information

January 25, 2024  
Pohnpei--Senator Shelten Neth, representing Madolenihmw and currently serving as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health at the 11th Pohnpei Legislature, paid a courtesy call on Governor Stevenson A. Joseph. Senator Neth, a former colleague of Governor Joseph in the 10th Pohnpei Legislature, visited to extend congratulations and discuss important matters.



During the visit, Senator Neth shared information about an actuarial study conducted in the last administration in preparation for establishing the Pohnpei Health Care Plan. Governor Joseph warmly received this update and engaged in discussions with Senator Neth. The courtesy call was an opportunity for the two leaders to reconnect, exchange insights, and strengthen collaboration on healthcare initiatives for the benefit of the people of Pohnpei.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) Professional Consulting Services for the

"Construction Management for the Construction of four schools, one each in the Mortlocks and Northwest Regions, and two on the lagoon islands in Chuuk. FSM"

#### NOTICE

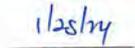
The Project Management Office, Chuuk State Government, Federated States of Micronesia is hereby soliciting Statements of Professional qualifications from interested entities for the purpose of implementing the Construction Management Services for the Construction of four schools, one each in the Mortlocks and Northwest region and two in the lagoon islands, Chuuk, FSM. Work will be funded by Infrastructure Sector Grants under the Amended Compact of Free Association between the United States and FSM.

The duration of the consulting services is 24 calendar months starting from the date of Notice to Proceed issued to the selected consultant.

Further details of this RFQ may be obtained by submitting a written letter of interest to Sanjata Basu, Project Manager, PMO, P.O. Box 1659 Weno, Chuuk, FM 96942 or at email chuukpmo@gmail.com with th subject heading: "Statement of Qualifications for the Construction Management Service or Construction of (Specify name/s of school/s), Chuuk, FSM 96942".

The RFQ may also be directly obtained from DTC&I's website [www.tci.gov.fm](http://www.tci.gov.fm). in order to be considered, Statements of Professional Proposal and qualifications must be submitted to the above contact address no late than 4:00 pm Chuuk time, Monday, February 26, 2024.

  
Alexander R. Narruhn AIF®  
Governor and Contracting Officer  
Chuuk State

  
Date

## PUC recommissions well



In responding to the amended Emergency Declaration 2024-01, PUC Team is reactivating Palikir Well No. 8 with a 15 HP submersible pump. Pump Depth 240 ft below ground level."

## TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN MICRONESIA

GREE ELECTRIC APPLIANCES, INC. OF ZHUHAI of Jinji West Road, Qianshan Zhuhai, Guangdong, China, does hereby provide notice that it claims proprietorship of the trade mark

# GREE

in relation to:

Compressors [machines]; compressors for refrigerators; air condensers; presses; moulding machines; electronic industry equipment; machines and machine tools; electric motors; valves (parts of machines); filtering machines; filters (parts of machines or engines); filters for cleaning cooling air (for engines); pouring plastic machine; conveyors (machines); belts for machines; wrapping machines; packaging machines; electric blenders for household purposes; washing machines; wringing machines for laundry; drying machines; spray-paint machines; spraying guns for paint; printing machines; machines and apparatus for cleaning [electric]; curtain drawing devices electrically operated; ironing machines; sewing machines; mechanical devices for bicycle industry; crushing machines; dyeing machines; sizing machines; vacuum cleaners; household bean juice maker; beverage preparation machines electromechanical; electric portable drills (excluding electric coal borer); electromagnetic clutches other than for land vehicles; sealing joints [parts of machines]; yogurt making machines; bread making machines; electric motors other than for land vehicles; metal working machines; spraying machines; crushing machines; electric grinders/crushers for household purposes; electric kitchen machines.

Capacitors; diskettes; magnetic heads to be used with diskettes; radios; tape recorders; acoustic apparatus; loudspeakers; amusement apparatus adapted for use with an external display screen or monitor; amusement apparatus adapted for use with television receivers only; wide screen colour displays; electrolyzers; resistances electric; integrated circuits; computers; data processing apparatus; computer programs, recorded; telephone apparatus; transmitters of electronic signals; electro-dynamic apparatus for the remote control of signals; antennas; cameras [photography]; record players; counterfeit [false] coin detectors; alarm bells, electric; flat irons, electric; copper wire, insulated; enamelled wires; materials for electricity mains, namely wires and cables; electric wires; electric cables; apparatus for games adapted for use with an external display screen or monitor; surveying instruments; photocopiers [photographic, electrostatic, thermic]; plugs, sockets and other contacts [electric connections]; magnetic disks; amplifiers; electronic pens [visual display units]; computer software [recorded]; phonograph records; batteries for lighting; magnetic wires; electric temperature sensors; electric temperature indicators; electric wire clusters; wire bundles (parts of electric motors).

Air conditioning installations; ventilation [air-conditioning] installations and apparatus; air re-heaters; radiators, electric; heat accumulators; laundry dryers, electric; fans [air-conditioning]; air dehumidifiers; air purifying apparatus and machines; cooking apparatus and installations; extractor hoods for kitchen use; coal gas water heaters; electric water heaters; electromagnetic oven; cooking utensils, electric; electric drinking water dispensers; electric kettles; air humidifiers; electric pressure cookers [autoclaves]; air conditioners for vehicles; fans (parts or air conditioning installations); filters for air conditioning; heater for vehicles; air dryers; air sterilizers; electric hair dryers; evaporators; sterilizers; dish sterilizing cupboard; heat exchangers [not parts of machines]; exhaust fans; solar energy water heaters; electric iron pans; heaters for baths; gas burners; air refreshers; refrigerators; microwave ovens [cooking apparatus]; water purification installations; dish washers; egg boilers; electric appliances for making yogurt; steam facial apparatus [saunas]; bread toasters; electric coffee machines; electric foot washers; bakers' ovens; electric slow-cookers.

Paper; copying paper (stationery); hygienic paper; towels of paper; advertisement boards of paper or cardboard; note books; newspaper; pictures; packing paper; bookbinding apparatus (office equipment); office requisites, except furniture; prepared Chinese ink; stamps (seals); writing instruments; gums [adhesives] for stationery or household purposes; drawing instruments; drawing materials; typewriters [electric or non-electric]; teaching materials except apparatus; architects' models; chaplets.

Advertising services for others; import-export agencies; promoting sales of products or services for others; systemization of information into computer databases; preparation and/or co-ordination of bids on behalf of others in tender processes; professional business consultancy; advisory services for business management; marketing analysis for others; personnel management consultancy; accounting; commercial and industrial management assistance; auditing.

Air conditioning apparatus installation and repair; upholstering services; heating equipment installation and repair; machinery installation, maintenance and repair; electric appliances installation and repair; freezing equipment installation and repair; computer hardware installation, maintenance and repair; office machines and equipment installation, maintenance and repair; eliminating interference in electrical apparatus; cleaning clothes for others.

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