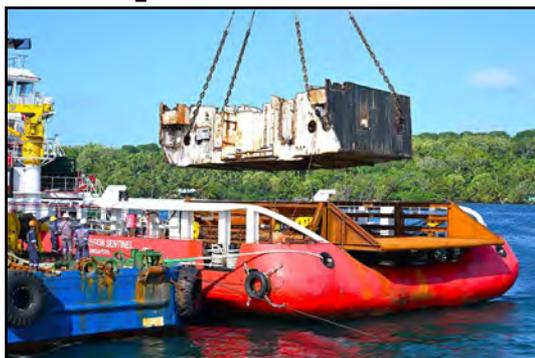


CTG 73.6 divers complete Micro Spirit removal in Yap as part of Pacific Partnership 2025

By Petty Officer 2nd Class
Moises Sandoval
Commander, Logistics Group
Western Pacific

May 14, 2025

Yap--Commander, Task Group 73.6 (CTG 73.6), U.S. 7th Fleet's deployed salvage force, successfully completed the wreck-in-place and the at-sea disposal of an abandoned derelict vessel (ADV) in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), as part of Pacific Partnership 25, May 14, 2025.



The U.S. Navy divers from CTG 73.6, collaborated with multiple agencies; including the Navy's Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV), SMIT Salvage, Singapore Salvage Engineering (SSE), Center Lift, FSM U.S. Embassy office, and Yap local agencies to remove the MV Micro Spirit. The team installed roller bags to relocate the wreck and employed a salvage chisel to conduct wreck-in-place operations into smaller sections for disposal. The sections were then transported

to an at-sea designated disposal site approved by the Yap State government for its final resting place.

Micro Spirit was one of six Japanese-built cargo vessels procured by the FSM

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

FSM Supreme Court voids Mwarike's claim to Moch Mayorship; Umwech sworn In

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 9, 2025

Weno, Chuuk—The FSM Supreme Court has ruled that Istaro Mwarike was not lawfully sworn in as mayor of Moch following the 2024 municipal

election, and on the strength of that decision, his challenger, Patricio Umwech, has now been officially sworn into office.

Associate Justice Larry Wentworth of the FSM Supreme Court, sitting in the Trial Division for Chuuk State,

issued a Declaratory Judgment and accompanying Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on May 27, 2025, in a case brought by Umwech against Mwarike, the Moch Municipality, and the Chuuk State Government. The court found that Umwech's rights to due process and to lawfully pursue

an election contest were violated, and it invalidated Mwarike's December 16, 2024 swearing-in.

Following that ruling, Associate Justice Kenio Waliby officially

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

**Ramp & Mida
Law Firm**

<https://rampmida.fm>

CIC
Century Insurance Co., Ltd.
A Tan Holdings Company

by OIC Insurance Agency
www.oicmicronesia.fm



the Village Travel

Serving the Islands and abroad since 1980!

Providing your domestic and international flight arrangements

Call us now for your next trip

Tel: (691) 320-2777
921-2777

Fax: (691) 320-5375

email: villagetravel@mail.fm
Villagetravel2@gmail.com

P.O Box 339
Pohnpei, FM 96941

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Japan and FSM maritime law enforcement conduct joint training exercises in Pohnpei



Japan Maritime Defense Services

May 26, 2025

Pohnpei—From May 20-23, the IPD25 Dispatch Entry Inspection Unit conducted joint training with the Micronesian Maritime Police in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Through training, we strengthened cooperation in marine security between our two countries and built trust between troopers.

From May 20 to 23, the IPD25 Boarding Inspection Team conducted a bilateral exercise with the Maritime

Wing, Federated States of Micronesia National Police.

We strengthened cooperation on maritime security and built trust among our personnel.



The Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

P.O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941

phone:(691) 320-6547

email: Kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:**

June 25, 2025

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

Monday, June 23, 2025

President Simina completes working visit to Yap State and its outer islands



FSM Information Services

May 29, 2025

Yap, FSM—His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Madame First Lady Ancelly Simina along with their delegation have concluded a working visit to Yap State and its outer islands, reaffirming the National Government’s commitment to unity, inclusive development, and strengthened service delivery across all corners of the nation.

Upon arrival in Yap on May 20, President Simina paid a courtesy call on the Yap State leadership, where he was warmly received by the state’s executive, legislative, and traditional leaders. In his remarks, the President expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage directly with Yap’s leaders, and reaffirmed the importance of intergovernmental cooperation. “It is always a privilege to return to Yap and to be among the pillars of leadership who serve our people with dedication,” he said.

During the meeting, President Simina provided key updates on national developments, including the recent completion of the FSM National Convention Center in Palikir, ongoing implementation of the Amended Compact of Free Association, and advocacy efforts for FSM veterans. He also acknowledged challenges posed by recent U.S. funding cuts and provided updates on the working group he’s established to address these issues. The President also reiterated national support for Yap in addressing the legal and technical



demands surrounding the Department of Defense (DoD) project in the state.



A highlight of the Yap leg of the visit was the official handover of a state-of-the-art X-ray scanning machine at the Yap International Airport. In a ceremony attended by traditional leaders, members of the 11th Yap State Legislature, and Mr. Tapan Mishra, UN Resident Coordinator to the FSM, President Simina emphasized the importance of the equipment for border security and environmental protection. “This equipment represents an important step forward in our shared commitment to protecting our ports of entry,” he stated. The scanner, acquired through the GEF-6 FSM Invasive Alien Species Project with support from UNDP, will aid in detecting prohibited goods, harmful pests, and invasive species while also improving customs efficiency and trade facilitation.

“This milestone reflects not only national government commitment but also the power of strong partnerships,” the President added, thanking Mr. Mishra and the broader UN system for their continued support.

Following his engagements in Colonia, President Simina embarked aboard the FSS Bethwel Henry for the outer islands of Ulithi and Woleai. His visit was part of the Simina-Palik Administration’s “KAMORALE” agenda of building national unity and inclusion—ensuring that the voices and needs of even the most remote communities are heard and addressed.

In Ulithi, President Simina celebrated the graduation of the Outer Islands High School and in his address encouraged the Class of 2025 to rise above adversity, remain rooted in their cultural identity, and serve their communities with pride and determination.

The President’s next stop was Woleai, where he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Woleai Airstrip Rehabilitation Project—a long-awaited investment project funded by the FSM Congress to restore air connectivity and improve transportation access for the atoll.

In Woleai, the President delivered the keynote address at the Neighboring Islands Central High School graduation. Echoing the ceremony’s theme, “The moment of our struggles defines who we are, how we handle it is what matters”, President Simina shared reflections on his own upbringing in the Mortlocks and encouraged students to lead with resilience, humility, and purpose. He urged them to: set goals while remaining flexible, commit to lifelong learning, stay connected to their communities, and uplift others.

Throughout his journey, President Simina visited with local communities, spent time with elders, and paid his respects to traditional leaders—emphasizing the National Government’s recognition of the outer islands as fundamental to the nation’s identity and future.

The Office of the President extends is heartfelt gratitude to the students, community and people of Yap, particularly of Ulithi and Woleai for their warm generosity.

... Micro Spirit

Continued from front page

government under a Japanese grant aid scheme between 1976 and 1978. The vessels were used by FSM to ferry passengers and cargo between the outer islands of the country. It is estimated that the vessel had been abandoned in place for over 10 years exposed to the elements. Micro Spirit developed severe structural problems – including an 11-degree starboard list and active seal leaks until it deteriorated beyond repair becoming an environmental and safety hazard.

“The Micro Spirit’s disposal addresses significant environmental and safety concerns posed by the vessel’s presence in Colonia Harbor.” said Senior Chief Navy Diver Melissa Nguyen-Alarcon, Master Diver assigned to CTG 73.6. “Simultaneously, our divers were able to learn invaluable knowledge from their commercial counterparts from SMIT Salvage, SSE and Center Lift.”

CTG 73.6 divers and personnel from SMIT Salvage and SSE worked together to remove hazardous materials including oil, lubricants, and large quantities of garbage and debris. Their efforts ensured that Micro Spirit was environmentally ready for disposal.

“Over the years, the Micro Spirit accumulated substantial amount of debris and was cluttering the shores of Yap,” said Lt. Erik Jorde, Officer-in-Charge assigned to CTG 73.6. “Our team collaborated with SSE, SMIT, Center Lift and with local Yapese government agencies to successfully remove the vessel. This is a crucial step for the upcoming MILCON projects.”

Micro Spirit was ultimately disposed at a pre-designated site, approved by the Yap Governor’s office, located approximately 11 nautical miles northwest of Yap.

The removal of Micro Spirit contributed to the strong relationships and enduring trust between the United States and the FSM.

“This mission has allowed CTG 73.6 to further develop their collective expertise and experience,” said LT Kahra Kelty, Acting U.S. 7th Fleet Salvage Officer. “As the designated Executive Agent for salvage and diving operations at CTF-73, it is our responsibility to continually enhance our organic capabilities while also strengthening our relationships with our partners in FSM.”

CTG 73.6 is currently deployed to Yap, FSM. Renowned as the U.S. Seventh Fleet’s premier maritime emergency response and salvage force, CTG 73.6 exemplifies the U.S. Navy’s commitment to aiding communities in need and providing swift assistance during times of crisis. They will be removing a total of two ADVs while deployed in Yap.



... Umwech

Continued from front page

administered the oath of office to Patricio Umwech last week, formalizing his position as the duly installed mayor of Moch Municipality.

Disputed Election and Revote

The dispute arose after the November 12, 2024 Moch municipal election, in which incumbent Mayor Mwarike received 213 votes to Umwech’s 200, according to unofficial results. Umwech filed a formal election contest on November 19, citing irregularities at the Weno polling site, including campaigning at the polling place and the use of an unauthorized poll worker.

De facto Election Commissioner Charles Sinem, who had long overseen Moch elections and continued in the role without formal reappointment, investigated the claims and ordered a revote for Weno-based voters on December 17. That revote, conducted with the support of the Chuuk State Election Commission, resulted in a win for Umwech. Mwarike did not appeal either the revote order or its results.

Instead, Mwarike issued a certificate of election dated December 5, 2024, and was sworn in early, on December 16, using the document signed by a newly appointed but unconfirmed election commissioner—his nephew, Adson Smith.

Court Findings

In its ruling, the court concluded that:

- Mwarike’s swearing-in was premature and legally invalid.
- The certificate of election on which it was based was not valid as it lacked legal standing.
- The December 17 revote ordered by de facto Election Commissioner Sinem was lawful and binding, having never been appealed or reversed.
- Umwech’s rights were violated when the revote was obstructed or ignored by municipal and state officials.

According to the Declaratory Judgment, the court enjoined the defendants from recognizing the December 16 swearing-in of Mwarike and ordered them to give legal effect to the December 18 certification declaring Umwech the winner of the mayoral race.

Moving Forward

With the FSM Supreme Court’s ruling now implemented, and Umwech officially sworn into office, Moch Municipality transitions into new leadership under court-backed legitimacy.

Neither Mwarike nor his legal representatives have publicly commented on the ruling or the subsequent swearing-in of Umwech.

The Law Offices of Salomon M. Saimon, P.C. represented Umwech. Saimon says that he will now petition the court for settlement of damages including his legal fees.



New Zealand North Pacific Development Fund Open Now!

New Zealand’s North Pacific Development Fund (NPDF) offers up to NZ\$75,000 (approximately US\$45,000) to support small scale, short-term projects and activities within the Federated States of Micronesia.

The NPDF supports local communities and organisations to complete projects that contribute to wider community well-being, reduce poverty and/or potentially change lives. Priority is given to projects that can be delivered within a one-year timeframe, align with New Zealand and the Federated States of Micronesia’s shared values, and include a contribution of local resource and/or labour.

The New Zealand Embassy is now welcoming new NPDF applications for 2025/26. If you are an individual, civil society group, NGO or local government, and have an appropriate project, with the right skills and experience to manage it, please scan the QR Code or email hluenquiries@mfat.govt.nz



Australia helping to enhance cyber resilience in the FSM

Australian Embassy to the FSM

June 2, 2025

FSM—Ambassador Jenny Grant-Curnow welcomed representatives from the FSM national and state government, NGOs and the private sector to an important week-long cyber training session, facilitated by trainers from the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC).

The training focused on identifying and mitigating cyber threats and responding to cyber-attacks. Attendees undertook hands on practical cyber exercises and cyber incident responses.

In making this training possible, we acknowledge the leadership of Justice Secretary Leonito Bacalando Jr. and Transport, Communications and Infrastructure Secretary Carl Apis and as well as AS Cyber, Minoru Stephen and AS Telecommunications, Edi Albert.

As part of this ongoing partnership, the Australian Embassy and the ACSC plan to hold further training on an annual basis, which is vital to ensuring a secure digital environment in the FSM. Australia looks forward to continuing to work with the FSM government to build a safe and secure digital network



CONNECT WITH US!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FSMTC

www.fsmtc.fm



@FSM Telecommunications Corp.



@fsm_telecom



customerservice@fsmtc.fm



691-320-2740



Kaselehlie Street P.O. Box 1210
Kolonja Pohnpei FM 96941

New Zealand supports sustainable fishing in Pohnpei

The Nature Conservancy

June 6, 2025

Pohnpei—A successful international partnership has developed a small-scale pelagic fishery in Pohnpei that aims to support food security and economic opportunity for small-scale fishers. This has been an ongoing effort led by the Pohnpei Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA), with support from the Pacific Community (SPC), the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC), thanks to funding from the New Zealand Government’s North Pacific Development Fund.

The project has deployed a coastal FAD network and introduced echosounder buoy technology to help fishers make informed cost-effective fishing decisions. This website now provides local fishers with real-time access to the FADs location and tuna biomass estimates, <https://buoysmanager.satlink.es/MicronesiaAnchorFADs>. The members of Pohnpei’s fishing community were also provided with training to fish in the new FAD network during a 3-day hands on training in mid water FAD fishing methods in September 2024.

When we asked the OFA FAD Coordinator Clay Hedson about the project he said “New Zealand have helped us build and improve our fishing ground and fishing skills to a higher level. We now have the opportunity to have FADs and it’s been exciting. We thank you New Zealand for this great opportunity”.

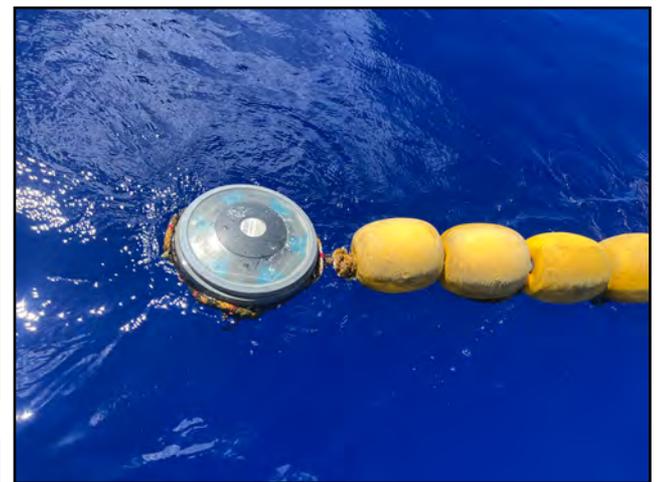
Jorg Anson, the Administrator of the

OFA stated that “the multi-entity partnership through the support of the North Pacific Development Fund has yielded great results as Pohnpei State moves towards providing alternative fishing methods, such as FAD fishing, for local communities.”

Alex Filous, the Director of Sustainable Fisheries for TNC in Micronesia and Polynesia stated that “it was amazing to see fisheries from across Pohnpei come together to make this project happen and realize their ambition of a coastal FAD network. A big thanks to OFA and the SPC for supporting these communities with their FAD building and deployment knowledge. Thank you to New Zealand for investing into this fishery for the people of Pohnpei. We now have a blueprint and are looking at ways to implement this across FSM.”

Donald David, FAD and Sea Safety Officer for SPC at Micronesia Regional Office pointed out that “with the funding assistance from New Zealand contributed a lot to Pohnpei States Fisheries FAD program with the inception of using technology (beacon) on the FAD that enable local community fishers in improving their daily fishing plans based on data. This project assisted the program in the improvement of community engagement which made a huge impact on the lifespan of these anchored community FAD’s. A great thanks to TNC for allowing SPC as one of their counterparts in this great and successful work.”

New Zealand Ambassador Mike Ketchen said “I am pleased the project has been such a success for Pohnpei’s fishing community. Our North Pacific Development Fund is designed to support these small-scale community projects and we are always on the lookout for new applications.” For more information on New Zealand’s North Pacific Development Fund please email HLUenquiries@mfat.govt.nz.





College of Micronesia-FSM

Yap | Chuuk | Pohnpei | Kosrae

Follow us online:



Hydroponics Systems Taking Root in Schools Across FSM

As part of our ongoing commitment to youth empowerment and sustainable agriculture, the Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) is proud to announce the installation of new hydroponic systems at key youth-focused institutions across the FSM!

- Madolenihmw High School (MHS)
- Nanpei Memorial High School (NMHS) in Pohnpei
- Xavier High School in Chuuk
- Yap Fitness Center in Yap

These systems are being established to support hands-on learning in climate-smart farming, with the goal of preparing students for the upcoming academic year. Schools in Chuuk and Yap have already started growing crops, and

students are gaining practical skills in sustainable food production. This project is part of our Youth and Families Program, which aims to build life and livelihood skills among young people and promote family involvement in productive activities. It also supports our Marketing and Exports Program, helping youth understand value chains, market standards, and how local produce can become a viable income source. We're not just growing crops—we're growing knowledge, confidence, and opportunity!

Stay tuned as these systems become active learning hubs in the next school year and continue to inspire the next generation of agripreneurs.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

System Specialist I (Hardware Support) (Pohnpei)

The Hardware Support Specialist is responsible for maintaining, troubleshooting, and repairing computer hardware, peripherals, and network-related equipment to ensure optimal performance and reliability. This position will provide technical support to faculty, staff, and students, assisting with installations, upgrades, and hardware-related issues across all COM-FSM campuses.

Aquaculture Extension Agent I (Kosrae)

Under the general direction of the CRE Coordinator, the incumbent is responsible for the Aquaculture Extension Program in each state in coordination with other aquaculture agents. The incumbent plans, organizes and conducts aquaculture workshops, meetings and demonstrations in the villages.

Institutional Researcher I (Pohnpei)

The Institutional Researcher plays a vital role in supporting a culture of evidence-based planning, continuous improvement, and informed decision-making across the College of Micronesia-FSM. The Researcher is responsible for the collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data related to the College's academic programs, student outcomes, institutional effectiveness, and strategic goals.



FSM-Fisheries and Maritime Institute

CONTACT US:
 Phone: (691) 350 5244
 E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.fm

DONATE TODAY!

COM-FSM ENDOWMENT FUND

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Office
 691-320-3831



National Campus
 P.O. Box 159
 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Phone: (691)320-2480
 Fax: (691)320-2479
 E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
 P.O. Box 879
 Chuuk, FM 96942
 Phone: (691)330-2689
 Fax: (691)330-2740
 E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm

FSM-FMI
 P.O. Box 1056
 Colonia Yap, FM 96943
 Phone: (691)350-5244
 Fax: (691)350-5245
 E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.fm

Kosrae Campus
 P.O. Box 37
 Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944
 Phone: (691)370-3191
 Fax: (691)370-3193
 E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm

CTEC Campus
 P.O. Box 614
 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Phone: (691)320-3795
 Fax: (691)320-3799
 E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm

Yap Campus
 P.O. Box 286
 Colonia Yap, FM 96943
 Phone: (691)350-2296/5149
 Fax: (691)350-5150
 E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm

Governor Joseph attends Nanpei Memorial High School graduation ceremony

Pohnpei Public Information

May 29, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Honorable Governor Stevenson A. Joseph joined the proud graduating class of Nanpei Memorial High School on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at the College of Micronesia-FSM China Friendship Gymnasium in Palikir. The ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of 81 graduates as they marked a significant milestone in their academic journeys.

Governor Joseph was honored to deliver remarks alongside keynote speaker Mr. Kimsky Kubo, who offered a moving and inspirational message. Mr. Kubo shared

personal stories about the importance of making life choices, living with those choices, and pushing through adversity with perseverance and hard work. His words encouraged the graduates to embrace both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

In his remarks, Governor Joseph warmly congratulated the graduates, commending them for their dedication and persistence. He emphasized the importance of continuing to work hard, never giving up, and making wise decisions early in life—decisions that can shape their future paths. Governor Joseph reminded the students that while the road ahead may not always be easy, their strength lies in

their choices and faith.

To encourage and uplift the graduating class, Governor Joseph shared words from the Bible, including the well-known verse from Romans 8:31, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” His message reflected both hope and determination, reinforcing the belief that with faith and hard work, nothing is impossible.

The Pohnpei State Government congratulates the Class of 2025 from Nanpei Memorial High School and wishes them continued success in all their future endeavors.



Governor Stevenson A. Joseph pays courtesy call on Speaker of the 24th FSM Congress

Pohnpei Public Information

May 28, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei—Following his attendance at the Nanpei Memorial High School Graduation held at the COM-FSM Palikir Friendship Gym, The Honorable Stevenson A. Joseph, Governor of Pohnpei State, made a brief and impromptu courtesy call on The Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Speaker of the 24th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

the seating of the 24th FSM Congress. Although official travel prevented the Governor from attending the opening session, he conveyed his support and warm regards to the Speaker and members of Congress.

The two leaders took the opportunity to discuss mutual areas of concern and reaffirmed their shared interest in continued coordination between state and national leadership.

Governor Joseph expressed his appreciation to Speaker Moses for making time on short notice to meet and exchange views.

Governor Joseph extended his congratulations to Speaker Moses on his re-election to the Speakership with



28th May 2025
LIVE BID INVITATION
for
The Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I)
NOTICE

Bid	Closing Date (2025)	Public Opening (2025)
<i>Maintenance of the Quarantine Facilities for Kosrae Hospital, Kosrae</i>	May 30, @4 pm	May 30, @4 pm
<i>Kosrae International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Construction, Kosrae</i>	May 30, @10am	May 30, @11am
<i>Fit Out and Maintenance of Resources and Development Department</i>	June 13, @4pm	June 13, @ 5pm
<i>Utwe Water System Upgrade Maintenance Works – Kosrae</i>	June 20, @4pm	June 20, @ 4pm
<i>Road improvement from main road to court house, Tofol, Kosrae</i>	June 27, @ 4pm	June 27, @ 4pm
<i>Road spot improvement of 16.2 miles from Tofol to UTWE, KOSRAE</i>	June 27, @ 4pm	June 27, @ 4pm
<i>Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Contracting Services for the Maintenance of the Generator System at the College of Micronesia, Palikir</i>	June 27, @ 3pm	June 30, @11am

The bidding documents, links to public opening, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department’s website: <https://www.tei.gov.fm/>. All bids to be submitted to pmu@tei.gov.fm


Contracting Officer
Secretary, DTC&I

Ilon takes helm at FSM Postal Service, plans reform and review

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 5, 2025

Pohnpei, FSM—On May 27, 2025, long-time FSM government employee Epel Ilon was sworn in as the new Postmaster General of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The position had been vacant since just before the current administration took office over two years ago.

Ilon, who is new to the postal service, is currently in an evaluation and analysis phase. “I’m aiming to present my suggestions to the President and Vice President, but first, I need to assess the situation,” he said during an interview at the Pohnpei Post Office. “I have my own thoughts, and I hear what others are saying, but I want to understand their priorities first, evaluate quickly, and then return with initial recommendations.”

When asked whether any urgent issues had emerged during his first week on the job, Ilon emphasized a proactive approach: “My philosophy is, we deal with it now and continue improving as we go.” One of the first problems he mentioned was what he referred

to as “things missing”—packages that show up as delivered in tracking systems but are not physically present when customers come to collect them. He was quick to clarify that he was not referring to theft but rather to mishandling or misplacement.

He recounted a personal experience of receiving a package that was not his. “The box number was written incorrectly,” he explained. He instructed his son to return the package but noted, “There may be people who wouldn’t return it. So, yeah—it’s not necessarily theft; it’s just a mistake.” Minimizing these kinds of errors is one of his top goals.

Ilon pointed out that the Post Office’s sorting and delivery areas are equipped with many security cameras and that long-time employees are fully aware of their presence. “It would be really difficult to get away with stealing packages or their contents,” he said.

To improve internal accountability, Ilon has instructed staff to adopt a comprehensive tracking system for complaints, similar to a patient log in a doctor’s office. “When a customer comes in, write down everything—

daily observations, quotes, the status—until the issue is resolved,” he said. Staff informed him that such a system already exists, and he has asked that it be fully computerized to ensure active cases and resolutions can be monitored in real time.

Beyond the internal operations of the FSM Postal Service, Ilon is also turning his attention to the nation’s postal relationship with the United States. Having previously served as head of the FSM office responsible for the Compact of Free Association, Ilon brings considerable experience to the issue.

He explained that FSM’s inability to send outgoing mail using U.S. flat rate boxes stems from abuse of the system. During Compact-related negotiations, FSM representatives were told that the USPS was incurring significantly higher costs than agreed upon due to the misuse of flat rate services. As a result, flat rate boxes were removed from the negotiation table. However, he noted that inbound flat rate packages and other U.S. mail continue to be delivered to the FSM at domestic rates, as though the destination were within the United States.

We raised the common issue of FSM not appearing in drop-down country lists for online purchases from U.S. vendors, despite FSM having been a sovereign nation since 1979. Ilon initially assumed this was due to individual companies failing to update their databases. However, after hearing that multiple vendors had cited the absence of FSM ZIP codes in the USPS database—on which their systems rely—he said he would raise the issue in an upcoming meeting with USPS officials.

Ilon also plans to investigate reported delays at certain U.S. postal hubs, particularly in San Francisco, where packages destined for the FSM are often slow to be released for shipping.

This week, Ilon will make his first official trip as Postmaster General, visiting each of the FSM states. He will also attend a meeting in Honolulu with representatives from the United States Postal Service. It will be the first gathering of Postmasters General from the Freely Associated States and the USPS since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

WE ARE HIRING!
JOIN OUR TEAM!



FSM Development Bank is seeking a suitable candidate to fill the position of **LOAN SECRETARY at FSMDB HQ in Kolonia, Pohnpei.**

Open Date: 06/05/25. Close Date: 07/05/25.

For more information: call 320-2840/5300 or email to info@fsmdb.fm or visit our website (www.fsmdb.fm)

Thousands in Federated States of Micronesia to gain access to clean, reliable electricity through new World Bank Project

The World Bank

May 28, 2025

Pohnpei—Thousands of families across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will benefit from better, more reliable electricity under a new project to be implemented by the Government of FSM with financing and technical support from the World Bank.

The US\$42 million Access and Renewable Increase for Sustainable Energy (ARISE) Project will increase access to electricity for over 3,500 people in remote outer islands, while improving the reliability of existing power supply and supporting the increase in renewable energy across FSM’s four states: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

FSM currently has some of the lowest electricity access rates in the Pacific, particularly in Chuuk State, where two-thirds of households lack power. The ARISE Project will directly address this, funding the construction of solar-powered mini grids and stand-alone solar home systems across four unelectrified islands in Chuuk – Moch,

Onoun, Tol-Wonip, and Uman – providing clean energy to households, schools, health clinics, and community facilities.

“This project is a critical step toward achieving our national energy goals and delivering real benefits to our communities,” said Elina Akinaga, Secretary of the FSM Department of Resources and Development. “We are proud to be working with the World Bank to bring sustainable, resilient, and affordable energy to more of our people.”

In the main islands, aging infrastructure and vulnerability to typhoons and storms mean that even those with electricity face frequent outages. The ARISE Project will strengthen grid resilience in Pohnpei, Yap and Kosrae, replacing vulnerable infrastructure and upgrading systems to reduce outages. In Yap, the project will install underground feeders to ensure power to critical services like hospitals, the airport and government buildings can continue even after severe weather.

“For communities without electricity,

access means light for students to study at night, power for health facilities to refrigerate life-saving medicine, and energy for small businesses to grow,” said Omar Lyasse, World Bank Resident Representative in FSM. “This project is about ensuring people in remote parts of FSM can access the services, opportunities and protections that modern, reliable energy provides.”

The project also boosts FSM’s ambition to increase renewable energy and reduce reliance on imported diesel, which accounts for over 85 percent of electricity generation today. New grid-connected solar generation and battery storage systems in Chuuk and Pohnpei will help FSM meet its goal of 70 percent renewable electricity by 2030, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions and insulating communities from volatile fuel prices.

Beyond infrastructure, the project also focuses on building capacity in FSM’s energy workforce – including for women. It will support the training and certification of local technicians through an apprenticeship program, with specific targets for women’s

participation, and help utilities design long-term maintenance funds to ensure systems remain operational for years to come.

The project is part of a World Bank regional program that helps developing countries across East Asia and the Pacific increase renewable energy, helping them achieve their development goals while lowering carbon intensity. The \$2.5 billion Accelerating Sustainable Energy Transition Program is part of the Bank’s global effort to accelerate low-carbon energy transition and combat climate change. Over its 10 year lifetime, it will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60 million tons, add 2.5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity (equivalent to 50 utility-scale 50MW solar farms or more than 1,000 2.5MW wind turbines), while providing over 20 million people with new or improved access to clean electricity.

The ARISE Project is expected to be implemented over six years by the FSM Department of Resources and Development, with support from state utilities and development partners.

Kaboom Bronze	\$49 monthly	up to 10Mbps ↓ 10Mbps ↓ / 3Mbps ↑ CONDITIONS APPLY
Kaboom Silver	\$75 monthly	up to 15Mbps ↓ 15Mbps ↓ / 4Mbps ↑ CONDITIONS APPLY
Kaboom Gold	\$99 monthly	up to 20Mbps ↓ 20Mbps ↓ / 5Mbps ↑ CONDITIONS APPLY
Kaboom Sapphire	\$198 monthly	up to 40Mbps ↓ 40Mbps ↓ / 10Mbps ↑ CONDITIONS APPLY
Kaboom Diamond	\$297 monthly	up to 60Mbps ↓ 60Mbps ↓ / 10Mbps ↑ CONDITIONS APPLY

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

***FREE installation for existing and eligible returning internet customers.**

Redeem Youth Congregation celebrates completion of Water and Sanitation Project with Australian support

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 7, 2025

Pihs, Madolenihmw—The Redeem Youth Congregation in Pihs, Madolenihmw has completed their new Water Security and Sanitation Facility Project, made possible through support from Australia’s Direct Aid Program (DAP).

Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Jenny Grant-Curnow, along with members of the Australian Embassy team, visited the project site in Kousapw Pohn Pateleng to celebrate the achievement. During the visit, community members proudly showcased the newly constructed sanitation facility, handwashing stations, and a large water tank.

The water tank is part of an integrated system that includes a rainwater catchment and a pump drawing water from a nearby stream, ensuring a reliable supply of clean water to the facility. The system aims to improve access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene for the Pihs community, particularly during community events.

The DAP funded infrastructure will help to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and promoting a healthier, more sanitary environment that will lead

to a healthier and happier lifestyle.

The Australian Embassy extended congratulations to Project Manager Mr. Efler Eliou and the entire Pihs community for their dedication and collaboration in completing the project.



LET'S CONNECT!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VITAL ENERGY




Vital Energy Get verified
@VitalEnergy2
Vital serves as the largest supplier of energy to the people of Micronesia and the Republic of Nauru.
Micronesia vitalenergy.fm Joined January
743 Following 295 Followers

Posts Replies Highlights Article

Vital Energy @VitalEnergy2 · Jul 29
We are proud to introduce our new set of utility patterns and colors are intended to reflect our needed energy, maritime and agricultural services.

@VITALENERGYMICRONESIA 

@VITAL_ENERGY_MICRONESIA 

@VITAL ENERGY MICRONESIA 

@VITALENERGY2 



Ambassador Wu Wei attended the handover ceremony of China's assistance for the FSM Delegation participating in the Pacific Mini Games

Chinese Embassy to the FSM

June 4, 2025

Pohnpei—On June 3, 2025, the handover ceremony for the Chinese Embassy providing funding to the FSM delegation to participate in the Pacific Mini Games was held in the Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHS) of the FSM. H.E. Wu Wei, Chinese Ambassador to the FSM, attended the ceremony and handed over the cash payment voucher to T.H. Marcus Samo, Secretary of the DHS. T.H. Kasinda Ludwig, Assistant Secretary of the DHS, T.H. Moses Pretrick, Assistant Secretary of the DHS, Mr. Sohses Kalvin Ehmes, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs and officers attended.

Ambassador Wu said the Chinese Embassy's assistance within its capability for the FSM delegation's participation in the Pacific Mini Games

epitomizes China's support to the FSM's sports development. China is willing to work jointly with the FSM to accelerate implementing the important common understandings reached by the two heads of state, deepen practical cooperation in various fields including sports on the basis of the one-China principle, and promote the in-depth development of bilateral relations.

Secretary Samo thanked China for its support, and said that the FSM will continue to firmly support the one-China policy, strengthen exchanges and cooperation in sports field between the two countries, and promote the further development of the FSM-China friendly relations.

The two sides jointly signed the handover certificate.



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

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

Readvertised: Team Leader 2050

The Pacific Islands Forum

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

To achieve greater workforce representation from our member countries we strongly encourage applicants from the following countries to apply: Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Nauru, Niue, New Caledonia, and Palau

The Opportunity

The position will lead and coordinate the Implementation of the 2050 Strategy. The 2050 Team will ensure that the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and other relevant fora are kept apprised of progress and are able to provide guidance on issues emerging throughout the implementation. The position holder will be responsible for the following responsibilities to name a few:

- Lead and coordinate 2050 Strategy implementation
- Lead the monitoring, evaluation, and learning for the 2050 Strategy
- Oversee 2050 Communications Strategy and planning
- Ensure that 2050 Strategy Strategic Pathways are progressed, and
- Leadership and Team Management

Applicants should have a master's degree in international development, international relations, public policy or related fields with a demonstrated ability to undertake strategic planning at a high level with at least five years relevant work experience in international development and on regional issues, preferably in the Pacific region.

Candidates with good understanding and experience in a range of MEL methodologies and approaches and possess good understanding and experience of integrating cross-cutting issues, including GESI, into policies and programmes and likewise experience in managing a small team to deliver policies or projects in the Pacific.

The Benefits

The positions carry a competitive and attractive remuneration and benefits package including allowances for housing and education; and medical, accident and life insurance coverage. The positions are based at Band 12/ Adviser level of the PIFS salary scale. The starting salary for position is SDR 50,753 per annum, which is equivalent to FJD 153,890 negotiable.

Note: Amounts are based on 1 May foreign exchange rate, but your final salary will be dependent on foreign exchange rates at the time of payment.

How to apply

Interested applicants can find out more information on our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the full responsibilities, selection criteria and remuneration details is available.

Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country*. Applicant must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), Friday 4 July 2025. Those already had applied need not to reapply.

*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.

Pohnpei State Government, U.S. Embassy, and U.S. Navy Seabees celebrate handover of renovated Spanish Wall softball park and school basketball courts

Pohnpei Public Information

May 27, 2025

Kolonia, Pohnpei—On Tuesday, May 27, 2025, the Pohnpei State Government, in partnership with the United States Embassy and the U.S. Navy Seabees, held a heartfelt handover ceremony at the Spanish Wall Softball Park, marking the completion of major renovation efforts at one of Pohnpei's most beloved recreational landmarks.

Representing Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, Chief of Staff Benjamin Rodriguez delivered remarks of appreciation, emphasizing the importance of community spaces and commending the collaboration that made the improvements possible. He thanked the U.S. Government, U.S. Ambassador H.E. Jennifer L. Johnson, Pohnpei Women's Council, and the "can-do" spirit of the U.S. Navy Seabees who completed the work.

U.S. Ambassador Johnson also

delivered remarks, congratulating all parties involved, thanking the Seabees for their outstanding work, and expressing her joy at witnessing the successful outcome of the project. She emphasized the U.S. commitment to supporting communities across the Federated States of Micronesia through meaningful and lasting partnerships.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Reed, representing the U.S. Navy Seabees, spoke with pride and humility, giving full credit to his team for the successful and timely completion of the renovation. He also thanked Mr. Westcott Panuelo for his assistance with the project. Also in attendance was Speaker of the 10th Pohnpei Legislature, Hon. Marvin Yamaguchi, who expressed sincere gratitude to the U.S. Government, Ambassador Johnson, and the Navy Seabees for their continuing service and support to the community.

Later the same day, a second ceremony was held at Kolonia Elementary School,



where another U.S.-FSM renovation project was celebrated — a freshly restored basketball court, part of a larger effort that saw 10 basketball courts across the island of Pohnpei refurbished by the Seabees. Congresswoman Merlynn Abello Alphonso of Election District 1 was on hand to offer her own words of thanks and appreciation to the U.S. Embassy and the Seabees for their outstanding contributions.

The Pohnpei State Government extends its deepest kalahngan to the U.S. Embassy and the dedicated U.S. Navy Seabees for their continued friendship, service, and partnership with the people of Pohnpei. These projects not only improve local infrastructure but also strengthen the enduring bonds between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia.



New Zealand North Pacific Development Fund Open Now!

New Zealand's North Pacific Development Fund (NPDF) offers up to NZ\$75,000 (approximately US\$45,000) to support small scale, short-term projects and activities within the Federated States of Micronesia.

The NPDF supports local communities and organisations to complete projects that contribute to wider community well-being, reduce poverty and/or potentially change lives. Priority is given to projects that can be delivered within a one-year timeframe, align with New Zealand and the Federated States of Micronesia's shared values, and include a contribution of local resource and/or labour.

The New Zealand Embassy is now welcoming new NPDF applications for 2025/26. If you are an individual, civil society group, NGO or local government, and have an appropriate project, with the right skills and experience to manage it, please scan the QR Code or email hluenquiries@mfat.govt.nz



FASAO organizes first FSM All-Star Basketball Challenge

By John Howard

June 6, 2025

Tamuning, Guam—The Fonei Achocho Sensu Athletic Organization put together the first FSM All-Star Basketball Championship, which held on May 31st at the TATHUA Gym in Tamuning. The players were selected are notable FSM Kids playing for their School. There were about 24 notable players selected to compete in the first FSM All-Start Basketball Challenge. The selected players were split up in two teams: Team Gray and Team Blue.

Team Gray

Bless AISEK - St. Paul Christian School
Rj William - St. Paul Christian School
Omar henser - St. Paul Christian School
Mario Bork - St. Paul Christian School
Jeron A. Sonden - John F. Kennedy High School
Anthony kusto - John F. Kennedy High School
Kairos Orichiro - George Washington High School
Sakistan Orichiro - George Washington

High School
Calvin Calvin - Untalan Middle School
Coach Eddie kanemoto
Coach Jon Louis

Team Blue

Michael Bork - St. Paul Christian School
Atni kusuta - St. Paul Christian School
Jr William - St. Paul Christian School
Canaan T. Sonden - John F. Kennedy high school
Kalden kusto - John F. Kennedy high school
AK Noy- George Washington High School
Ifirstson kinemary - George Washington Hish School
Tommy kanemoto - Untalan Middle School
Hosea Howard - Father Duenas Memorial School
Coach Mike Bork
Coach Robert Vasquez

Team Grey, led by Coach Eddie Kanemoto and Jon Louise, took the championship trophy with 63 points, defeating Team Blue, which scored 60

points. Mike and Robert coach Team Blue.

"The Goal of the Program is to do it every year to promote FSM Talents and skills in Basketball"

Congratulations to all the MVP players, the championship, Team Gray, and Kalden Kusto, who won the three-point challenge.

FAS would like to extend its special thanks to the Tamuning Mayor's Office and TATHUA for accommodating and officiating the First FSM All-Star Basketball Challenge.

Additionally, we extend our grateful appreciation to Hon. Vice Mayor Albert Toves and Acting FSM Consul General Johnny Silbanuz for speaking to the youth. The speakers encouraged the youth to invest more in their talents, work harder, and take pride in their skin identity.

Vice Mayor Toves told the youth,

"Follow your skills and talents, listen to your coaches, and practice harder."

FSM Consul General Silbanuz expressed his appreciation to FAS for organising the basketball event and congratulated the players who made it to the first FSM All-Star Picked. Acting CG, Silbanuz told the youth, "Wear your jerseys proudly, as it represents your identity, your island and your community."

FAS congratulated the players and reminded them about a quote from the late legend Kobe Byant, " Everything negative- pressure, challenges, is all an opportunity for him to rise and grow." So keep learning, keep working harder, and keep playing.

Thanks to Hon. Senator Arno Kony for his generous contribution in making the Championship possible. Thanks to Pastor Orchiro, for the opening prayer. The selected players will represent FAS in the upcoming off-island friendly challenge with team Pohnpei in September.



UN training course in Australia to lay foundation for peacekeeping contingent

Australian Embassy to the FSM

June 9, 2025

Brisbane—Australia has taken a landmark step in supporting international peace and security through the launch of the world's first United Nations Police Peacekeeping Training course for the Pacific region.

The five-week program, hosted by the Australian Federal Police was held at

the state-of-the-art Pacific Policing Development and Coordination Hub in Pinkenba, Brisbane.

Developed in partnership with the United Nations, the course brought together 100 police officers from across the Pacific and Timor-Leste, including three from the Federated States of Micronesia, Micheal Jonas, Myra Joakim and Jason Johnna, and marks the beginning of a bold vision

to build a deployable, Pacific-led UN peacekeeping capability.

AFP Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale said the program was the result of a long-standing, productive relationship between Australia and the United Nations, and was launched in response to growing regional ambitions to contribute more actively to international peacekeeping efforts.

"It provides a powerful stage to amplify the region's collective approach to policing and draw global attention to collaborations such as the Pacific Policing Initiative (PPI), which is a Pacific-led and Australian-backed initiative to strengthen peace and security."

"In 2024, the Pacific Island Chiefs of

Click here for continuation on next page

Australian Embassy team joins UNFPA “Out of School Family for Life” education event

Australian Embassy to the FSM

June 6, 2025

Pohnpei—The Australian Embassy team recently joined a UNFPA Out of School Family for Life Education event in Pih, Madolenihmw.

Australia is pleased to be partnering with UNFPA and Micronesia Productions to be delivering this life changing health education for young people.

The training aims to help adolescents and

young people make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

UNFPA Assistant Representative Evelyn Adolph said: “Family Life Education encompasses a holistic definition of youth health and wellbeing, including comprehensive sexual education with healthy living, mental health, eating healthy, keeping active and preventing the use of drugs and alcohol.”

Generous facilitators from communities

around Pohnpei have volunteered their time and expertise to lead young people through this training over six months.

One of those facilitators is Ruthy Phillip who said: “I believe this program is really essential for young adults because the topics that we’ve covered during our sessions are important for them to know especially as young adults who will be stepping out into parenthood soon. I hope the program can continue.”



...Peacekeeping

Continued from previous page

Police reaffirmed the importance of United Nations Peacekeeping Mission deployments and expressed a desire for regional capabilities to be world leading in their ability to respond and deploy as required,” Deputy Commissioner Gale said.

“Building off the AFP’s long-standing association with the United Nations and peacekeeping efforts, the inaugural course will significantly advance those ambitions, giving Pacific member nations a meaningful role internationally in helping to shepherd nations from conflict to peace.

The Pinkenba hub, which was developed to support the PPI, includes accommodation for the participants, who will wrap up their five weeks of training with a final assessment. Coursework is split between practical focuses such as driving and road safety, and classroom-based topics including child protection, and sexual exploitation and abuse.

The international reach of the initiative is reflected in its diverse training faculty, including Türkiye, Jordan, Fiji, Uganda, Ghana, Italy, Nepal and Argentina, as well as the AFP, Fiji Police Force and Australian Defence Force. Dignitaries from around the world, including UN Police Adviser Faisal Shahkar, will attend the closing ceremony to mark this milestone achievement.

AFP Assistant Commissioner Nigel

Ryan said the UN Peacekeeping capability aligned with the evolution and growth of the collaborative approach to regional policing.

“It’s reinforcement of Australia’s role as a preferred partner of choice in the Pacific for sustained peace, security and prosperity in the region,” he said.

Participating nations, alongside the AFP, are Samoa, Kiribati, Fiji, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia and Nauru.

The UN Police Peacekeeping Training course is a proud demonstration of how international cooperation and shared regional aspirations can deliver a lasting, global impact; from the Pacific to the world.

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that H.J. Heinz Company Brands LLC of One PPG Place Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222 United States of America, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:



which is used in International classes 5, 29, 30 and 32 in connection with the following goods:

Food suitable for Infants and Invalids and dietetic substances adapted for medical use; Infant formula; nutritional beverages; meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, processed, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; frozen entrees, meals, appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, vegetables, potatoes, fruits; jellies, jams; eggs, milk and other dairy products; soups; edible oils and fats; preserves, pickles and pickle products; tomato products; coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, coffee substitutes; cereals; flour and preparations made from cereals; noodles; bread, biscuits, cakes, pastry and confectionery, Ices; honey, treacle; yeast, baking powder, salt, mustard, pepper, vinegar, condiments, sauces, spices; Ice; ketchup; salad dressings; gravy; pasta meals and products; beans; tomato seeds; products made wholly or principally of any of the foregoing; beer, ale and porter, mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic drinks; syrups and other preparations for making beverages; fruit drinks, fruit juices.

H.J. Heinz Company Brands LLC claims all rights in respect to the above trade mark 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

Lawyers & Notaries Public, Pacific House, Butt Street, PO Box 149, Suva, Fiji

Email: trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj
www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that H.J. Heinz Company Brands LLC of One PPG Place Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222 United States of America, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:

HEINZ KEYSTONE

which is used in International classes 5, 29, 30 and 32 in connection with the following goods:

Food suitable for Infants and Invalids and dietetic substances adapted for medical use; Infant formula; nutritional beverages; meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, processed, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; frozen entrees, meals, appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, vegetables, potatoes, fruits; jellies, jams; eggs, milk and other dairy products; soups; edible oils and fats; preserves, pickles and pickle products; tomato products; coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, coffee substitutes; cereals; flour and preparations made from cereals; noodles; bread, biscuits, cakes, pastry and confectionery, Ices; honey, treacle; yeast, baking powder, salt, mustard, pepper, vinegar, condiments, sauces, spices; Ice; ketchup; salad dressings; gravy; pasta meals and products; beans; tomato seeds; products made wholly or principally of any of the foregoing; beer, ale and porter, mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic drinks; syrups and other preparations for making beverages; fruit drinks, fruit juices.

H.J. Heinz Company Brands LLC claims all rights in respect to the above trade mark 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

Lawyers & Notaries Public, Pacific House, Butt Street, PO Box 149, Suva, Fiji
Email: trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj
www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

Local Skills, Stronger Services: World Bank backs new capacity drive in FSM and RMI

World Bank

May 29, 2025

Pohnpei—Citizens, communities, and businesses in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) are set to benefit from faster, more effective delivery of public services under a new World Bank-supported project aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing technical skills in project management of development financed operations.

The Implementation Capacity for Transformative Results (IMPACT) Project, approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors, will provide support to governments in both countries to boost institutional systems and build national skills essential for delivering public services, infrastructure, and other development investments.

With international assistance important for both countries this project ensures that local capacity keeps pace with growing responsibilities.

"This project is an investment in our people and the future of our country," said David Paul, Minister of Finance, Banking and Postal Services, Republic of the Marshall Islands. "By strengthening the way we manage development and growing local talent, especially in our outer islands, we can ensure that every dollar delivers real results for our communities. We're proud to work with the World Bank on a project that puts national ownership and capacity at the heart of progress."

The IMPACT project will provide dedicated support to strengthen core government systems in project management fiduciary reporting, and monitoring and evaluation—improving how projects are planned, tracked, and implemented.

Importantly, the project will also invest in the next generation of local leaders, creating internship and mentorship opportunities for young professionals, with a goal of increasing employment of skilled national staff across public institutions. In both countries, women will be actively supported to enter and

advance in technical roles, including procurement, environmental and social, and monitoring and evaluation.

"As our development portfolio grows, so too must our ability to lead and deliver," said Rose Nakanaga, Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, Federated States of Micronesia. "This project will help us build a stronger, more responsive public service—driven by skilled Micronesians who are committed to serving their communities. It's a timely and strategic investment in long-term resilience and development for FSM."

The initiative builds on earlier efforts by both governments to tackle personnel shortages and reduce reliance on international consultants. Through support for new training programs, career awareness in high schools, and reforms to improve the implementation of government projects, the project will help ensure more predictable, timely, and transparent delivery of development programs.

"This project will ensure that investments—whether in schools, hospitals, roads, or climate resilience—are delivered by strong local institutions and skilled Pacific professionals who understand their country's priorities," said Omar Lyasse, World Bank Resident Representative for FSM and RMI. "Ultimately, this means vital services will reach the people who need them most—more efficiently and reliably."

With US\$7.5 million allocated to FSM and US\$7.7 million to RMI, the IMPACT project reflects a growing commitment from development partners to support long-term institutional reform and the development of local skills aimed at improving resource management and service delivery, including in remote and outer island communities.

This support is provided through the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the world's most in-need countries to support them to invest in their futures, improve lives, and create safer, more prosperous communities.

PIF Secretary General calls for redefining Pacific economic progress at 2025 Pacific Update



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 3, 2025

Suva, Fiji—Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Baron Waqa delivered the keynote address at the 2025 Pacific Update, held at the University of the South Pacific in Suva. Speaking under the theme "Reframing Performance: A Connected Pacific for Shared Prosperity," Waqa called for a fundamental shift in how economic progress is measured in the Pacific region.

Waqa emphasized the importance of using indicators that reflect not only economic output but also the realities and values of Pacific Island societies. "For us, economic performance must reflect more than numbers," he said. "It must reflect how well we respond to challenges, how connected we are across our sea of islands, and how prepared we are to shape our own futures."

He criticized the historical reliance on externally imposed metrics that overlook Pacific-specific contexts, resilience, and well-being. Instead, Waqa encouraged greater investment in Pacific-driven data systems and regional collaboration to develop performance indicators that genuinely reflect the lived experiences of Pacific peoples.

Labor Mobility and Connectivity
Highlighting labor mobility as a vital economic engine for Pacific communities, Waqa noted that existing systems remain fragmented and heavily influenced by external frameworks. "We must do better," he urged, reiterating his advocacy for greater freedom of

Click here for continuation on next page

...Pacific Update

Continued from previous page

movement across the region—for work, study, and opportunity—as a deliberate regional priority.

He emphasized that connectivity is the foundation of progress. “To enable mobility, we must invest in connectivity—physical, digital, and financial,” Waqa said. He called for addressing high inter-island transport costs, easing trade barriers, and restoring correspondent banking relationships to facilitate affordable and secure remittances. “Banking is not just about regulation—it is about livelihoods,” he stressed.

Broadening Definitions of Progress

The Secretary General challenged the Pacific to look beyond traditional economic markers such as GDP. Instead, he promoted a more holistic view of development, aligning with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which encompasses peace and security, environmental health, cultural identity, and people-centered development.

He welcomed the recent UN General Assembly endorsement of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), calling it a major step forward for the region. “The MVI acknowledges our region’s acute exposure to climate change and natural disasters, as well as the enduring challenges of geographic isolation,” he said. “This is the kind of index that must now inform how partnerships are shaped and how financing is allocated.”

Strengthening Regionalism

Waqa also addressed the need for improved regional governance, noting that the Review of the Regional Architecture is underway to streamline systems and enhance cooperation. “We must move from fragmentation to functionality, from competition to complementarity,” he said. He warned against nationalism weakening the region’s collective strength, reminding attendees that unity remains the Pacific’s greatest competitive advantage.

“The best indicator of Pacific economic performance is not found on a graph or a chart. It is found in the lives of our people—in how easily they move, how well they connect, and how confidently they plan for their future,” he said in closing.

Palau advances public accountability through North Pacific Fiscal Oversight Conference

UNDP

June 6, 2025

Guam—Legislators, auditors, and congressional staff from across the North Pacific convened last week in Guam for the North Pacific Fiscal Oversight for Sustainable Development Conference, marking a significant step toward strengthening public accountability, transparency, and citizen trust in the use of public resources.

The three-day event brought together representatives from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (national and state levels), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and was organized by the UNDP Pacific Office, with support from a broad coalition of partners including IMF’s Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre, the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), the University of Guam, and other regional institutions.

The conference, supported by the Vaka Pasifika Project, funded by the European Union and the Strengthening Legislatures’ Capacity in Pacific Island Countries project, funded by the Government of Japan, provided a rare opportunity for North Pacific stakeholders to engage in peer learning, exchange country experiences, and develop national action plans to improve follow-up on audit recommendations. These action plans are designed to enhance fiscal transparency, oversight of public funds, and citizens’ equitable access to public services.

“Meetings like this help us learn about best practices and what’s working elsewhere in the region” said Mitsue Ngirailemesang, Committee Assistant in the Palau Senate, Ways and Means and Financial Matters Committee. “To have everyone discussing within their country groups about the issues that they’re going through and how we can improve how we do things”

A key highlight of the event was the preview of an AI-powered Audit Recommendation Tracking Tool, developed by UNDP’s SDG

AI Lab. Tailored for Pacific Island contexts, the tool will allow legislatures and auditors to track the status of audit recommendations in real-time, strengthen legislative oversight, and improve evidence-based decision-making.

“Across the Pacific, governments are making bold choices, from exploring the invisible gender biases of budgets to climate and risk-informed fiscal policy.” said Munkhtuya Altangerel, UNDP Resident Representative for the Pacific. “But none of this succeeds without strong and coordinated oversight. This is where accountability meets ambition.”

Participants across jurisdictions welcomed the chance to develop actionable follow-up mechanisms, noting that structured cooperation between legislatures and audit institutions is essential for achieving concrete development outcomes.

The event reaffirmed the value of long-term partnerships with donors such as the Government of Japan and the European Union, and demonstrated how targeted support for public financial oversight can yield tangible improvements in government transparency and responsiveness. For countries like Palau, such collaboration is essential to ensuring that every tax dollar is accounted for, public resources are deployed for maximum public good, and that no citizen is left behind.



TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that KRAFT FOODS GROUP BRANDS LLC of 200 E. Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601, United States of America, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:

KRAFT

which is used in connection with the following goods:

Class 29: Grated cheese; processed cheeses; processed cheese foods; cottage cheese; sour cream (dairy products); cream cheese; jellies for foods; jams; poultry (not live); meat, ham, bacon; pickles, nuts, prepared; prepared meals containing meat and cheese; processed cheese dips; processed cheese spreads; cheese sauces; vegetable based dips; vegetable based spreads; snack mix consisting primarily of processed fruits and nuts; protein based snack bars.

Class 30: Mayonnaise; salad dressing; tartar sauce; sandwich spread consisting primarily of salad dressing or mayonnaise; sauce for salads, seafoods, and meats; condiments; barbecue sauce; candy; caramel; marshmallows; stuffing mix consisting primarily of bread or rice; cookies; biscuits; cakes; noodle-based prepared meals; cereal-based snack food.

KRAFT FOODS GROUP BRANDS LLC claims all rights in respect to the above trade mark 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

Lawyers & Notaries Public, Pacific House, Butt Street, PO Box 149, Suva, Fiji
Email: trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj
www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

Opinion Editorial

Correcting a silent injustice: ensuring every birth and death is recorded and every life is counted

Ten years ago, countries across Asia and the Pacific united to correct a silent injustice: millions of people were being born and dying without ever being recorded. The launch of the Asia-Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade marked a bold regional commitment to ensure every birth and death is recorded, and every life counts.

At its core, the CRVS Decade was about more than data, it was about dignity. It aimed to equip governments with the accurate, timely information to deliver essential services, shape responsive policies and uphold the rights of every person, in every corner of the region.

Today, the region has made undeniable progress. Since 2012, the number of unregistered children under five has fallen by 62 per cent, from 135 million to 51 million in 2024. This is an enormous achievement, made possible by strong political commitment, improved systems and regional cooperation. While there is much to celebrate, 51 million unregistered children in Asia and the Pacific are still far too many.

We've come too far to stop now. We must extend the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade to 2030.

Doing so will ensure that efforts to improve legal identity and vital statistics systems remain aligned with the broader Sustainable Development Goals. It will also provide countries the time and support they need to finish what they started and to fully close the data gap that still leaves millions of people invisible.

Transforming CRVS systems takes partnership, persistence and innovation. That's why the United Nations and our partners are committed to working together with governments across the region, helping to build stronger, more inclusive and people-centred CRVS systems.

A birth certificate is more than a document; it's a child's first proof of existence in the eyes of the law. Without

it, that child may be shut out of school, denied health care and excluded from social protection. They may be unable to prove their nationality or even their age. The consequences are especially severe for the most vulnerable and the effects ripple across generations. When mothers have legal identity, they can secure the same for their children, helping to break deep-rooted cycles of invisibility and exclusion.

We also face a grave challenge on the other side of life. Every year, 6.9 million deaths go unregistered in the region, leaving families without access to inheritance, land rights or pensions. And even among registered deaths, fewer than one in three are medically certified, meaning we often don't know why people are dying.

This gap in knowledge leaves public health systems in the dark - unable to fully understand, prepare for or respond to health threats. Timely, disaggregated statistics on causes of death are essential for designing and monitoring effective health policies and for detecting emerging crises, including pandemics.

The upcoming Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific is the moment to act. Governments must use this opportunity to recommit to the CRVS agenda, renew their national targets and align with the SDG finish line in 2030.

Extending the CRVS Decade to 2030 is a declaration: everyone counts. Data saves lives. Legal identity is a right, not a privilege. No one should be left behind simply because they were never counted in the first place.

Let us finish what we started. Let us get everyone in the picture and ensure every life truly counts.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Answering the Cry: The Urgent Need for a Guam Chuukese Youth Center

By John Howard

June 7, 2025

Guam--"How Long Will I Cry?" Voices of Youth Violence is a collaborative project by Miles Harvey, his students at DePaul University, Big Shoulders Books, and many others who contributed to the publishing phenomenon. The project serves as a platform for a call to action to address and prevent youth violence.

The title of the book came from a conversation Mr. Harvey had with pastor Corey Brooks who spent 94 days camped out on the roof of an abandoned motel to draw attention to gun violence. When asked about his vigil, the pastor pointed to the book of Habakkuk from the Old Testament, "O Lord, how long will I cry, and you will not hear? I cry out to you, and will you not save?" The pastor was doing the work of the Lord.

The project intends to understand the underlying factors contributing to youth violence and make a commitment to promoting awareness and take action to prevent youth violence in society. It written in first person by the individuals who share their experiences of violence, through loss, trauma, and their involvement directly with youth violence on the south side of Chicago. Their stories express feelings of grief, anger, resilience and confusion. Their stories provide a vantage point to understand some of the contributing factors to youth violence, like poverty, lack of resources and opportunities, societal disconnect and familial issues.

I find some of these stories very relevant to my Guam Chuukese community in the sense that we share the burden of proof. That we have sufficient evidence to prove the fact our youth need resources and support.

The story told by pastor Brooks, "What the watchman saw," is a great example of a great leader who committed to standing up for his community to end gun violence. He could not remain still and watch the violence continue with so many young lives lost. He committed himself to standing up and doing something. That's the kind of leadership and courage we need in

our community. We need our Church Leaders and community leaders to come together and be a part of the solutions to help our young people.

Miracles happen when we put our trust and faith in the Almighty and let Him do the rest. We have to have hope. Sometimes, the government cannot do it all. Pastor Brooks says, "The government can change laws, but they can't change hearts. When you change a heart, it lasts for eternity."

The community is ours to keep safe, peaceful, and thriving. We have a responsibility to keep it safe and decent. "When you try to do good, you get good back," wrote Brooks.

The story told by T-awanda Piper, "Love without condition," is relevant to the kind of poor that take away parental responsibilities in our Guam Chuukese community. Ms Piper was a longtime community activist. She worked at the Agape Community Center in Roseland.

Roseland was notorious for violence, drugs, and influx of families with problems with a different kind of poor. The kind of poor that takes away parental responsibilities. There is an expectation to do good in school and respect adults, but that kind of poor exists, creates distress, and handicaps family dynamics. It allows them to become involved in the "traps" of drugs and violence. Our community needs strong activists like Ms. Piper. We need to come together and keep telling our youth that they can make a choice regardless of their circumstances.

Ms. Piper gave powerful advice. "Despite the odds, despite the disadvantages, you still need to do what needs to be done because the world is not going to accept excuses. It is not how you start, it's how you finish."

The story "A Message for the Stupid People" by Reggie, is a true testament to the youth that their future is in their own hands. It is in our own hands to make the right decisions and walk on a straight line to a better future.

Reggie and his twin brother were born [Click here for continuation on next page](#)

Opinion Editorial

...Chuuk youth

Continued from previous page

with drugs in their system, so Child Protective Services gave custody of them to their grandma. They grew up in an unsafe environment with drugs and violence as the norm. People referred to them as the "Rough Twins." People always blamed them for anything gone wrong or missing. They got involved in gangs and Reggie got shot. He learned a lesson about making changes to his life. He wanted a future, so he chose the future. He decided to focus on his future. To do good, concentrate on school, and get into college. He knew it was up to him to be successful.

We only have one life, so let us not waste it on things that will cut it short. We have potential because God doesn't make mistakes. God makes beautiful creations.

From reading the book, I reflected on how these underlying factors are similar to what the Guam Chuukese youth have in common, especially the lack of resources and opportunities to keep them engaged in a safe and meaningful space. The stories present an opportunity for a solution to some of the challenges facing the Guam Chuukese youth in our community.

The number one contributing factor to why our youth are breaking the law and involved in the juvenile system is the lack of resources and opportunities

Our Guam Chuukese youth and community are crying out for a Youth Center. It would engage our young people and improve their lives in so many ways: Connect them to finishing their education. Put a trade in their hands. Provide them with educational support to improve their literacy skills, tutoring, and homework assistance. Enroll them in sports and recreational activities that teach the importance of teamwork, discipline, physical health, and hard work. Connect them with mentors to provide guidance, support, and encouragement.

We need a Youth Center to engage them in positive activities that celebrate culture and foster community pride and engagement. Engage them in church gatherings that teach the Bible, retreat and prayer, so they can have positive experiences, learning life lessons and fostering youth bonding.

A Youth Center would connect them to support groups for various issues, including mental health, to help them with coping skills to navigate their challenges. Have them participate in community service projects to teach them about a sense of belonging and serving their community. Make opportunities for them to participate in health and wellness programs to promote healthier lifestyles and an awareness of the available health resources. Connect them to job and internship opportunities to foster self-esteem, build relationships, job skills, and positive experiences.

We hope that one day, our cry for help and peace will be answered as in Psalm 34:17-20, which speaks of God hearing the righteous cry and delivering them from their trouble.

Kinisou Chapur

The FSM lowers its flag in honor of the late Governor Charles S. Chieng

FSM Information Services

May 29, 2025

PALIKIR, Pohnpei--The President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring a national period of mourning and ordering the FSM National Flag to be flown at half-mast in honor of the late Governor of Yap State, Charles Sigfred Chieng.



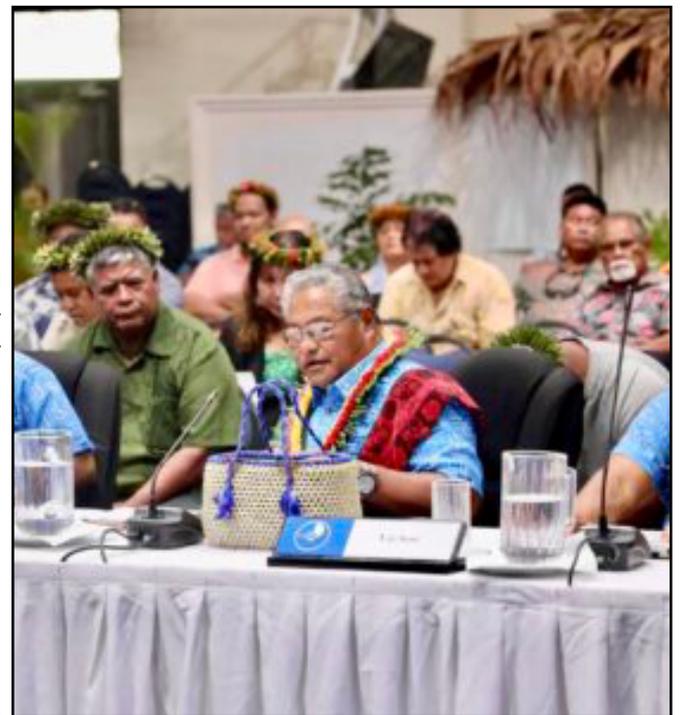
Governor Chieng, who served as the Ninth Governor of the State of Yap since 2023, passed away last week after dedicating more than three decades of his life to public service in both the State and National Governments. The national flag will be flown at half-mast for four consecutive days, beginning on the date of his final journey home to Yap, where he will be laid to rest.

“Governor Chieng was not only a dedicated leader and principled public servant, he was also a dear friend,” said President Simina. “His passion and love for Yap was undeniable. He led with his heart and served with a quiet strength that was formidable. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched and the institutions he helped strengthen.”

Governor Chieng began his public service in 1994 as an Administrator within the FSM Department of Finance. He was later elected to the Yap State Legislature, where he held leadership positions including Chairman of the Committee on Resource, Education & Development (RED) and Speaker of the Legislature. He brought a wealth of academic and professional experience, including a Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning and early leadership as President of the Yapese Students Organization and the International Students Association during his university years.

President Simina’s proclamation reflects the deep respect and national gratitude for Governor Chieng’s lifelong service and commitment to the people of Yap and the Federated States of Micronesia. The entire Nation joins in mourning his loss and extends its heartfelt condolences to his loving family, community and the people of Yap.

The State Funeral for the late Governor will be held in Yap, where he will be laid to rest in his home state he so faithfully and selflessly served.



Newly confirmed Postmaster General takes oath of office

FSM Information Services

June 3, 2025

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The newly confirmed Postmaster General of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Mr. Epel Ilon, was officially sworn into office on May 27, 2025, in a ceremony held at the Office of the President. The oath of office was administered by Vice President the Honorable Aren B. Palik.

was instrumental in securing the Amended Compact of Free Association, which ensured the continuation of vital services, including continued postal services.”

The Office of the President expresses its confidence in the Postmaster General’s leadership and looks forward to continued improvements and efficiency within the FSM Postal Services.

Vice President Palik congratulated Mr. Ilon on his confirmation and acknowledged his long-standing service to the nation. “He is a dedicated and experienced public servant whose work has always reflected integrity and commitment,” the Vice President said. “His contribution to the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning (JCRP)



Vice President Palik delivers keynote address at Ninth COM-FSM Yap Campus and FSM-FMI Joint Commencement exercise

FSM Information Services

May 29, 2025

GAGIL, Yap—On May 20, 2025 the Honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik attended and delivered the keynote address at the 9th Joint Commencement Exercise of the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) Yap Campus and the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute (FSM-FMI).

responsibility of any society or nation to invest in its youth, who represent the true inheritance of the future,” declared Vice President Palik in his keynote address.

In acknowledging the graduates’ academic achievements, Vice President Palik also issued a challenge: just as their families, educators, and leaders have invested in their education, they too must now invest in the generations

to come and contribute to the continued growth of the Nation.

The ceremony was held at the Yap State Sports Complex and celebrated a total of 29 graduates — 16 from COM-FSM Yap Campus and 13 from FSM-FMI. Ms. Lynnsey L. Pedro delivered remarks on behalf of the COM-FSM Yap Campus graduates, while Corps Commander Glenn W. Joseph represented the FSM-FMI graduates.

Accompanying the Vice President were Second Lady Adelita Palik and Special Assistant to the Vice President Ari Skilling. Distinguished guests included The Honorable Robson Romolow, Vice Speaker of the 23rd FSM Congress, and Mrs. Romolow, along with members of the Yap State Government and traditional leaders.

Acting Governor of Yap State, The Honorable Thomas G. Tun, opened the ceremony with welcoming remarks on behalf of the Yap State Government. He congratulated the graduates and extended best wishes for their future endeavors.

The theme of this year’s Joint Commencement Exercise, “Investing in Today’s Generation for a Better Tomorrow,” aligns with the Simina-Palik Administration’s commitment to advancing education as a foundation for national development and resilience.

“It conveys a universal truth about the



Government auditors in Fiji for regional reporting on climate change adaptation actions

PASAI

26 May 2025

Nadi, Fiji—The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is holding a 4-day in-person workshop for auditors reporting on government responses to climate-related matters from today.

Thirteen performance auditors (9 female, 4 male) from the government audit offices of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are participating in the workshop from 26 to 29 May 2025.

PASAI has been providing guidance to the 9 Pacific Island audit teams since the audits started in 2024.

Each participating audit office has selected one of 3 audit topics; examining how well their governments are managing water resources, implementing climate change adaptation plans or actions, or taking action to adapt to the impact of sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Staff from the New Zealand Office of the Auditor-General and the Australian state audit offices of New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia have also provided technical support to many of the Pacific Island audit teams.

The workshop is being held to extract the themes from the individual

performance audits and prepare an outline of a Pacific regional report on climate change adaptation actions.

PASAI Program Director, Mike Scott, is co-facilitating the workshop with Karen Wong, a Performance Audit Manager from the New Zealand Office of the Auditor-General.

“Our regional report will feed into a global overview report for presentation to international stakeholders and events, including at the UN’s Climate Change Conference this November,” said Mr Scott.

Workshop participants will present their own report findings and review how their participation in this cooperative regional audit will help them improve their performance audit practices in future work.

Mr Scott expressed satisfaction with the dedication of the auditors, saying, “Many of the audit teams overcame significant hurdles to access information and people, undertake site visits, gather direct evidence of government project progress and engage with communities to hear, see and understand how well initiatives are improving their lives and futures.”

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



Responders address reported oil spill from freight vessel in Tinian

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

June 6, 2025

Santa Rita, Guam—Responders are actively addressing a reported waste oil spill from the 145-foot U.S.-flagged freight ship Mariana in Tinian Harbor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on June 6, 2025.

The spill is contained within the relevant boom and is being pushed to the corner of the pier by the wind. The cleanup will continue through the night and is estimated to be completed Saturday afternoon.

The U.S. Coast Guard, as the lead federal agency for oil spills in coastal waters, is monitoring response efforts. Responders deployed containment and sorbent booms to prevent the spread of oil in accordance with the vessel’s approved response plan, prioritizing the protection of Tinian’s marine ecosystems. Additional response supplies arrived to Tinian from Saipan. A marine science technician from U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Saipan is overseeing operations, ensuring compliance with federal regulations and effective containment strategies.

The responsible party took immediate action on detection of the spill from the vessel’s waste oil containment and notified

the U.S. Coast Guard on the morning of June 6. The operator of the Mariana reported the source secure, no additional leak or discharge, and an estimate around 30 gallons of waste oil. The response team is working diligently to contain and clean up the waste oil. The Mariana, carrying general cargo, holds a valid Certificate of Inspection issued in March 2024.

An investigation into the cause of the spill is underway, led by the U.S. Coast Guard, given the commercial nature of the vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard is collaborating with local agencies, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, to monitor environmental impacts and ensure a thorough response. There are no immediate reports of wildlife or shoreline impacts, but monitoring continues.



Ambassador Kagomiya receives courtesy call from departing JICA volunteer

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

May 29, 2025

Pohnpei—On May 27, Ambassador Kagomiya received a courtesy call from Ms. KOE Nanako, a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV), who is departing the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) upon completion of her mission. Ms. KOE was dispatched by JICA under the seventh batch of JOCV in FY2023, in June 2023, and completed her two years in the FSM.

Ms. KOE served as a Nutritionist at the Island Food Community Program in Pohnpei, working with various schools and educational institutions on nutritional education for children for their health and improvement of lifestyle habits.

Ambassador Kagomiya expressed words of appreciation and gratitude to Ms. KOE for her efforts.



Nearly 108 million children with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific live in a world not designed for them - UNICEF

The region is home to almost half of all children with disabilities, many of whom remain excluded from education, health care, and protection.

UNICEF

June 4, 2025

Bangkok/Kathmandu—A new regional UNICEF report reveals stark disparities in access to rights and services for nearly 108 million children with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific - almost half of the global total of 240 million children with disabilities. Many of these children are being left behind from the earliest years of life. The data highlights the urgent need to design inclusive services to include children with disabilities.

The report, *Children with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific: A Statistical Overview of Their Well-being*, presents a comprehensive regional overview of the situation of children with disabilities. The findings are stark. In most countries, children with disabilities are significantly less likely to attend early childhood education programmes and more likely to miss out on schooling at all levels, adequate nutrition, and protection from violence.

“For too many children with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, basic services such as schooling, healthcare, or protection remain out of reach,” said June Kunugi, UNICEF Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific. “This report offers not only a new regional overview of children with disabilities, but also a clear way forward. When services are inclusive by design and children with disabilities

are counted from the start, we create stronger, more resilient systems that benefit every child.”

In most countries with available data, children with disabilities are more likely to experience severe physical punishment than their peers without disabilities. The pattern of exclusion often begins in the earliest years. In Balochistan, Pakistan, and Lao PDR, only around 40 percent of children with disabilities have access to playthings, compared to 60 to 70 percent of children without disabilities. This disparity continues into later years: in Fiji, only one in four children with disabilities can complete simple math tasks, while nearly half of their peers without disabilities are able can.

The gap is also evident in health and nutrition outcomes. In Vanuatu, nearly half of all children with disabilities are likely to be stunted, compared to less than a third of children without disabilities.

“Every child has the right to live a full life and realize their full potential,” said Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia. “When children with disabilities miss out on nutrition, or early learning, the consequences can last a lifetime. Inclusion must begin in the earliest years through care, connection, and services that reach every child, everywhere.”

The report draws on data from 14 countries that used the Child Functioning Module - a tool that focuses on children’s functional difficulties in daily life, rather than relying solely on medical diagnoses. This approach helps overcome stigma and underreporting, offering a more accurate picture of the proportion of children with disabilities and helps identify disparities in development outcomes and access to rights for children with disabilities and their peers.

The report also highlights progress. In Indonesia, inclusive toilets and digital safety education for children with hearing impairments are helping to promote the participation and rights of children with disabilities. In Nepal, assistive technologies – such as screen readers and braille displays - alongside inclusive education policies and early intervention programmes have been introduced for students with disabilities. However, such efforts remain limited and uneven across the region.

The report calls for urgent, system-wide action to turn inclusion from rhetoric into reality.

This means governments must ensure:

- Investment in inclusive data: Build data systems that count every child, including those with disabilities. Use this data to design inclusive policies, programmes, and investments that address their unique needs.

- Accessible services for all: Ensure social services are inclusive and reach the most marginalized, especially children with disabilities. These services must be tailored to individual needs and remain functional in both stable and crisis settings.

- Inclusive education: Develop education systems where children with disabilities learn alongside their peers from early childhood onwards. This includes training teachers, adapting materials, removing barriers, and engaging families and communities.

- Protection from violence and neglect: Build inclusive community care and support systems to provide social services and accessible psychosocial and mental health support.

- Support for parents and caregivers: Promote the mental health and well-being of parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, empowering them to support their children to reach their fullest potential.

- An end to stigma: Ending stigma and exclusion is a shared responsibility. Governments, communities, families, faith leaders, and the media must work together to promote inclusion and uphold the rights of children with disabilities as part of human diversity.

“Building inclusive systems is both a matter of rights and a smart investment in more equitable, resilient, and productive societies,” Kunugi added.

Pacific leaders forge path to climate resilience, agricultural innovation and regional solidarity

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

June 5, 2025

Nuku’Alofa, Tonga—The 10th



Regional Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) convened from 28–29 May 2025 in Nuku’alofa, Tonga, uniting agriculture and forestry leaders from 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTS), alongside development partners, civil society, and private sector stakeholders.

Hosted by the Government of Tonga and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization

of the United Nations (FAO) and the Pacific Community (SPC), the meeting aimed to strengthen collaboration and deliver practical solutions to the region’s pressing agriculture and forestry challenges, including climate change, soil degradation, invasive species, and food system resilience.

Tonga’s Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forests, the Honourable Dr Siosuia Halavatau, opened the meeting by acknowledging the urgent environmental challenges facing the

Pacific. “Climate change and declining soil health are threatening our food security,” he said. “But through innovation, shared knowledge, and collective action, we can find regional solutions.”

FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands, Guangzhou Qu, highlighted the need to foster united action for transformative change. “The Pacific stands at a critical juncture

Click here for continuation on next page

...Pacific Agriculture

Continued from previous page

where united action can transform climate challenges into opportunities. By advancing climate-smart agriculture and empowering youth and farmers, we can build a resilient and sustainable future for all.”

Key achievements during the meeting included the endorsement of the Regional Research Agenda Framework, which facilitates Pacific-led research, and support for continued knowledge-sharing initiatives, such as the Journal of Agriculture and Forestry in the Pacific and regional research symposia. The heads endorsed SPC’s Land Resources Division Business Plan 2025-2031 for operation with support for implementation and periodic reviews over the next seven-year period.

The heads endorsed the rollout of the first five-year Implementation Plan for the long-term Growing the Pacific Strategy (2025–2030); endorsement for the foundational phase of Pacific Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (PACS), which targets climate-resilient food systems grounded in indigenous and nutritious crops; and the endorsement of the second edition of the Guiding Framework for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific.

During the two-day meeting, countries shared their aspirations for the next year, including the United Kingdom, which presented a statement for the first time since rejoining the SPC in 2021.

A new publication, Hedge, Border and Living Fence Plants of the Pacific Islands, by Professor Randy Thaman, was also officially launched at the meeting.

SPC Director of SPC’s Land Resources Division, Karen Mapusua, commended the region’s progress.

“The Pacific is leading the way in building systems that are not only resilient but rooted in our own knowledge, values, and innovation. Our work here is driven by the

region, for the region.”

The meeting also underscored the importance of inclusivity, recognising the role of farmer organisations, youth, and people with disabilities in shaping the future of agriculture and forestry. A dynamic Youth Panel shared bold ideas for community-led innovation, education initiatives, and sustainable practices.

The Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services also included updates on:

Climate transparency through the development of measurement and verification systems aligned with the Paris Agreement;

The role of Digital Earth Pacific in advancing satellite monitoring for agriculture, forestry, and climate resilience; and

Strengthened cooperation through technical networks such as the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS) and the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO).

The meeting concluded with renewed calls for sustainable funding mechanisms, regional research governance, and stronger integration of agriculture and forestry in biodiversity and climate dialogues.

Chair and CEO of Tonga’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, Dr Viliami Manu, closed the meeting by affirming, “Only through collaboration, innovation, and the stewardship of our collective wisdom can we ensure a food-secure and climate-resilient Pacific.”

The next heads and ministers meeting, together with the Pacific Week of Agriculture Forestry, will be hosted by the Solomon Islands.



Pacific Vision for Adapted Crops and Soil officially launches on the margins of the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry in Tonga

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

May 28, 2025

Nuku'alofa, Tonga--The Pacific Vision for Adapted Crops and Soil (PACS) was officially launched yesterday in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, on the margins of the 4th Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry.

As climate change threatens food systems, the PACS will improve food and nutrition security with investments in soil health and climate-adapted crops.

PACS is inspired by the global Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils movement (VACS), which focuses on identifying and mobilizing resources to scale investments in nutritious crops that are adaptable to climate change.

A two-year foundational period of funding has been secured from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to establish PACS, pilot the approach, and develop a long-term investment framework.

Australia has committed AUD 4 million to SPC, with AUD 1 million allocated for technical support from CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, with complementary funding from the Australian Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Ms Karen Mapusua, Director of SPC’s Land Resources Division, expressed gratitude to the Australian Government for funding the first phase and described the launch of PACS as the formation of a coalition of partners united by shared goals and a commitment to the common good.

“Thank you to the Government of Australia for stepping in and funding this first phase. The goal is to strengthen our countries and our people in the face of climate change and to be more resilient and have healthy future generations.”

DAFF Deputy Secretary, Agricultural Trade and Regulation, Tina Hutchison said, “The beginning of this foundation period, which we are celebrating today, is focused on building partnerships and collaboration. Australia is proud to be supporting this Pacific-led initiative through funding and technical support from DFAT, CSIRO, Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the DAFF.”



In the foundational phase, regional consultations will be held to select approximately 20 crops that are priorities for investing in, focusing on nutrition, potential for adapting to climate change, and potential for improving soil health.

Country level assessments will be undertaken in three pilot countries to understand what work and knowledge already exists, understanding where further investment is needed to address gaps or support connections between areas of work, pilot approaches to addressing gaps, develop an investment framework to mobilise resources to accelerate research, development deployment and consumption of these crops.

PACS implementation will follow a three-phased approach. Firstly, opportunity crops will be identified focusing on the diversity of key crop varieties to maximise their potential to improve nutritional security, soil health and thereby help mitigate biodiversity loss in the field of food plants.

Secondly, an assessment of how those opportunity crops and the soils they are grown in have been affected by land degradation and will be affected through 2050 by climate change.

And thirdly, mobilizing resources to accelerate research, development and deployment of these crops and to improve regional soil information systems and sustainable land management knowledge and practices.

Three pilot countries will be selected during the foundational phase through an EOI process. Eligible countries include Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. All SPC member countries and territories will also be involved in the pilot phase through the establishment of a knowledge-sharing community within the PACS initiative.

Guam Energy Strategies to assist 100% renewable energy goal by 2045

Guam Energy Strategies

June 5, 2025

Guam—A major initiative aimed at informing Guam's transition to a more sustainable and resilient energy future is now officially operating under a new name: Guam Energy Strategies (formerly known as Guam100).

Funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, Guam Energy Strategies is a collaborative partnership between the Guam Power Authority (GPA) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), in close coordination with the Guam Energy Office (GEO) and a broad stakeholder advisory group.

Like many other U.S. territories and states, Guam has set an ambitious goal for renewable energy. Guam Energy Strategies will explore approaches to address the technical and economic challenges of achieving Guam's RPS target: 50% of electricity sales from renewable energy by 2035 and 100% by 2045. The effort will include a detailed technical analysis of options for affordable and viable solutions while emphasizing energy security and

availability.

Over the past year, the Guam Energy Strategies Advisory Group—comprising representatives from government agencies, industry, nonprofit organizations, the Mayors' Council of Guam, and members of the Legislature and Governor's Office—has helped lay the groundwork for broader public engagement through closed meetings and technical analysis.

"This is a pivotal moment for Guam Energy Strategies to begin addressing the vision for a sustainable energy future with transparent, actionable strategies," said GPA Assistant General Manager of Engineering and Technical Services, John J. Cruz, Jr. P.E. "This effort not only complements GPA's Clean Energy Master Plan but also widens the stakeholder outreach to provide a broader spectrum of insights."

GPA's most recent Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), also known as the GPA Clean Energy Master Plan, was published in 2022. Guam Energy Strategies will help inform the next IRP update and will likely introduce new components to reflect emerging needs and findings.

Guam Energy Strategies takes a holistic, data-driven approach that includes:

- Integrated modeling of power generation including renewable energy scenarios;
- Impact analysis and affordability assessment;
- Technical, policy, and economic evaluation;
- Broad-based stakeholder engagement and community education.

"Guam Energy Strategies represents a unified effort to identify technically sound and secure solutions that are locally appropriate and economically viable," said Guam Energy Office Director Rebecca Respicio. "This is about more than just research, it's about ensuring the right people are aligned, engaged, and ready to act."

The initiative takes a comprehensive view that considers future load growth, energy availability, and affordability while identifying strategies to increase renewable integration and enhance grid reliability.

Working alongside GPA, GEO, and the Advisory Group, NREL provides objective, rigorous analysis and modeling to help guide informed decision-making as Guam moves toward its renewable energy goals.

Despite uncertainty around federal funding priorities under the new presidential administration, project leaders reaffirmed their commitment to transparency and continued progress.

"We are thankful for the continued support of the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and NREL," Respicio added. "Together, we are laying the groundwork for a cleaner, more resilient Guam consistent with GPA's mandate for reliable, resilient, and affordable electric power service."

NREL's work includes evaluating a full spectrum of energy solutions, from investments in new generation, storage, and transmission infrastructure to strategies that improve load management. The team also shares tools, data, and success stories to promote viable, replicable energy practices that help states, cities, and territories achieve their energy goals.



New Zealand North Pacific Development Fund Open Now!

New Zealand's North Pacific Development Fund (NPDF) offers up to NZ\$75,000 (approximately US\$45,000) to support small scale, short-term projects and activities within the Federated States of Micronesia.

The NPDF supports local communities and organisations to complete projects that contribute to wider community well-being, reduce poverty and/or potentially change lives. Priority is given to projects that can be delivered within a one-year timeframe, align with New Zealand and the Federated States of Micronesia's shared values, and include a contribution of local resource and/or labour.

The New Zealand Embassy is now welcoming new NPDF applications for 2025/26. If you are an individual, civil society group, NGO or local government, and have an appropriate project, with the right skills and experience to manage it, please scan the QR Code or email hluenquiries@mfat.govt.nz

