

# Governor Joseph confirms Herolyn Movick's victory in Special Election for Lt. Governor

By Bill Jaynes  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

July 14, 2025

**Kolonia, Pohnpei**—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph today officially declared Herolyn S. Movick the winner of the July 2 special election to fill the vacant seat of Lieutenant Governor of Pohnpei State.

The announcement was made through Executive Declaration No. 2025-01, following the constitutional and statutory processes outlined in the Pohnpei State Constitution and State Code. According to Article 6, Section 4(2) of the Pohnpei Constitution, special elections are held as provided by statute when vacancies arise.

The special election was conducted under the oversight of the Pohnpei State Election Commissioner, who is designated by law as the Chief Election Official. The Commissioner is responsible for overseeing the voter registration process, managing the election, and ensuring that counting and tabulation procedures comply with legal requirements.

After the election results were finalized and certified, the Commissioner transmitted the certification to Governor Joseph, as required by Title 10, Section 6-135 of the Pohnpei State Code. The law mandates the Governor to declare the winning candidates following certification.

No complaints or claims of irregularities were filed in relation to the July 2 election, which cleared the way for the Governor to make the declaration without delay. Under Title 10, Section 6-128(3) of the Pohnpei State Code, parties may contest election outcomes within one week of the election or prior to the certification of results. No such challenges were submitted.

"I now declare Honorable Herolyn S. Movick for Lieutenant Governor the victor to have received the required majority votes casted on July 2, 2025," Governor Joseph stated in the official declaration issued today.

Movick will now assume the office of Lieutenant Governor following the successful conclusion of the special election process.



# Penias: 'The Storm Has Passed' after FSM grant fund theft charges dismissed

By Bill Jaynes  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

July 13, 2025

**FSM**—After several months of court proceedings, the FSM government has moved to dismiss all criminal charges against Stuard Penias and Linda Primo Amor for the alleged theft of grant funds.

In May, Penias, through his public defender, filed a motion to dismiss the charges. In June, Amor's public defender filed a motion to join her co-defendant's motion to dismiss. Later that month, FSM Assistant Attorney General Bethwell

O'Sonis filed a motion to dismiss the charges, citing procedural rules that require both the defendant's and the court's permission for a prosecutor to dismiss charges.

The court customarily considers in its dismissal decisions whether the action involves harassment of the defendants and whether a bona fide reason, such as insufficient evidence to obtain a conviction, exists for the dismissal. "It also has to consider whether dismissal is in the public interest," stated the court's June 26, 2025, order of dismissal.

Dismissals under the rule invoked by the prosecutor are "without prejudice," meaning that if a prosecutor later resolves the deficiencies in the case, charges can technically be refiled. However, the statute of limitations for the charges in question has since expired. As a result, any attempt to refile would be immediately dismissed as "time-barred." Legally, charges dismissed without prejudice are treated as though they were never filed.

The court's ruling noted that the prosecutor represented in his motion that there is insufficient evidence to

support a reasonable likelihood of conviction at trial. "The Government represents that key witnesses' statements are inconsistent, unverified, and fail to establish the essential elements of the alleged offense(s). The Government further represents that there is no physical or documentary evidence that can be used to refute the defendants' explanation," the order said.

On June 26, Associate Justice Chang B. William ruled that the court finds the motion to dismiss to be in the public

*Click here for continuation on page 4*



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# President Simina arrives in Majuro for the 27th MIF, Meets with U.S. Department of the Interior's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary William "Bill" Hague

*FSM Information Services*

July 1, 2025

**Majuro**—His Excellency Wesley W. Simina and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) delegation have arrived in Majuro for the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) and, on the margins of the Forum, held a constructive bilateral meeting with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) William "Bill" Hague of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong FSM-U.S. partnership under the Compact of Free Association and highlighted the Department of the Interior's crucial role in Compact implementation moving forward.



During the meeting, President Simina conveyed appreciation to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum for his decisive support in safeguarding core Compact funding from foreign assistance reviews, ensuring continued implementation of essential programs without disruption.

The discussion also touched on pressing implementation issues, including the FSM bonding policy and the need to re-establish full U.S. membership in the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) to move forward with pending resolutions and the ongoing concern over cuts to discretionary programs impacting health and education.

Both sides also discussed the status of FSM veterans and progress towards reinstating the U.S. Peace Corps in the FSM with PDAS Hague acknowledging both as areas of mutual priority and welcomed continued dialogue.

The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to continued partnership and dialogue between in the years ahead.



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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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

**Monday, July 28, 2025**

# Courtesy call on Japanese Ambassador by new fisheries technical expert from OFCF

*Embassy of Japan to the FSM*

*June 25, 2025*

**Pohnpei**—On June 25, 2025, Mr. Goro Uesugi, new Fisheries Technical Expert from the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF), paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Kagomiya.

Mr. Uesugi, an expert of marine equipment, is dispatched as part of the Project for Fisheries Development Assistance for Pacific Island Nations, which aims to provide advice on repairing and restoring aging and idle fisheries-related facilities and equipment including their operation and management, as well as transferring technology to local engineers, so that these facilities and equipment can operate stably.

The Ambassador sincerely hopes that Mr. Uesugi, who has experience working in Fiji, will contribute to Micronesia.



# PICRC launches new student program on building underwater robots

*Palau International Coral Reef Center*

*July 2, 2025*

**Palau**—A new student program at the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) offered an exciting hands-on learning experience for 16 students from grades 8 and 9. The STEM Summer Camp, held from June 16-20, was conducted in partnership with Palau Community College-Talent Search Program.

Selected students from George B. Harris Elementary School, Koror Elementary School, Airai Elementary School, Peleliu Elementary School, Emmaus-Bethania High School, and Palau High School took part in a week of engaging activities related to marine science, including a fish dissection workshop, an algae lab, and a plankton workshop, as well as the construction of the SeaMate's Angelfish Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs).

In a scientific setting, ROVs are designed to explore underwater environments that are beyond human reach, such as the deep-ocean. However, the smaller ROVs that the students built are for education purposes, mainly used in a pool or aquarium setting. Through this process, students were introduced to engineering and design, with concepts

of marine conservation, exploration, and monitoring.

Working in teams, the students learned to use the tools, wire electric components from scratch, and design and test their robots. The camp concluded with an exciting ROV competition, where the teams used their robots to collect as many objects as possible from the bottom of an aquarium tub.

“By building ROVs, the students had a hands-on learning experience, developing skills in science, engineering, technology, and design,” stated PICRC Director of Outreach, Imade Tellei. “These skills will be valuable as they continue their education and pursue careers, potentially becoming the future marine researchers of PICRC.”

Pre-and-post program surveys showed measurable growth in the students’ understanding of underwater robotics and deep-sea environments. Many students shared that they’d come to realize how intertwined science and technology is, and how there’s still so much to explore and research in Palau’s ocean.

The Camp concluded with a cultural tour hosted by Ngaraard State, where students visited the Fountain of Youth and explored significant historical sites tied to the legendary love story of Surech and Tulei. This was followed by a field trip to the Rock Islands on the last day, which included a beach clean-up and certificate ceremony celebrating the students’ accomplishments.

PICRC extends its sincere thanks to our partners, Ngaraard State Government and Koror State Government Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement, for their support in making the field trips a success.



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)

**Country:** Federated States of Micronesia

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

**Grant No.:** IDA-E371-FM

**Assignment Title:** COMPETENT AUTHORITY (CA) INSPECTOR/s

**Reference No.:** FM-NORMA-457830-CS-INDV – POHNPEI,  
FM-NORMA-457827-CS-INDV – KOSRAE, FM-NORMA-457829-CS-INDV - KOSRAE

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

The consulting services (“the Services”) will provide inspection and certification services for health and safety of food and food products particularly at entry ports or related establishments in Kosrae State and in Pohnpei State, FSM to support its function as a Competent Authority (CA) for accessing the European Union (EU) market. Two Consultants/CA Inspectors will be based in Kosrae, FSM and One Consultant/CA Inspector will be based in Pohnpei, FSM under the National Food Safety Program of the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs (DHSA).

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment may be found at DOFA website ([www.dofa.gov.fm](http://www.dofa.gov.fm)) or at the NORMA website ([www.norma.fm](http://www.norma.fm)).

The FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services as CA Inspector (attach curriculum vitae/Resume with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc.). Consultants should also furnish copies of college/university degrees or relevant certificates. The Consultant should indicate clearly for which State (Kosrae or Pohnpei) the Expression of Interest applies.

The criteria for selecting the Consultant/CA Inspectors are:

Required experience and educational background:

- Bachelor’s degree in food science, food technology, public environmental health, fisheries quality control and assurance management or related field. Associates Degree may be acceptable if proven extensive relevant experience.
- Two (2) years of experience in inspection, management, sanitation or related work.
- Fluency in the English language.
- Good written and oral communication skills including basic computer skills.
- Proven ability to work independently and under limited supervision with strong attention to detail.
- Willingness to work outside conventional working hours and around fish and on/around fishing vessels.
- Good people skills.
- Strong commitment to sanitation and hygiene.

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

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

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) preferably by July 28, 2025 (Pohnpei local time).

FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority

Attn: Mr. O’Kean Ehmes, PROPER Project Manager

PO Box PS 122

Pohnpei, FM 96941

Federated States of Micronesia

Telephone: (691) 320-2700/5181

E-mail: [ocean.ehmes@norma.fm](mailto:ocean.ehmes@norma.fm) and copy to [valerie.hawley@norma.fm](mailto:valerie.hawley@norma.fm)

## Governor Joseph delivers opening remarks at FSM Chief Executive Council in Chuuk

*Pohnpei Public Information*

July 8, 2025

**Weno, Chuuk**—Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph delivered opening remarks along with President Simina and fellow Governors at the Chief Executive Council (CEC) of the Federated States of Micronesia, held at the Governor’s Conference Room in Weno, Chuuk and co-hosted by Vital FSM PetroCorp.



Governor Joseph expressed his gratitude to Governor Alexander R. Narruhn and the people of Chuuk for their warm hospitality, and commended the leadership of Vital FSM for showcasing their flagship project on Tonowas Island. He described the site visit as “inspiring,” noting it as a clear example of how vision, partnership, and commitment can fuel economic growth for the nation.

Reflecting on the recently concluded 27th Micronesian Islands Forum in Majuro, Governor Joseph shared that he returned energized by the strong sense of regional unity and constructive dialogue. He extended a warm invitation to all CEC members to convene again next year in Pohnpei for the 28th MIF, and proposed that a CEC meeting be held prior to the Forum to

ensure a unified national voice when addressing shared issues.

“What encourages me most,” Governor Joseph stated, “is the strong unity and esprit de corps among us as leaders. Let’s use this momentum to move from discussion to action—for the betterment of our states and the entire FSM.”

Governor Joseph concluded by reaffirming his commitment to work collaboratively on key national priorities, including energy strategy, Compact funding, renewable energy development, public health programs, and coconut industry revitalization.

The CEC serves as a vital platform for dialogue and coordination among FSM’s top leaders, fostering national cohesion and joint action on shared challenges and opportunities.

## ...Penias

*Continued from front page*

interest because it was made for a bona fide reason.

For Penias and Amor, their legal ordeal is now over. Though the law treats the charges as though they were never filed, repairing the damage to their reputations may not be so easily accomplished. Still, Penias expressed positivity about the outcome, both for himself and for the legal system, writing in a social media post: “The storm has passed.”

“Earlier this year, a case was filed against me that brought with it a season

of uncertainty and emotional challenges. Today, I stand with a grateful heart, first and foremost thanking God for His guidance, strength, and protection throughout this journey,” he wrote. “I would also like to thank the Honorable Court for its swift, fair, and just handling of this matter. Justice, when served with integrity, restores faith in the system, and I am truly thankful... I also want to extend my respect and thanks to the opposing party. While we may have stood on different sides, I recognize the importance of due process and acknowledge your right to seek justice.”

“To everyone reading this, know your rights, stand in truth, and never lose faith in our judicial system. Justice may not always come easily, but it is worth standing for,” Penias wrote.

# Governor Stevenson A. Joseph participates in second day of FSM Chief Executive Council in Chuuk

*Pohnpei Public Information*

**July 9, 2025**

**Weno, Chuuk**—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph of Pohnpei State joined His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and fellow state leaders at the second day of the FSM Chief Executive Council (CEC) meeting held in Chuuk State. Also in attendance were the Honorable Alexander R. Narruhn, Governor of Chuuk; Honorable Tulensa Palik, Governor of Kosrae; and Honorable Francis Itimai, Acting Governor of Yap.

Following an insightful first day that focused on the operations, ongoing projects, and future strategies of Vital FSM PetroCorp—including its flagship efforts in energy security and economic resilience—the second day’s agenda covered a range of national priorities critical to the FSM’s development and long-term sustainability.

Key topics of discussion included:

- FSM Compact Trust Fund: Updates on its performance and



projections, ensuring future fiscal stability for the nation.

- Health and Education: Progress reports, challenges, and collaborative strategies to improve services across all four states.
- Security and Geopolitical Concerns: Regional dynamics and national coordination in the context of increasing global interest in the Pacific.
- Responsible FSM Approach to Deep Seabed Mineral Resources:

Emphasis on sustainable, science-based decision-making to protect marine ecosystems.

- Department of Finance and Administration System Update: Improvements in fiscal transparency and reporting tools.
- Infrastructure Maintenance Fund: Ensuring maintenance of critical infrastructure across the nation.
- Project Management Unit Regulations: Introduction of new

PMU guidelines to strengthen project oversight and delivery.

- Resources & Development: Initiatives to drive sustainable economic growth at state and national levels.
- CEC and SNLC Outcomes: Review and alignment of outcomes from the State and National Leadership Conference.
- Green Growth Initiative: Advancing environmentally sustainable development in line with global best practices and regional commitments.

Governor Joseph welcomed the depth and breadth of the discussions, noting the importance of continued collaboration between the national and state governments. He reaffirmed Pohnpei State’s commitment to working alongside the other states and the national government to implement these shared priorities in a manner that uplifts the lives of all Micronesians.

The CEC serves as a critical platform for unity, coordination, and collective action in advancing the FSM’s national development agenda.

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# Pacific leaders address US deportation distress and regional unity at Micronesian meeting

Amid concerns over Trump's increased immigration enforcement, the forum calls for regional cooperation to navigate its shared challenges.

By Christine Rovoi  
Pacific Media Network

July 9, 2025

**RMI**—The latest wave of deportations of Pacific people from the United States was among a range of issues discussed at the recent Micronesian Islands Forum in the Marshall Islands.

The three-day summit brought together leaders from Kiribati, Nauru, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Palau.

Their main focus was on improving cooperation and tackling shared challenges such as sustainable development, climate change, and connectivity. One of the key outcomes of the forum was an agreement between Air Marshall and Nauru Airlines to improve air travel services.

But the recent deportation of undocumented individuals from the US, particularly linked to policies from President Donald Trump's administration, was a major concern at the Majuro meeting.

The Micronesian leaders argued that despite many of their citizens having legal status in the US, they are still at risk of being affected by the government's Mass Deportation Scheme.

On 23 January 2025, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency conducted raids on various 'sanctuary cities', resulting in the detention and removal of thousands of immigrants.

This has led to increased fear among Pacific Island communities in the US, especially in places like California, where strict measures against undocumented immigrants are in place.

Many Pacific Islanders fear deportation back to their home countries, especially those with criminal convictions, as these nations are already dealing with many returning deportees.

It's hard to track the exact number of Pacific Islanders being deported. But



reports and available data indicate that hundreds have already been sent back, particularly from Fiji, Tonga, and Sāmoa.

In total, ICE has aggressively pursued more than 3500 individuals for deportation, also involving flights back to their home countries.

A recently-leaked document from ICE revealed that many individuals from various countries, including 166 New Zealanders, 261 Australians, 353 Fijians, and 151 Tongans, are among the 1.4 million undocumented immigrants targeted for removal.

Titled 'Noncitizens on the ICE Non-Detained Docket with Final Orders of Removal by Country of Citizenship', the list places Fiji at the top among Pacific Island nations, with other affected countries including Sāmoa (57), the Solomon Islands (3), and Tuvalu (1).

But a Fijian lawyer says the deportation of Pasifika is a concern, especially with the increased focus on removals under the current US government.

Dorsami Naidu says the situation poses a risk not just to individuals but also to their home countries, according to The Conversation.

Naidu says many Pacific Islanders in the US are on temporary visas or may have overstayed their allowed time, which increases their vulnerability.

The Marshall Islands government has reportedly stated that the issue has left their citizens living abroad feeling anxious about their status.

President Trump has made immigration

enforcement a key priority, introducing significant funding to increase the deportation of individuals from the US. His administration has allocated around US\$170 billion (NZ\$281.89b) for border and immigration efforts, which include plans to detain and deport record numbers of immigrants.

A White House official told reporters last week that Congress needs to pass a bill for the federal government to purchase more detention beds. "The more beds that we have, the more bad guys we arrest," the official told the media briefing.

During the Majuro Forum, leaders discussed the importance of working together for the future of the Pacific region.

The leaders included FSM President Wesley Simina, Kiribati President Taneti Maamau, Nauru Deputy Speaker Isabela Dageago, Palau Minister Steven Victor, Chuuk Governor Alexander Narruhn, Pohnpei Governor Stevenson Joseph, Kosrae Governor Tulensa Palik, Yap Acting Governor Francis Itimai, and Lieutenant-Governor David Apatang, from the CNMI.

Micronesia's importance in the Pacific region

The Pacific Islands Forum's Secretary-General has reaffirmed Micronesia's key role in promoting unity and shared goals among Pacific Island nations.

In his address to the leaders in Majuro, Baron Waqa emphasised the region's commitment to standing together as a strong and inclusive part of the Blue Pacific Continent.

As both Secretary-General and a proud member of Micronesia, Waqa thanked the people of the Marshall Islands for their warm welcome. He says Micronesia's leadership is central in guiding both regional and global priorities.

Waqa says PIF aims to work alongside other regional groups to strengthen efforts specifically in Micronesia. He stressed the need to develop a cohesive approach across different regions and



subregions.

"In a world increasingly marked by turbulence, the Pacific must remain a beacon of hope and unity," the former Nauruan president says. "We must ensure that the Forum's priorities align with the lived realities of our people and the Leaders' vision in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

"The Forum Secretariat will continue to walk alongside Micronesian leaders to ensure that our work not only complements but is guided by your priorities. Together, we will deepen regionalism, build trust in our institutions, and shape a future that is defined by our terms."

Expansion of island-hopping services  
Meanwhile, the Marshall Islands and the FSM have been in talks with Nauru Airlines for two years to extend their island-hopping services to Honolulu.

During the Majuro summit, two agreements were signed: one is between Nauru Airlines and Air Marshall Islands to work together on pilot training, marketing, and sales. The other involves leaders from Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau to boost trade and food security through improved cargo services.

While potential expansions of these services to the Philippines and Hawaii were discussed, they were not included in the finalized agreements.

To improve logistical operations and ensure the timely delivery of fresh food and essential goods among the islands, a new regional cargo coordination committee will be set up.

Looking ahead, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting is scheduled to take place in the Solomon Islands from 8-12 September 2025.



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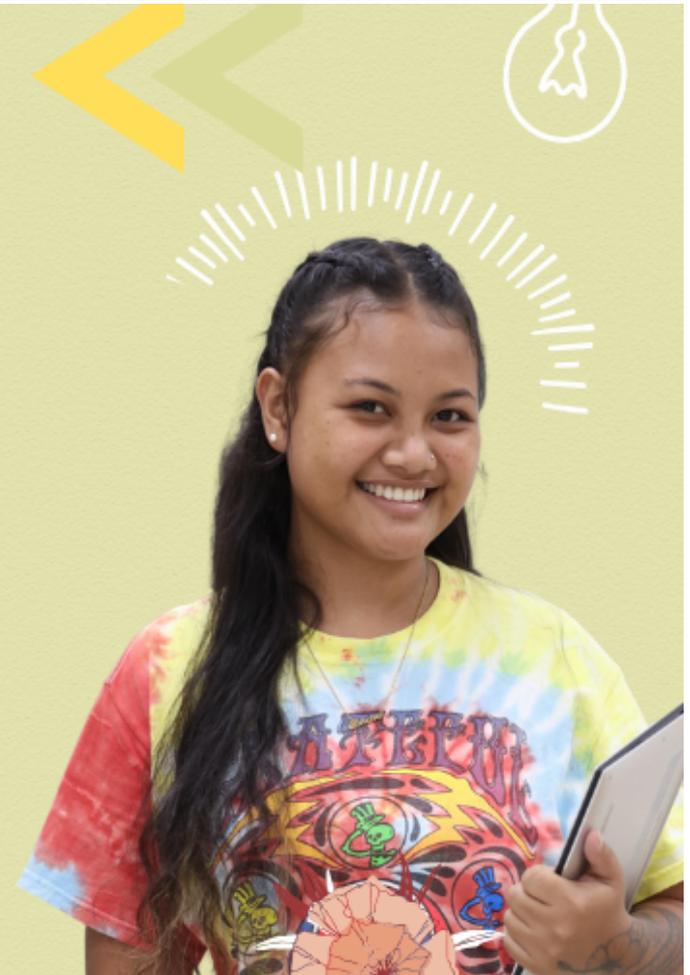
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### **Instructor - Marine Science (Pohnpei)**

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# U.S. Coast Guard strengthens partnership with Federated States of Micronesia at semi-annual Joint Committee Meeting

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

June 23, 2025

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The U.S. Coast Guard actively participated in the semi-annual bilateral Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on June 4 to 5, 2025, at Joint Task Force-Micronesia (JTF-M) Headquarters.

Led by U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Jennifer Johnson, U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Josh Lasky, and FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert, the meeting reinforced the enduring partnership under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), focusing on maritime security, sovereignty, and regional stability in the Pacific.

The U.S. Coast Guard, represented by Cmdr. Patton Epperson, the Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam deputy commander, and Lt. Cmdr. Derek Wallin, FM/SG COFA maritime advisor, delivered key briefings under the maritime security and maritime domain awareness line of effort. Their presentations highlighted a year-long scope of work, including bilateral maritime law enforcement operations, law enforcement training, and maritime safety initiatives, while outlining priorities for the next six months. U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Angela Cook, division chief, Oceania policy division, J53 INDOPACOM, was also a key member of the U.S. delegation.

"Our commitment to the FSM is solid," said Cmdr. Patton Epperson. "Through collaborative efforts like the JCM, we're reinforcing our strong maritime collaboration and fostering trust to ensure a secure and prosperous Pacific. The U.S. Coast Guard is honored to support our partners in protecting their waters and communities, which are also our maritime borders."

The JCM addressed four critical lines of effort: homeland defense, internal security, maritime security, and disaster preparedness. Maritime security emerged as a top priority, with FSM leaders requesting increased U.S. Coast Guard presence, more bilateral operations, and enhanced law enforcement training to safeguard

their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Discussions also covered maritime domain awareness, particularly during shared regional operations under the Forum Fisheries Agency like Island Chief and Kuru Kuru, and thoughts on deep-sea minerals and marine scientific research policy refinement.

The U.S. Coast Guard reported progress on prior engagements throughout FSM. In May, a Mobile Training Team (MTT) completed a Basic Boarding Officer course, and earlier this month delivered a Small Boat Operator course. The Service representatives shared updates on how they now handle reports after bilateral operations with the FSM, including the use of the enhancement to the maritime agreement, also known as the shiprider agreement. Signed in 2023, this enhancement allows U.S. Coast Guard teams to board vessels in FSM waters with prior coordination, but without an FSM officer present. They also created standard guidelines based on their formal agreement with the FSM. To facilitate expanded law enforcement training, the U.S. Coast Guard is planning to host a shiprider symposium in Honolulu in 2026, fostering collaboration with FSM state law enforcement and regional partners.

Ambassador Johnson reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to FSM's sovereignty, emphasizing enhanced safety at sea and resilient communities. Rear Adm. Lasky underscored the role of JTF-M in supporting COFA obligations, noting the U.S. Coast Guard's contributions to regional security. FSM Secretary Bacalando expressed gratitude for the productive dialogue.

The meeting celebrated milestones, including the selection of FSM citizen Stasia Fugog to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and ongoing recruiting efforts to provide opportunities for FSM students. The U.S. Coast Guard also affirmed its ongoing commitment to search and rescue operations within FSM waters, building on recent successful cases.

Supporting Ambassador Johnson's leadership, the U.S. Coast Guard remains dedicated to advancing FSM's maritime security. The JCM, a cornerstone of COFA's security and defense relations, fosters open dialogue

and actionable outcomes, ensuring a secure and prosperous Pacific.

The U.S. Coast Guard looks forward to continued collaboration, a multilateral exercise in summer 2026, and sustained support for FSM's maritime priorities. The next JCM will review progress and address emerging challenges, reinforcing the strong bonds between the U.S. and FSM.



## Micronesia Conservation Trust signs landmark MOU with TNC and Micronesian Leaders at 27th Micronesian Islands Forum

Micronesia Conservation Trust

July 3, 2025

**RMI**—At the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum in Majuro, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) joined The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Republic of Palau (ROP), the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), and the U.S. Territory of Guam (Guam) in signing a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative for the region.



Micronesia Challenge and broader conservation and climate resilience efforts across the Micronesian region.

"The signing of this MOU marks a critical step forward in securing durable conservation financing for our islands and people," said Mae Bruton-Adams, CEO of MCT. "Together, we are charting a path toward sustainability, sovereignty, and resilience."

This MOU formalizes a shared commitment to assess and develop a long-term, sustainable financing approach to support the goals of the

The PFP aims to expand protected areas, support sustainable livelihoods, and unlock long-term investments to safeguard Micronesia's natural resources for future generations.

# The FSM is tackling rising climate-related diseases with a major health resilience program backed by the Green Climate Fund and SPC

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

July 3, 2025

**FSM--**As sea levels rise and storms intensify, communities across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are facing a surge in climate-sensitive diseases. From dengue fever to diarrhea, illnesses once considered seasonal are now becoming year-round threats, driven by rising temperatures, saltwater intrusion, and failing water and sanitation systems.

In response, FSM has developed a major climate change and health program aimed at preventing the spread of climate-sensitive diseases and protecting the country's most vulnerable communities.

Backed by a USD 17.9 million grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and delivered in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), the initiative will help climate-proof public health systems and improve community



resilience across all four FSM states.

Mr. Henry Gonzalez, Chief Investment Officer of the GCF, said that this project will enhance the resilience of the population of FSM to climate-sensitive health outcomes.

Over the next five years, more than 78,000 people will benefit directly from

improved disease surveillance and early warning systems, better access to health information, and resilient water and sanitation infrastructure. The program will also support the development of a Health National Adaptation Plan to guide long-term responses to climate risks, as well as the integration of climate into FSM's national health strategies and emergency response

planning.

Ms Coral Pasisi, Director of SPC's Climate Change and Sustainability Division, said the program is extremely significant for the region.

By drawing on its multi-sector expertise, SPC ensures that health adaptation efforts are grounded in science and coordinated across water, sanitation, food systems, and disease control, reflecting a One Health approach that connects the health of people with the health of ecosystems.

Dr Berlin Kafoa, Director of SPC's Public Health Division, emphasized the need to take Climate Change seriously, especially its impact on people's health.

As climate impacts accelerate across the Pacific, this collaboration shows how locally led, regionally supported action grounded in science and guided by strong policy can build lasting resilience from the ground up.

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# Nonprofits, community groups, and local leaders collaborate, sending equipment, supplies, and appliances to Kosrae

Habele

July 12, 2025

**Kosrae**—In a testament to enduring trans-Pacific ties, a 40-foot shipping container packed with hospital equipment, school supplies, and household appliances arrived on the shores of Kosrae this week, delivering a wave of relief to one of the most remote communities in Micronesia.

The grassroots humanitarian effort, coordinated by Honolulu-based members of the Kosrae diaspora, reflects a growing trend of Pacific Islanders mobilizing their far-flung networks to support their home islands in times of need. The shipment, formally handed over during a ceremony at Kosrae High School, was the culmination of months of collaboration between nonprofits, community groups, and local leaders across Hawai'i and Kosrae.

“It’s amazing what we can accomplish when we work together,” said Mrs. Shanty Sigrah Asher, a Kosrae native living in Hawai'i, who spearheaded the initiative alongside the Habele Outer

Island Education Fund and the Kosrae Community Organization in Honolulu.

Key partners in the effort included Matson Shipping, which covered all transportation costs; Palama Settlement, which provided space for staging and loading; and Project Vision Hawai'i, which contributed much of the hospital equipment. Hawai'i State Senator Glenn Wakai helped secure donations from Home Depot, Kamehameha Schools, and private donors, contributing new appliances, books, and sports equipment.

The outpouring of support also extended to individuals like Kufus Tosie, who donated kitchen equipment, and Washington Middle School, which supplied furniture for local classrooms.

Kosrae’s Acting Governor Arthy Nena, speaking at the handover ceremony, praised the generosity of the Hawai'i-based community

and underscored the critical role the supplies will play in strengthening the island’s fragile health and education systems.

The donations have been distributed to Kosrae’s Department of Health Services and Department of Education, where officials say they will directly benefit clinics, classrooms, and community programs struggling with chronic shortages.

For the island of Kosrae, a volcanic outcrop of fewer than 7,000 residents, the shipment represents far more than material aid. It is, as Acting Governor Nena described, “a reaffirmation of the bonds that connect our people across oceans.”



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## Australia reaffirms Climate Finance commitment to FSM and Pacific Region

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 8, 2025

*Palikir, Pohnpei*—Australia has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting climate resilience in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the broader Pacific region through strengthened climate finance initiatives.

The Australian Embassy to the FSM recently joined a climate finance roundtable hosted by the FSM government, discussing areas of cooperation in addressing the region's pressing climate challenges.

During the discussion, the Australian Embassy reiterated its government's expanded commitment to global climate finance. Australia now expects to deliver AUD3 billion in climate finance over the 2020–2025 period—an increase from its original AUD2 billion pledge. Of that total, AUD1.3 billion is earmarked specifically for projects across the Pacific.

Australia's climate finance efforts in FSM include the Outer Island Electrification Project, which aims to improve access to reliable and sustainable energy sources in remote communities. The Embassy also said that Australia is committed to ensuring that at least half of its new investments over AUD3 million will include climate change objectives.

The roundtable served as a platform for Australia and FSM to align on shared priorities and deepen their partnership in advancing climate action.



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# “Lives are on the Line”: Health community welcomes Bonn deal to monitor climate finance but criticises rich countries’ efforts to shirk responsibilities

*Climate and Health Alliance*

June 27, 2025

**Bonn**—As the UN’s SB62 Climate Change Conference closed just after midnight, the Global Climate and Health Alliance welcomed a breakthrough agreement between governments to pursue monitoring of urgently needed finance for adaptation as part of tracking progress towards a Global Goal on Adaptation, but condemned attempts by rich countries to avoid discussion on their climate finance responsibilities.

“With people’s lives on the line, grants-based public finance must urgently be delivered to adequately protect the health and wellbeing of people most vulnerable to climate impacts - as aligned with their Paris Agreement responsibilities”, said Jess Beagley, Policy Lead at the Global Climate and Health Alliance, which brings together over 200 health professionals and health civil society organisations and networks to address climate change. “After ten hours of fighting over tracking adaptation finance today, the talks ended up in a better place than anyone had hoped.

“Here in Bonn, rich countries sought to avoid engaging in discussions relating to provision of finance to developing countries impacted by climate change in line with their responsibilities under the Paris Agreement. This presents a serious barrier to progress in implementation, but also risks undermining trust in multilateralism.

“However, agreement to monitor finance and other means of implementation for adaptation is a decisive step forward, and developed countries must now deliver on their commitments to ensure actions can be implemented to protect human health in the face of growing climate hazards to protect a healthy climate future”, said Beagley. The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) is aimed at increasing global adaptation efforts, while enhancing support for the countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

**Climate Finance**

During the Bonn meeting, a group of rich countries blocked the addition

of an agenda item focused on provision of finance by developed countries to developing countries. This delayed adoption of the meeting agenda until the second day, wasting valuable time. Consultations on a roadmap due at COP30 to scale climate finance to the USD 1.3 trillion requested by developing countries last year heavily featured private finance rather than public finance.

“Without sufficient grants-based public finance, developing countries will become further trapped in cycles of debt, poverty and disease”, said Beagley. “Over the coming months, rich governments can redeem themselves by demonstrating willingness to prioritize public grants from developed to developing countries. Developed countries must provide funding to prevent worsening climate change by addressing its causes; funding for countries to build resilience against the climate impacts they are already facing; and funding to recover and rebuild from destruction that they were unable to avoid.”

“The governments of developed countries have a moral responsibility to ensure the countries that have contributed the least to climate change but are facing its harshest impacts receive crucial international support”, said Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance. “From flooding that destroys homes and clinics and spreads cholera, to heatwaves that overwhelm hospitals with patients, to droughts and weather instability that ruin harvests, to wildfires spreading toxic smoke to communities thousands of miles away, in every country people are suffering from the impacts of climate change; low income developing countries are the most severely harmed and the least able to respond to and recover from the damages from this problem that they did not cause.

“Fossil fuels are at the root of climate change, as well as of air pollution and plastic contamination, as well as polluting our water and soil pollution.



and interfered with policy deliberations, and has sent hundreds of lobbyists to COPs every year since the Paris Agreement was signed. Big agriculture is also very well organized, and increasingly attempting to slow COP action on agricultural practices that contribute to climate change. Without putting a halt to the influence of industries that have a vested interest in delaying progress on climate change, our chances are hampered from the get-go.”

November’s COP30 must take a great leap towards ending the fossil fuel age and its devastating impact on human health”, said Miller.

**Fossil Fuel Phase Out**

“Dependence on fossil fuels is the primary driver of health impacts from climate change, which is already straining healthcare systems around the world”, said Beagley. “Fossil fuel use is also a key air pollution culprit, causing millions of deaths annually from respiratory and cardiovascular disease, as well as developmental and cognitive issues.

“Ahead of COP30, governments must agree to pursue and support just transition pathways across countries and sectors, including to improve clean and safe renewable energy access and clean cooking, in order to protect the human right to health - especially for women and children most exposed to indoor air pollution”.

**Ending Fossil Fuel Industry Influence**

The SB62 Bonn meeting featured no developments on addressing fossil fuel industry interference in climate negotiations, and UNFCCC has not advanced any plans to deal with this interference - despite written calls from civil society, a demonstration, press briefing and event during SB62.

“A major impediment to action on climate change is the well-documented and deliberate efforts of certain industries to block progress”, said Miller. “For years, the fossil fuel industry has deliberately sown doubt

“A clamor is now developing ahead of COP30 about how UNFCCC should counter the increasing representation at climate summits from high emitting industries like fossil fuels and big agriculture”, added Miller. “Two years ago, the UNFCCC Secretariat introduced new regulations forcing delegates to disclose their affiliations, but to date, there are no restrictions on participation - as a result, polluting industries driving climate change are everywhere at COP climate summits. The UNFCCC must urgently put in place stronger measures to limit the influence of industry and conflicts of interest - and to achieve this, it can learn from how other UN bodies, such as the World Health Organization, have responded to industry pressures from tobacco and alcohol companies.”

New research from Transparency International shows that in 2024, 339 fossil fuel lobbyists were accredited as official national negotiators at COP29, while another 867 accessed closed-door talks using government issued badges – many without disclosing their affiliations.

Brazil’s COP30 Presidency has voiced concerns over fossil fuel interference, plans to lead a “Global Ethical Stocktake” of COP processes, and has launched four “Support Circles”, including one focused on climate governance.

“Brazil’s rare and critical opportunity

*Click here for continuation on page 15*

# Governor Joseph attends introductory meeting with U.S. Department of the Interior Officials in Majuro

## Pohnpei Public Information

July 1, 2025

**Majuro**—Ahead of the official opening of the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF), Governor Stevenson A. Joseph attended an introductory meeting with William Hague, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, and Justin Rhee, Special Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Also in attendance was Amy Gradin, Economic Officer from the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia, accompanying the U.S. Interior delegation.

This initial engagement was both



positive and forward-looking, as both parties shared challenges and explored possible outcomes across key sectors impacting Pohnpei and the region. Governor Joseph and Deputy Assistant Secretary Hague expressed mutual interest in pursuing creative and practical solutions through continued collaboration.



Governor Joseph was joined by key members of his delegation: Mark Kostka, Director of the Department of Resources and Development; Jorg Anson, Administrator of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture; General Manager of Port Authority Grilly Jack, Assistant Attorney General Keana Segal; and Suanrita Ladore from the Governor's Office.

The meeting underscored the value of direct engagement and partnership between the Pohnpei State Government and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

# Governor Joseph welcomes FSM Banking and Insurance Board leadership

## Pohnpei Public Information

June 24, 2025

**Pohnpei**—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomed the leadership and management of the FSM Banking and Insurance Board during a courtesy visit to his office earlier this week. The delegation was led by former Governor of Pohnpei State, Reed B. Oliver, and included Banking Board Commissioner Jesse Giltamag, Insurance Board Commissioner Nakama Sana, and Banking Board member Mary Lou Yatilman.

1:00 p.m. in the Governor's Conference Room.

Former Governor Oliver shared that the forum aims to inform the public about the roles and current activities of banks and insurance companies operating in the FSM. Governor Joseph encouraged members of the public to attend, listen, and engage in this important dialogue on financial services and consumer interests.

The public is cordially invited to attend the forum.

Governor Joseph expressed his appreciation for the visit and thanked the delegation for their continued service and commitment to financial oversight and consumer protection in the Federated States of Micronesia. The meeting precedes a public forum hosted by the FSM Banking and Insurance Board, scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 26, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to



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# Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph visits Marshall Islands Maritime Resource Authority ahead of 27th Micronesian Islands Forum

## Pohnpei Public Information

June 30, 2025

**Majuro**—On June 30, 2025, Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, while in Majuro to attend the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF), visited the Marshall Islands Maritime Resource Authority (MIMRA) to gain deeper insight into the Pacific Island Tuna initiative. This regional effort focuses on sustainable management of tuna fisheries, enhancing economic benefits, and promoting conservation of vital tuna stocks across the Pacific, a critical resource for the region.

MIMRA Executive Director Glenn Joseph provided an overview of the Pacific Island Tuna initiative, highlighting its emphasis on collaborative governance, economic development, and environmental stewardship. Discussions centered on Pohnpei State’s potential participation in the initiative to advance sustainable fisheries and regional cooperation.

Also present were Eugene Muller, General Manager of Pacific Island Tuna, Koebel Sakuma from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Yolanda Elanzo Ditchen from the Parties to the

Nauru Agreement (PNA). The visit underscored opportunities for Pohnpei to contribute to and benefit from regional fisheries management.

Accompanying Governor Joseph were Mark Kostka, Director of the Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development; Jorg Anson, Administrator of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Grilly Jack, General Manager of the Pohnpei Port Authority; Eugene Eperiam, Division of Forestry, Department of Resources and Development; Ryan Yamada from Social Services; and Stacy Kilmete, Sintrada Shelten, and Suannrita Ladore, members of the Pohnpei delegation. Carlson Apis, FSM Secretary of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure also joined the meeting.

This visit, ahead of the 27th MIF—a regional platform for Micronesian leaders to address shared priorities like sustainable development and economic collaboration—reflects Pohnpei State’s commitment to sustainable marine resource management and its interest in joining the Pacific Island Tuna initiative to foster regional cooperation and environmental resilience.



## ...Bonn Deal

Continued from page 13

to reform decision-making on global climate action should not be squandered”, said Miller.

NDCs - Country Climate Commitments “Countries yet to submit their NDCs [Nationally Determined Contributions - see notes below] must address these same priorities of mitigation, adaptation and finance at national level, including setting targets for reducing their emissions that are sufficiently ambitious to align with their fair shares towards the goals of the Paris Agreement”, said Beagley. “In their new NDCs, governments must commit to optimizing health and building

resilience, which will only be possible when supported by adequate domestic budget and international finance commitments, and they must commit to monitoring how those commitments are being implemented”, she added.

In 2025, all countries are required to update their "Nationally Determined Contributions" - their nationally specific set of commitments for how they will meet their fair share of achieving the targets set out in the Paris Agreement to limit warming to relatively safe levels. The NDCs are the primary mechanism by which international agreements achieved at COP are translated commitments by countries for the actions they will take. NDCs set the framework for national policies and programs that will actually deliver the climate action that is needed. Without strong NDCs, the agreements

made at COP remain empty words.

In the past, while many countries have referenced the impact of climate change on health in their NDCs, few have fully integrated health objectives and outcomes throughout their national plans, missing critical opportunities to drive more ambitious climate action. To protect health through the development and implementation of their NDC, governments should consult with national health Ministries, academic health experts, and communities to ensure:

- alignment to limiting warming to 1.5C, reflecting fair share and pace of emissions reductions according to historical responsibility and present capability with inclusion of a timeline for fossil fuel phase out to avoid catastrophic physical and

mental health impacts;

- actions across sectors which optimise health benefits of climate actions, such as clean air, nutritious diets, active and zero emission travel systems, and safe living environments;
- reduction of super pollutants including methane, black carbon and tropospheric ozone to avert near-term warming and avoid millions of premature deaths from air pollution each year
- timebound targets and indicators over time for implementation and health outcomes;
- consideration of domestic and financial contributions, costings and budgetary allocations for health related actions and quantification of returns on investment from health-related savings, highlighting the health costs of action and inaction.

## Hospital celebrates first harvest from on-site greenhouse



By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

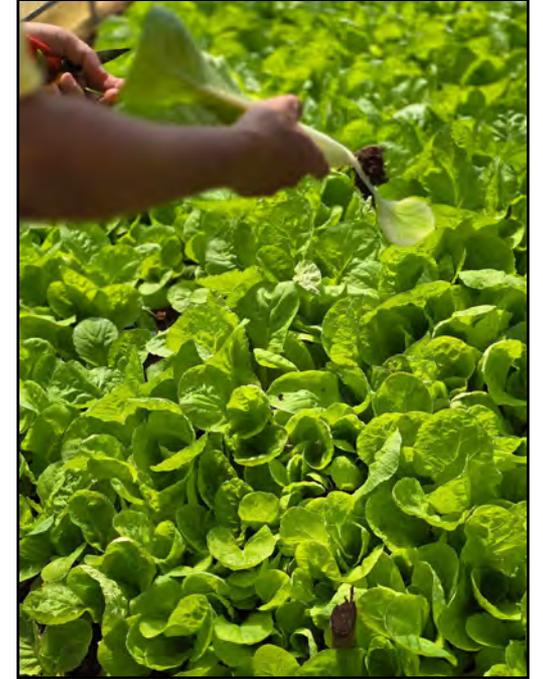
July 8, 2025

**Pohnpei**—The Pohnpei State Hospital had the first harvest from its newly established greenhouse—a project aimed at improving patient nutrition and promoting sustainable food practices within the healthcare system.

The greenhouse, located on hospital grounds, is already providing a steady supply of fresh vegetables to the hospital

kitchen, contributing to healthier meals for patients during their recovery. Officials say the initiative is not just about growing food, but about cultivating a future rooted in health, hope, and sustainability.

“This harvest represents more than produce—it represents progress,” said a statement from the Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services. “We are investing in the well-being of our patients through better



nutrition and food security.”

The project was made possible through strong collaboration between the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Resources and Development. Governor Stevenson A. Joseph was praised for his leadership and efforts in securing the necessary support for the project.

A special acknowledgment was extended to China Aid, whose funding and technical assistance helped bring the greenhouse to life.

“This partnership has laid the foundation for a sustainable food supply within our hospital, and we are deeply grateful,” officials said.

## First Lady Simina honored at luncheon hosted by Lerooj Ester Zedkaia in Majuro



FSM Information Services

July 1, 2025

**Majuro**—On the margins of the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF), Madame Ancelly Simina, First Lady of the Federated States of Micronesia was graciously hosted today by Lerooj Ester Zedkaia, the highest traditional leader in Majuro, for a special luncheon held in honor of the visiting spouses of MIF

high-level delegates.

The gathering served as a meaningful cultural exchange and demonstrated the important role of women leaders, traditional and contemporary, in preserving Pacific values, strengthening community bonds, and supporting regional cooperation.



First Lady Simina expressed her deep gratitude to Lerooj Zedkaia for her warm hospitality and for providing a space for fellowship among women leaders from

across Micronesia. The event highlighted the enduring strength of Micronesian cultural values, traditional leadership and the unifying role of women in shaping the region’s shared future.

# Australia pledges continued support for FSM's fight against gender-based violence

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 1, 2025

**Palikir, Pohnpei**—Australia has reaffirmed its commitment to working with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to end violence against women and girls and advance gender equality across the nation.

Australian Ambassador to the FSM, Jenny Grant, delivered the keynote address at the Gender Roundtable hosted by the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs on June 24–25. The event brought together FSM officials and development partners to review progress on FSM's new Gender Equality Strategy and the accompanying state-level action plans.

In her remarks, Ambassador Grant discussed Australia's recently released International Gender Equality Strategy and

stressed that Australia remains “a reliable and dependable partner, committed to working with FSM colleagues on efforts to end violence against women and girls in Australia and FSM.”

The roundtable served as a collaborative platform for strengthening responses to gender-based violence and promoting inclusive policies. Ambassador Grant said that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a catalyst

for economic growth, improved social cohesion, and the overall wellbeing of communities.

She also extended congratulations to FSM Secretary of Health, Marcus Samo, and his team for their ongoing leadership in addressing gender-based violence and pushing forward the national strategy.



# Australia delivers leadership training for FSM police officers

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

June 25, 2025

**Palikir, Pohnpei**—Thirty police officers from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are participating in an “Emerging Leaders” course this week, thanks to a leadership training initiative supported by the Government of Australia.

The three-day course is being conducted by experts from the Pacific Faculty of Policing and the Australia Institute of Police Management, in collaboration with the FSM National Police and State law enforcement agencies. The training was officially opened on June 23 in Palikir by FSM Police Chief Cindy Ludrick and Australian Ambassador to the FSM, Jenny Grant.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Grant shared Australia's commitment to supporting law enforcement

in the FSM. “This important leadership training forms part of Australia's ongoing capability support to the FSM Police,” she said. “We are proud to be partnering to build the leadership skills of the national and state police who keep our communities safe.”

The course is being facilitated by Mark Trim and Jane Blair of the Pacific Faculty of Policing and Inspector Sharee Cumming of the Queensland Police. It aims to strengthen leadership capacity among FSM's police force to enhance public safety and build resilience in communities across the nation.



# Berna X. Gorong: mentoring Micronesia's future stewards

*The Nature Conservancy*

June 26, 2025

**Yap**—Berna Gorong is the Capacity Building Manager at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and has been part of the team for over 10 years. Born and based in Yap, the Federated States of Micronesia, Berna's work focuses on supporting community-led planning and building capacity of local organizations, especially women's groups.

Berna majored in computer information science with a minor in business administration. Before joining TNC, she ran a family business offering computer and electronics services, but her path shifted when her home community established the Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation Area (MCA). Her husband was named project manager,

and Berna quickly became a key part of the initiative, managing grants and representing the community in trainings and workshops led by TNC and other partners. That experience showed her the power of community-led conservation and drew her to TNC's participatory approach to planning.

Today, Berna mentors and supports the next generation of Micronesian conservation leaders, helping them build the skills and confidence to care for their environments and communities. One of her most meaningful moments at TNC was organizing the first women's learning exchange on climate change adaptation in Yap. "Being in the company of strong, knowledgeable Yapese women was incredibly moving," she recalls. "We laughed, shared, and



lifted each other up. Their stories and spirit reminded me of the deep resilience that lives in our communities. It made me deeply proud of who we are."

Outside of work, Berna enjoys spending time in her taro patches, gardening, and connecting with her children and family

abroad. She also takes time to appreciate the simple things, like breathing the clean island air.

For Berna, conservation is not just about protecting nature – it is about people, tradition, and passing on a legacy of resilience and care.

# Micronesian trainees join 29 Pacific participants in closing of China's Juncao Industry Seminar

*FSM-China Pilot Farm Project*

June 30, 2025

On the morning of June 27, 2025, the Seminar on Juncao Industry Development for Pacific Countries, hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and organized by Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, was successfully concluded at the China

National Engineering Research Center of JUNCAO Technology. 29 trainees from Pacific Island countries attended the closing ceremony, nine from Micronesia.

At the closing ceremony, Mr. Selevasio Naiwara Tagivuni, Advisor to the Minister of Public Works, Meteorology and Transportation of the Republic of Fiji, delivered a speech,

saying: We must further strengthen the "China-Pacific Juncao Family" partnership to lay the foundation for the next stage of cooperation; adopt a new action plan of "integrating resources, focusing on democracy, accelerating development, and cultivating capabilities" to bring long-term benefits to the people of the Pacific island countries.

In the past 15 days, nine trainees from Micronesia participated in a wealth of courses and practices, and visited Danzhou city, Hainan province, Nanping city, Fujian province, etc., to learn about Juncao technology in all aspects and conduct in-depth discussions on its development potential in Micronesia.



# Ambassador Wu Wei visits China-Aid Pilot Farm with UN Resident Coordinator ad interim Tapan Mishra

Embassy of China to the FSM

July 10, 2025

**Pohnpei**—On July 9, 2025, Ambassador Wu Wei jointly visited the China-aid pilot farm in the Federated States of Micronesia with Mr. Tapan Mishra, Resident Coordinator ad interim for the UN Multi-Country Office, Mr. Gibson Susumu, FAO Micronesia Project Coordinator, and Mr. Mark Kostka, Director of Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development. They spoke highly of the contributions made by China-aid agro-tech project in promoting local agricultural development and improving people’s livelihoods, and exchanged views on strengthening practical agricultural cooperation on both bilateral and multilateral bases.



# Pacific Leaders demand fairer global finance at UN Conference delivered by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Chair of PSIDS

Office of the Prime Minister Government of Tuvalu

June 30, 2025

**Seville, Spain**—At the second plenary session of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), Tuvalu’s Prime Minister Hon. Feleti P. Teo, in his role as Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), delivered a powerful group statement calling for urgent reforms to the global financial system.

“The choice before us is stark: stand with the most vulnerable and deliver justice, or uphold a flawed system that deepens inequality and crisis,” declared Prime Minister Teo.

Amid rising climate threats, deepening debt crises, and a widening development financing gap, the PSIDS group urged bold global action across six key areas:

1. Climate Justice Now: Prime

Minister Teo questioned the lack of urgency, asking, “Where is the Marshall Plan for climate action?” and called for scaled-up climate finance and immediate replenishment of the Loss and Damage Fund.

2. Targeted Support for Vulnerable Countries: The PSIDS welcomed the reaffirmation of SIDS as countries in special situations and pushed for the immediate use of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) in allocating concessional finance.

3. Tackling Inequities in Global Taxation: The group supported a UN Framework Convention on Tax Cooperation, advocating for fair taxation of billionaires and multinationals, with PM Teo stating, “A 2% tax on billionaire wealth could unlock \$250 billion annually — enough to start closing global financing gaps.”

4. Restore Correspondent

Banking Access: The group called for concrete action to protect vulnerable jurisdictions in the Pacific from losing vital international banking relationships.

5. Financing the Ocean Economy: Reaffirming that the ocean is core to PSIDS identity, the group demanded that ocean initiatives — like SDG14 and the BBNJ Agreement — be fully funded and integrated into global mechanisms.

6. A Just Transition from Fossil Fuels: Disappointed by the removal of fossil fuel phase-out language from the outcome document, the PSIDS called for a “just, equitable, and time-bound global phase-out.”

“PSIDS contributed negligibly to this emergency — yet here we are, bearing its full cost,” Prime Minister Teo reminded delegates.

The Pacific Small Islands Developing States PSIDS, endorsed the Sevilla

Platform for Action as a critical tool for follow-through, while also expressing concern over the dilution of ambition in the final outcome document. “What we need now is not more plans, but political will, bold leadership, and relentless implementation,” said Prime Minister Teo in closing.

As small island nations with vast ocean territories and deep cultural resilience, the PSIDS continue to advocate for a global financing system that is fair, future-focused, and fit for purpose.



# Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids' Club hosts Health in Sport Day

## Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids' Club

July 13, 2025

On Sunday, 13th July, the Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) hosted its first Health in Sport Day at the CTEC gym in Kolonia—a vibrant, educational event that brought together nearly 40 children for a unique blend of learning and play.

The day focused on the essential links between sport and well-being, offering interactive sessions on anti-doping awareness, nutrition, and first aid. Children had the opportunity to listen to experts and ask questions in a setting designed to engage and inspire.

This successful initiative was made possible through a remarkable collaboration with the United Nations Multi-Country Office, the Micronesia Red Cross (represented by Ms. Bau Tamanitoakula), the Pohnpei State Department of Health (Mr. Semenson Ephel), the Pohnpei State Sport Office (Mr. Ramsie Joab), Catholic Relief Services, the Fiji Association, and Nauru Airlines.

A highlight of the day was the inspiring participation of Mr. Ramsie Joab, recently returned from the MiniGames in Palau, who continues to lead the anti-doping campaign across Micronesia.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the event's success: our dedicated volunteers (notably Delson Kilakafen and Richard Kersey, both board members whose tireless efforts were invaluable), supportive national and international institutions, and the many individuals and businesses who supported our fundraising raffle. A special thanks goes to OWP, 7 Stars Inn, Palm Terrace, Napa, and Mr. Brian Etscheit, longstanding friends of children's sports in Pohnpei, who outdid themselves this time.

Nauru Airlines generously donated two round-trip tickets as raffle prizes. We also thank every parent who brought their child to participate, and the Fijian community who prepared delicious traditional food. Although unfamiliar to some children at first, the meals were so well-loved that many had seconds, thirds—and even fourth helpings! A particularly moving moment came when Mr. Tapan Misra, UN Resident Coordinator, sat in a circle with the children on the gym floor, engaging them in conversation that was both inspiring and personal. His ability to connect with young minds—sensing their curiosity and steering the discussion to match—was a gift to witness.

We were also honored by the presence of Ambassador Jenny Grant (Australia), a long-time supporter of PSAKC, who led the children's warm-up exercises ahead of their futsal matches. Her leadership and enthusiasm turned what is often a challenge—getting kids to stretch—into a moment of joy and energy. Ambassador Wu Wei (People's Republic of China), Mr. Takaki (JICA), and Mrs. Amy Gradin (U.S. Embassy) were also present, underscoring the regional importance of the event.

## Futsal Tournament Highlights

Six mixed teams of children were formed and coached by distinguished guests. Each match emphasized fun, fair play, and the values of sportsmanship:

Team UN – Coach: Tapan Misra  
Players: Mayan, Asher, Mark, Tatiana, Noah  
Team KENYA – Coach: Peal Mwoengela  
Players: Jello, Chad, Rico, Jun, Henry  
Team BRAZIL – Coach: Diego Valadares  
Players: Polo, Kenoi, Amaya, Joseph, Ronald, Will  
Team CANADA – Coach: Mana Petrini  
Players: Heron, Kaitol, Bron, Emma, Benji, Castiel  
Team UK – Coach: Sefa Petrini  
Players: Anjo, Charlton, Keitani, Jubal, Bernard  
Team FRANCE – Coach: Zack Petrini  
Players: Florian, Yoki, Geonna, Lamar, Jacob

### Results Summary:

- France – UK | 0–2
- Brazil – Canada | 0–1
- Kenya – UN | 2–0
- France – Canada | 1–0
- Brazil – UN | 5–0
- Kenya – UK | 1–1
- France – UN | 2–0
- Brazil – UK | 0–0
- Kenya – Canada | 0–2
- France – Brazil | 1–0
- UK – Canada | 0–0
- Brazil – Kenya | 3–0
- Canada – UN | 2–1
- France – Kenya | 0–3
- UK – UN | 5–0

The standings led to a tie for second place between the UK and France. A 2-minute tiebreaker game was held, with UK claiming the silver medal.

### Final rankings were:

1. Canada
2. UK
3. France

Medals were kindly donated by Mr. Toku Kobayashi and family, while the best players from each team received special comic books, courtesy of Kevin and Taialofo Petrini.

### Looking Forward

The day concluded with a shared Fijian meal and smiles all around. More than just a fun day, this was a transformative moment for the children of Pohnpei. They will each receive a Young Anti-Doping Ambassador Certificate, empowering them to advocate for clean sport within their families, schools, communities, and clinics around the island—and perhaps even further afield.

This Health in Sport Day was not just a beginning—it was a blueprint. We are committed to replicating this model across Pohnpei, ensuring every child can grow in knowledge, fairness, and strength, on and off the field.



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



# MICS begins testing for heat-tolerant corals to be used in coral restoration

*The Nature Conservancy*

*July 14, 2025*

**RMI**—The Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) has launched a coral heat-tolerance testing initiative and established two coral nurseries as part of the efforts to support reef restoration in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). This initiative is part of a regional project led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with support from the Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP) and scientific and technical guidance from Stanford University.

The project, Scaling up identification, protection, and local management of climate-resistant coral reefs, began in September 2024 across Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It aims to equip local teams with the tools, training, and knowledge to identify heat-tolerant corals and integrate them into marine restoration and management plans.

In April 2025, partners gathered in Majuro to begin preparations: surveying local reefs, identifying donor and nursery sites, and preparing a facility for coral stress testing. In

June, MICS began the coral heat-stress experiments at the Marshall Islands Mariculture Facility. These tests assess how different coral species respond to rising ocean temperatures. The corals are then transferred to field nurseries, where their growth and health are regularly monitored. Two nurseries have also been established in the marine protected areas of Bikirin and Dren Meo. These nurseries will help supply corals that are most suitable for future restoration efforts in the face of climate change.

In RMI, this work is led by MICS staff AJ Alik (Fisheries Officer), Junior

Mark (Environmental Officer), and Keoni Kattil (Coral Reef Monitoring Officer). Several local partners have also joined the effort, including the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), the Republic of the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Agency (RMI EPA), and the Land Grant Program from the College of the Marshall Islands.

In the coming months, the team plans to test more coral species, expand sample collection to nearby climate-resilient reef areas, and involve more local partners in coral tagging, outplanting, and further nursery deployments.



# Governor Stevenson A. Joseph delivers opening remarks at 27th Micronesian Islands Forum in Majuro

*Pohnpei Public Information*

*July 2, 2025*

**Majuro**--Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph delivered opening remarks today at the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF), held at the International Convention Center in Majuro. Speaking on behalf of the people and Government of Pohnpei, Governor Joseph called for bold reflection and regional action to strengthen the Micronesian community's future.

In his address, Governor Joseph emphasized the need to move beyond repeated discussions and toward purposeful action. He highlighted the importance of regionally managed transportation systems—both maritime and air—as the foundation

for economic growth, food security, disaster response, and regional unity.

“Our economic development, food security, disaster response, and even our regional cohesion—these all depend on one critical foundation: reliable, affordable, and sustainable regionally managed transportation systems,” Governor Joseph said.

He urged revitalization of the Micronesian Shipping Commission (MSC) and empowerment of ATOSSCOM—the Association of Terminal Operators, Stevedoring, and Shipping Companies of Micronesia—as key players in transforming inter-island shipping logistics. He also proposed the establishment of a Micronesian-controlled inter-island and regional shipping framework, and

called for a similar initiative to develop a regional air service tailored to the needs of Micronesian communities.

Governor Joseph closed with a strong appeal to address the escalating challenge of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which he described as the most imminent issue facing the region's future well-being.

“The good health and well-being of our people is central to all facets of our socio-economic development efforts,” he said, urging collective action and renewed commitment to combat NCDs across the region.

The Governor concluded

by encouraging leaders to reflect on the legacy they wish to leave through the MIF: “Let us not let another Forum pass us by without asking what legacy we are leaving. Let us have the courage to ask hard questions—and to act boldly on the answers.”



# Independence Day celebration kicks off, reaffirms commitment to unique bilateral relations

*U.S. Embassy to the FSM*

*June 26, 2025*

**Pohnpei**—As the U.S. Independence Day is fast approaching in July, the U.S. Embassy-Kolonia kicked off this year's 249th Independence Day ahead of time with a vibrant celebration at Mangrove Bay in Pohnpei on June 23, 2025. The day is more than just a celebration; it stands as a reminder of the United States' enduring struggle for independence and the value upon which the country was founded. It reflects the spirit of a nation committed to liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness.

Over two hundred distinguished guests were present to honor the United States on the occasion. Guests included friends and partners from the FSM National and State governments, diplomatic corps, civil society, international organizations, local agencies, public and private organizations, and citizens from the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). They celebrated not only the historical significance of the nation's Independence Day but also reinforced the strong enduring partnership between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia, paving the way for deeper mutual engagement and understanding.

In her delivery address, U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson highlighted the significance of the event and the strong ties between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia, emphasizing that even in the most complicated times where much is happening in the world today, these two nations have stood side-by-side fostering a partnership based on mutual respect, cooperation, and a deep sense of camaraderie. "We are proud of the strong bonds that unite us, and we look forward to many, many more years of collaboration and friendship", she stated.

"May our close partnership continue to flourish, and may we always stand together in the pursuit of peace, prosperity, and freedom."

Delivering his statement on behalf of President Wesley W. Simina, the Government and People of the Federated States of Micronesia, Vice-President Aren Palik emphasized that the Compact of Free Association is more than an



agreement—but is a living testament to a shared journey. "It has allowed our young nation to stand proudly among the community of nations and for that, we remain deeply grateful. But beyond governments and treaties, what truly defines our relationship are the lives intertwined between our two people", he added. "Today is not just America's day. It is also a celebration of every soul who believes in liberty, of every nation that has been inspired by the American dream, and of every partner like the FSM who has found in the United States not just an ally, but a friend."

Local dignitaries present at the celebration included Pohnpei Governor Stevenson Joseph, honorable members of FSM Congress and Pohnpei State Legislature, members of the resident diplomatic corps, members of the U.S. Government agencies in the FSM, heads of regional and international organizations. U.S. active military personnel and members of the U.S. Veterans of Pohnpei Association were also present. The event provided another opportunity for those with a shared vision to reaffirm their commitments to democracy and the unique bilateral relations they have come to enjoy.

## Governor Stevenson A. Joseph meets Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General for friendly exchange

*Pohnpei Public Information*

*July 2, 2025*

**Majuro**—While attending the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum in Majuro, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph of Pohnpei State had the opportunity to meet the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Honorable Baron Waqa.

The brief and friendly exchange was

informal in nature, with no official agenda—just a warm conversation between two Pacific leaders. Governor Joseph shared his appreciation for the Secretary General's leadership and enjoyed the opportunity for a light and welcoming interaction.

The meeting reflected the spirit of camaraderie and shared respect that underpins regional gatherings like the Micronesian Islands Forum.



# U.S. and FSM officials hold semi-annual security meeting

U.S. Embassy to the FSM

June 26, 2025

Guam—The United States Department of Defense hosted a Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from June 4-5, 2025, at the Joint Region Marianas Headquarters in Guam. This two-day meeting brought together officials from both nations to discuss key issues of the bilateral defense and security partnership as specified by Title III of the Compact of Free Association.

The U.S. delegation was led by Joint Task Force – Micronesia Commander Rear Admiral Joshua Lasky and U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Jennifer Johnson. The FSM delegation was led by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert.

Topics of interest included law enforcement training, economic security of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Chuuk oil removal, unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal, NOAA weather station in Kosrae, and - most especially - veterans' benefits. The positive and productive

atmosphere encouraged networking and collaboration, allowing leaders to strengthen personal relationships and foster a better understanding of shared goals.

One focus of the meeting was internal security concerns for the FSM. Delegates highlighted the challenges faced by law enforcement, including the need for assistance with training in chain of custody for evidence and police support for court cases as well as U.S. support in proper patrolling of the FSM's EEZ. Discussions presented further opportunities for

engagement to include the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies assisting the FSM with legal coverage of contiguous zones, sharing of marine survey data, and opening military training to FSM participants.

The meeting also featured recent and upcoming U.S. military projects and engagements in the FSM. Ambassador Johnson offered U.S. Government assistance with the priorities discussed across the FSM and the state governments.

# Micronesian diplomat attends U.S.-led conference for young pacific leaders

By U.S. Embassy to the FSM

June 27, 2025

Palau—Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) Diplomat John Perman Taman Jr. participated in the U.S. Department of State's Young Pacific Leaders (YPL) Annual Conference in Koror, Palau from June 9-12, 2025. The conference highlighted key topics including civic engagement, environment management, education, and economic development. Through interactive seminars and workshops, the program advanced the leadership skills of participants while strengthening U.S. ties with emerging leaders in the Pacific.

and five alumni mentors from Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Islands of French Polynesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Rapa Nui, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, and U.S. partners from the American-affiliated Pacific including American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawai'i.

Reflecting on his experience, Taman Jr. stated, "The YPL program reignited my passion to serve people. YPL introduced me to a network of young leaders whose diverse experiences and perspectives challenged and expanded my understanding of leadership across

the Pacific. Moving forward, I am committed to ensuring that people's voices guide my work."

"This initiative reinforces our unwavering commitment to equipping young leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to make meaningful contributions to their communities. Through these efforts, we are also supporting the overall growth and stability of the Pacific region. This makes America and our partners stronger and more prosperous," U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Dennis Coster said.

Micronesian young leaders aged twenty to thirty-five can join the YPL network for free at [tinyurl.com/fsmyppl](https://tinyurl.com/fsmyppl) to receive updates on upcoming educational and cultural exchanges, regional exchanges, leadership development programs, and seed funding opportunities.



# Air cargo boost for Pacific Islands

By David Sexton DCN

July 7, 2025

Majuro—Enhancing air cargo connections between the Pacific Islands is the aim of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed this week in Majuro, Micronesia.

Signing the agreement were representatives of the governments of Palau, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Nauru who were gathered for the Micronesian Island Forum.

The MOU seeks to ensure affordable

access to essential goods and trade opportunities via more efficient supply chains.

The nations are to work together with Nauru Airlines to improve air cargo connectivity, to boost trade and economic integration and enhance the movement of medical supplies, food and agricultural products, as well as e-commerce parcels and official government materials.

Marshall Islands natural resources and commerce minister Anthony M. Muller welcomed the air cargo collaboration as "an extremely positive step".

"Working together with more air cargo capacity among us and more frequent air shipments will ensure the timely delivery of fresher and more nutritious produce to our nations," he said.

"Greater volumes of quality fresh food coming frequently from Fiji through our connected air networks will improve affordability of food, and provide more nutritious, healthier food supplies which of course will support the health of people across our nations."

A Regional Cargo Coordination Committee is to be formed made up

of one designated representative from each nation.

Expected areas of cooperation include:

- coordinated scheduling of essential cargo through Nauru Airlines' Central Pacific route
- exchange of information on customs, quarantine and air cargo regulatory requirements
- exploration of digital cargo tracking and documentation solutions and joint representation in dialogue with regional organizations and development partners to support regional cargo initiatives.

## Opinion Editorial

# Pacific Leaders deliver emphatic 'call to action' at UNOC3

By Dr Filimon Manoni  
Pacific Ocean Commissioner

June 30, 2025

**Koror, Palau**—It's been two weeks since the curtains fell on the third UN Ocean Conference. At this largest ever ocean summit, the Pacific voice echoed as a collective, calling for more global ocean accountability, and offering transformational national and regional voluntary commitments. With the summit over and delegates safely back home, the focus now shifts to implementation.

Travelling miles, skies and seas away from home in the Blue Pacific continent, the Pacific Islands Forum Members were part of the 175 UN Member States, 64 Heads of States and Heads of Governments, 115 ministers, and 12,000 delegates from UN Member Governments, UN Organizations, Inter-governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, the scientific community, the private sector, indigenous communities representatives and philanthropic organizations from across the globe, who convened in Nice for this weeklong conference.

Represented as one Blue Pacific at the highest political level, the region proved that when it comes to the ocean agenda – the Pacific is indeed a force to be reckoned with. The stakes are too high for the Pacific to remain passive and to allow these important discussions and decisions to be made without Pacific input.

With steadfast commitment to advancing ocean priorities and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Pacific began preparations for UNOC3 as early as December 2024. In 2025, these efforts intensified through a Technical Officials Meeting, a dedicated Pacific Ocean Ministers Preparatory Meeting, and regular Pacific Ocean Alliance virtual calls that kept momentum strong and the regional coordination sharp. Ministers designated political Ocean Champions to advocate on different topics.

UNOC3 saw the delivery of cohesive



Pacific messages across the Ocean Action Panels, plenary sessions and side events across Nice. The Pacific came with two regional voluntary commitments: Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity and The Pacific Resilience Facility, and ground-breaking individual national voluntary commitments.

The presence at UNOC3 of Leaders from Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Niue and Kiribati, and Ministerial representation from Fiji, Vanuatu, Nauru, Australia and New Zealand was no coincidence. To the contrary, it was a deliberate strategy to convey Pacific messages at the highest political level, with the clear knowledge that the plight of the Pacific rests squarely on their shoulders as leaders of today. From the Pacific perspective, maintaining forward momentum on transformative Ocean action requires strong political will at the highest levels for meaningful intervention on the international plane.

From an artisan who travelled overseas for the first time with her the story of her provincial women's group efforts for the ocean, to seasoned ocean diplomats, the message remained consistent – Pacific peoples are custodians of the Blue Pacific Ocean, 20% of the Earth's surface. It's time to get serious: Investing in Pacific solutions is investing in global planetary health.

The Pacific certainly led by example in Nice. French Polynesia President Moetai Brotherson's announcement of the creation of the world's largest Marine Protected Area (MPA) attracted international headlines. The Republic

of Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine emphasized that the Pacific could be a global laboratory for ocean innovation, where low-emission fisheries, community-led marine protected areas, and sustainable tuna supply chains offer blueprints for the world. Palau, on behalf of Alliance of Small Islands Developing States, reiterated that SIDS cannot save the Ocean alone, no matter how well we're resourced, and that 'The Ocean doesn't negotiate with half-measures and Neither should we.'

Solomon Islands and Vanuatu's commitment known as the Melanesian Ocean Reserve will span over 6,074,240 square kilometers of ocean and islands, encompassing the combined national waters of the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea and connecting with the protected waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of New Caledonia. When complete, this Melanesian Reserve will be the largest Indigenous-led marine reserve on Earth.

One of the conference's main objectives was to accelerate progress on the BBNJ Agreement – adopted in 2023 to ensure proper conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Sixty ratifications are needed to bring the agreement into force. During the summit, 19 countries including Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Fiji deposited their instruments bringing the total number of ratifications to 50 as the summit concluded. Papua New Guinea and Niue signed the treaty at the summit. We are hopeful that this momentum will indeed inspire other UN Member States to get on the bandwagon and bring the Agreement into force sooner rather than later. Safe-guarding the health of the Ocean and its resources in the Pacific Ocean is not only a Pacific responsibility, but a global one.

At the Blue Economy and Finance Forum held in advance of UNOC3 we heard recognition of €25 billion in investments for ocean projects identified, with a further €8.7 billion committed to advance momentum towards a regenerative and sustainable ocean economy. At UNOC3 we heard a multitude of further commitments to support investment in the SDG14 targets. How much of this will be

unlocked and invested in Blue Pacific solutions? Solutions that fit our realities and our special circumstances? Our small populations, remoteness, institutional capacities, limited financial resources, reliance on external markets, high transport costs, fragile ecosystems, vulnerability to climate change to name a few.

We are hopeful that in the coming weeks and months that all these ground-breaking initiatives will receive the support necessary to ensure sustainability in the implementation. It is my hope that by the fourth UNOC we will be talking about progress and how the world lived up to the commitments in Nice to accelerate Ocean action.

While the Pacific's call for global accountability in ocean action reverberated on walls of the plenary and ocean action panel rooms, side event spaces, and the ships moored along the port Le Nice, it was at the Pacific Space that the Pacific vibes came alive. Located a few streets away from Nice Port, also on Promenade des Anglais, this was a home away from home for Pacific delegates, to meet, confer, consult and to analyse and unpack each day's events. Senior Officials and CROP agencies also took advantage of the Pacific Space to conduct official business.

Back to my base in Palau and after several days of trying different kava-based concoctions to overcome the jetlag and reset the clock to the Palau time zone I have had the opportunity to reflect on the Ocean week in Nice.

From where I stood, the Pacific region as a collective came to Nice and seized the opportunity at this global forum with determination, taking on this global stage with the fervent commitment that Leaders promised they would undertake. There was discipline, a remarkable sense of Pacific unity throughout the Conference. More importantly, I was deeply moved but not surprised by the strong Pacific leadership on show at this global conference. Our Pacific voice was not only loud but strong and consistent in the messaging, and aligned to priorities our Leaders have set for us under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

*Click here for continuation on next page*

# Opinion Editorial

## Three Before One Principle: Opportunities come in different forms

On June 28, 2025, I had the opportunity to be one of three speakers at a gathering during the Sacred Heart Parish Catholic anniversary celebration. I was invited to speak on the topic related to "utilizing our skills and talents in nurturing growth." (Osuu mesenifot non weuuch me tufichich kewe).

At the gathering, I encouraged parishioners to reflect on the profound metaphor of planting a seed in good soil to represent our life journey, created by the nurturing hands of our God, the Almighty. We all have talents bestowed upon us by our Almighty Father. God does not make junk. He created each of us with meaningful talents and skills.

The scripture teaches us that God helps those who help themselves. Our journey is similar to that of a farmer, who plants a seed in good soil that requires hard work, dedication, faithfulness to flourish. I shared with the gathering that I would speak on the topic in the context of a father-son relationship.

I have planted the seed of a father's love in the hearts of my four sons. Being Chuukese, a Christian, and a father of four young men has not been easy. It is very important that those relationships provide wisdom, healing, productivity, and solutions to the problems we have in our beautiful Guam. I want to begin by harvesting the blessings of having planted my love in the good soil of their hearts and minds.

I had an important encounter with my sons. My mentor, Dr. B, suggested that I apply the three before one principle to create an opportunity for my son and I to share our perceptions that could lead to healing, respect, emotional maturity, spiritual grounding, and more.

The three before one principle is a way you can plant and harvest blessings from family relationships. I asked my sons to tell me three things that made them happy and proud that I was their father. As they each told me wonderful

things, like you are our provider, you invest in our education, you love us, you built a house for us, you always check on us, you have a reputation for leading our community in sports, You make it possible for people to solve urgent problems through social work intervention. We are happy that you are our father. Again, because you gave us life and you love us.

Each of them did it in their own way. I appreciated the moment, getting an informal but meaningful evaluation from my sons.

After I had experienced the joy of listening to their feedback, I asked another question. I asked them to reflect on one thing they wish I could change so that they would have another reason to love me more. "So now that you told me the three things that make you happy that I am your father. What is one thing that you wish I could change to become an even better father?"

Their words caused me to think about what it was that I might be doing that might have caused them sadness rather than happiness. I was open and had to become "good soil" for them to plant for their dreams. I gave them permission to give me an honest answer. I did not ask to create an argument, but have a meaningful discussion.

To my supreme embarrassment, the response was very clear. My sons said when you drink papa, you speak loudly, get into arguments, you disturb the peace in our hearts, and you treat our mother with less respect than she deserves.

I felt their truth. They planted their feelings in my heart and in my spirit through love, which is also good soil. And my brothers and sisters, I stopped drinking and I have not touched a drop for the last six months.

I believe that when we listen to God, His words inspire us through the spirit in the scripture. We must do more than recycle the advice and reflection. We need to apply it to ourselves so that we may indeed become true sons and daughters of God. We are benefiting from the spiritual principles founded in scripture that comes through the reflection of our priest, deacon, and church leaders. That we can learn how to become a good people who plant, but also nurture the good ground in which

the spirit can bless us to make us better each day.

I pray that you also have a gathering with your children and spouses, friends and coworkers. Ask them to share three things they enjoy about being your spouse, co-worker, and friend. Then ask for one thing you can change to become better. When we do that, we become excellent places for God's will to be planted in our humanity, in our "good soil."

It is said that where two or three gather in my name, Jesus will be present. Let this be that moment.

By John Howard

## ...UNOC3

Continued from previous page

The Nice Ocean Action Plan will be put to the test as we work to better operationalize political commitment toward sustainable use of the Ocean. Importantly, we will see whether the promised financial commitments will flow at the pace needed to address the pressing ocean challenges of the Pacific and of our world. The ball is now in their court.

In closing I take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were part of this historic ocean voyage to Nice. In particular, I must pay tribute to our Pacific Leaders who led from the front in conveying our Pacific message on the importance of a resilient and healthy Ocean in the clearest of terms. The excellent work by Member delegations, their officials and experts no doubt

helped pave the way for a strong Pacific intervention at the conference.

Let me also acknowledge the important support role played by our CROP agencies namely, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the University of the South Pacific (USP), in our regional preparations. I extend sincere gratitude to the CROP Heads concerned and their teams of experts. Finally, I also acknowledge the support by wider members of the Pacific Ocean Alliance in this voyage.

Let us continue to work together as a region, leveraging off the good work in Nice, and harnessing the momentum from UNOC3 as the wind in our sails-to drive us forward on our shared voyage of safeguarding our Blue Pacific.

**TUNE IN TO POHNPEI'S #1 RADIO**

**PARADISE RADIO**

FM 89.5 V6WI

## Opinion Editorial

# Pacific Voices on Reshaping Global Financing Architecture

*By Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for Tonga, Dr. 'Aisake Valu Eke, and Munkhtuya Altangerel, Resident Representative, UNDP Pacific Office*

**July 4, 2025**

**Tonga**—There has been a marked decline in Pacific development and progress against the SDGs since the early 2000s, attributable to the impacts of major disaster events, remoteness of Pacific Island nations and distance to markets, and the constrained size of Pacific economies, private sector, government administrations and populations.

The region remains the most aid-dependent globally based on per capita aid and reliance on external support. Likely related to the aforementioned development challenges, data also shows that aid projects are less effective on average in the Pacific than elsewhere in the developing world.

The ongoing lack of development progress despite a growing array of projects and donor engagement in Pacific continues to raise uncomfortable questions around both development and aid effectiveness, and the modalities used for aid delivery in PICs.

Over the last five years, discussions around the effectiveness of development financing modalities and the need to reform global financial architecture have gained momentum. From calls for multilateral banks to reform, to initiatives like Bridgetown and ongoing dialogue around the Green Climate Fund, there is a growing recognition that developing countries continue to face substantial challenges in accessing finance.

These challenges are often linked to structural issues in how aid is designed, programmed, and delivered, including concerns around high transaction costs. PICs face major barriers to climate finance, which is poorly aligned with Pacific priorities. These challenges are often linked to structural issues in how aid is designed, programmed, and delivered, including concerns around high transaction costs.

Over the last decade, climate financing specifically has continued to proliferate the growth of a range of multilateral initiatives, funds, facilities, project

management firms, consultants, and development coalitions tasked with supporting a colourful array of different overlapping issues. Accessing funds from this web of opportunities means navigating a range of processes, requirements, meetings, committees, and launch events which must be bolted onto existing national processes and responsibilities. Duplication and high transaction costs burden small administrations, with fragmentation being the most concerning.

Duplication is prevalent, the burden on small administrations significant, and the transaction costs are always high. Most concerning of all though is the fragmentation. In the Pacific, the urgency to improve the effectiveness of climate finance has been called for by leaders for a number of years and is now an increasing focus of policy and dialogue.

The ultimate aim of any aid should be to support institutional transformation and a transition towards the use of a country's own systems for all service delivery. However, one of many problems that persist in the Pacific is the difficulty that exists when it comes to combining existing sources of finance with aid. Utilising national systems would allow countries to produce focused, yet robust programmes of work aligned to national results frameworks.

Imagine being given a complicated task such as building a house, but then being told that each type of material must be sourced from different locations, that multiple shops sold the same materials but that each would only sell the materials for specific purposes, and that on top of that only specific delivery companies could be used to deliver the materials to the site? At what point would the actual construction begin?

For PICs, the limited time and resources of small administrations are expended on accessing climate finance funds and navigating their parameters, only to find that available resources can't be easily combined to produce coherent outcomes. Even once funds are secured, the ability to deliver results is often compromised by the complexity of managing multiple agreements, delivery partners, and external project units.

Despite these challenges, cooperation

amongst PICs to reshape and re-scale financing to suit their needs has never been more prevalent within the regional narrative. The Pacific's push for country-owned approaches had a direct influence on the agreement and content of the governing instrument for the new Fund for responding to Loss and Damage. The Pacific Leaders recent endorsement of the establishment treaty for the Pacific Resilience Facility has marked a further shift towards improving the Pacific's collective ability to shape financing arrangements that suit the needs and circumstances of Pacific Island contexts.

Recent efforts to access the Green Climate Fund regionally demonstrate a desire to achieve scale through collective initiative.

In a world under pressure to demonstrate proof of concept when it comes to the ability to enhance community resilience - it is especially difficult to rationalise why countries with populations and land areas equivalent to what would be a small town or village in larger countries have not achieved access to transformative levels of financing to demonstrate potential. Instead, whether it be Tuvalu or Bangladesh, finance is accessed in project sized chunks.

While the inflexibility of climate finance and the status quo for how climate finance is programmed remains problematic, it is also clear that institutional capacity within Pacific administrations is a core driver of the problem. Yet paradoxically, this institutional capacity is further eroded as aid dependency increases. While the inflexibility of climate finance remains problematic, it is also clear that institutional capacity within Pacific administrations is a core driver of the problem. Yet paradoxically, this institutional capacity is further eroded as aid dependency increases.

Reducing aid dependency requires greater use of national systems and flexibility for country ownership, and recognition that finance spent on improving institutional capacity has far greater value than investing in reliable but expensive and ineffective third-party oversight. From a national standpoint, investment in a sound Public Financial Management (PFM) system is imperative for improving the effectiveness of aid in addition to the achievement of development objectives.

To contextualise PFM reform agendas for the Pacific, it goes without saying that climate change and social inclusion will be key priorities.

Tonga is working towards empowering national systems to drive sustainable reform. An inter-ministerial

group including the Prime Minister's Office and Ministries of Finance and Climate Change is strengthening coordination to ensure that policies and plans are effectively integrated with budgetary processes. In parallel the ministry responsible for environment and climate change is operationalising the Tonga Climate Change Trust Fund, which will support the implementation of the Joint National Action Plan for climate action across sectors and to communities.

As part of the initial activities of the Trust Fund, a national water tank initiative is being rolled out with the support of the New Zealand Government. This initiative has been used to pilot a new way of working to embed climate change and disaster risks and gender and social inclusion into all community development projects. This 'risk informing' of the water tanks has included a process of comprehensive consultation with the school communities receiving the tanks, and has resulted in safer and more accessible drinking water for all school students, including those with a disability. The Climate Change Ministry is now working with the Ministry of Infrastructure on an addendum to the National Building Codes. This process also helps estimate the cost of risk mitigation for future resource mobilisation.

The Government of Tonga are demonstrating more nationally led and programmatic approaches to accessing and utilising climate finance, working across the whole of government to connect this financing with community priorities in a risk-informed manner.

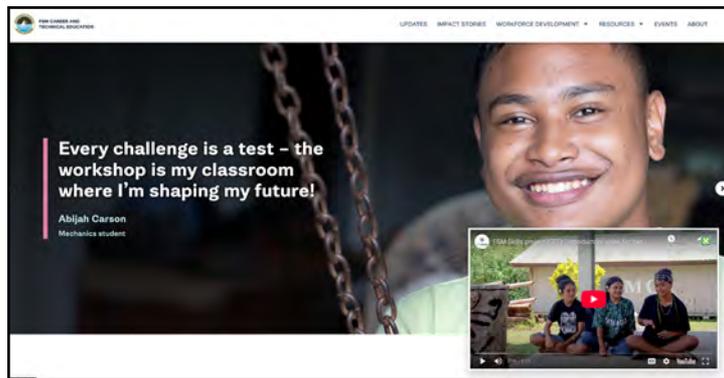
Against the backdrop of intensifying geopolitical tensions, reforms such as the Bridgetown Initiative facing significant challenges, and a watered-down climate finance commitment made at COP29, there is an increasing imperative for PICs to take matters into their own hands.

# FSM launches Career & Technical Education hub to transform youth futures

FSM Department of Education

May 29, 2025

**Palikir, Pohnpei**--The National Department of Education proudly announces the official launch of its new Career & Technical Education (CTE) website, <https://cte.doe.fm>, a central digital hub for vocational education and training across all four FSM states—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. Developed as part of the Federated States of Micronesia Skills and Employability Enhancement (SEE) Project, a national human capital development initiative supported by the World Bank, the platform is an important step forward in the government’s ongoing efforts to expand equitable access to high-quality, market-relevant vocational training and job-readiness resources for youth and adult learners across the nation.



educators, employers, or policymakers.

**Workforce Development:** This section provides a detailed overview of vocational policies, national standards, the SEE Project, apprenticeship pathways, and a job board with current employment opportunities.

**Updates:** Timely information about curriculum rollouts, infrastructure upgrades, and state-led initiatives, ensuring transparency and community awareness.

**Impact Stories:** Inspiring, real-world accounts from students and teachers across FSM’s four states, illustrating how vocational education is unlocking potential and transforming lives.

**Events:** A calendar of workshops, bootcamps, exhibitions, and trainings that highlight ongoing activities and upcoming opportunities to engage with FSM’s vocational education system.

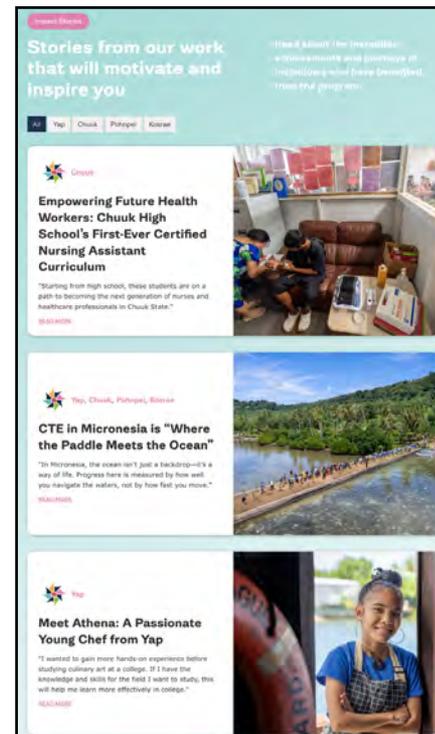
**Resources:** A growing library of downloadable materials including curriculum benchmarks, education policy documents, and technical reports on training needs, supporting educators, institutions, and national planners.

### Designed for Everyone, Everywhere

Beyond its content, the website’s value lies in its human story videos and articles, which bring to life the voices of teachers, students, and communities involved in vocational training through personal experiences and real-world impact. Built with a mobile-first approach, the platform performs seamlessly across all devices, ensuring access from outer islands to urban centers. Whether you’re a student searching for your path or a teacher looking for resources, the CTE website offers a powerful, practical, and accessible tool for all.

### About the SEE Project

The FSM SEE Project aims to improve the access, relevance, and quality of vocational education and skills training across all four FSM states. This is achieved through infrastructure upgrades, curriculum development, teacher training, student



financial support, enhanced job search assistance, and the establishment of a national skills certification process.

### Discover the Future of Vocational Training in FSM

Visit <https://cte.doe.fm> to explore career pathways, watch impact stories, and access state-of-the-art teaching and learning resources. This platform is a gateway to opportunity, empowering Micronesian youth to learn, grow, and thrive in today’s and tomorrow’s workforce.

# Micronesia urges global action on water security at UN preparatory meeting

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 9, 2025

**United Nations Headquarters**--At the preparatory meeting for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) issued a call for urgent international cooperation to tackle growing water insecurity in vulnerable nations.



Speaking on behalf of the Micronesian delegation, Universe Yamase Lawrence, Deputy Permanent Representative spoke of the existential threats that

climate change poses to small island states, citing rising sea levels, extreme weather, and prolonged droughts as factors that increasingly compromise access to clean water.

“We are on the front lines of an existential crisis,” she said. “Our communities

depend largely on rainwater and vulnerable aquifers. We have witnessed the dire consequences of water scarcity and contamination.”

Micronesia urged the global community to adopt sustainable water management practices and to channel funding, technology, and capacity-building efforts toward countries most at risk. “Water is the responsibility of humanity. It demands a concerted global response,” the UN Mission’s statement said.

Asserting the principle that access to safe water is a universal human right, the delegation insisted that clean water “should not be a privilege available only to a select few.” Yamase also stressed the

importance of ensuring that the voices of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are not only heard but amplified in international decision-making.

“Let us join forces to secure a sustainable water future—not just for the people of Micronesia, but for every community grappling with the daunting challenges we face today,” the statement concluded.

The preparatory meeting is part of ongoing efforts to advance Sustainable Development Goal 6: ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

## Ambassador of Japan attends inception meeting for the Water Supply Project with IOM and UNICEF

*Embassy of Japan to the FSM*

*June 25, 2025*

**Pohnpei**—On June 20, 2025, Ambassador Kagomiya attended the inception meeting for the Climate Resilient Community Water Services in the North Pacific, funded by the Government of Japan, and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). This project covers the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and aims to contribute to providing reliable water sources to the communities in the outer islands by establishing rainwater harvesting systems and refurbishing groundwater well systems, while also promoting the safe use of water.

Ambassador Kagomiya, in his remarks, stated the vulnerabilities of the outer islands and the importance of this project,

citing the drought that the FSM faced in 2024.

Ms. Abigail Kim-Lambert, Assistant Secretary of the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management, speaking on behalf of the Secretary of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management, conveyed their appreciation to the support provided by the Government and people of Japan on the water shortage in the FSM, and stated that they look forward to the swift



implementation of the project.

The inception meeting was attended by Ms. Abigail Kim-Lambert, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management, Ms. Lucille Apis-Overhoff, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management, Ms. Leola Primo, Acting Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, Mr. Francisco Celestine, Director of the FSM Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Moses Pretrick, Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Mark Kostka, Director of Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development, Mr. Stevick Joseph, Director of Pohnpei State Disaster Coordination Office, Mr. Nixon Anson, Director of Pohnpei Utilities Corporation, Mr. Salvatore Sortino, Chief of Mission of IOM Micronesia, Mr. Jeffrey Ing, WASH



Specialist at UNICEF North Pacific Field Office, along with government officials from various agencies of the FSM and Pohnpei State.

## We are more than climate change says proud I-Kiribati academic

*University of Auckland*

*July 7, 2025*

**Auckland, NZ**—Pacific Studies doctoral candidate and proud I-Kiribati woman Roi Burnett says her home nation is much more than just 'climate change'.

Aotearoa will celebrate Kiribati Language Week from 6-12 July with the theme 'Maiuakinan te katei ri nanon te tangira ma te ikarinerine bon wantongan te mwenga ibukin te rikirake - Living our valued cultural practices through love and respect upholds our dignity and growth for a successful future'.

Roi carries her great-great-grandmother's name on her mother's side and was fortunate to return to the homeland of her ancestors, living for two years on Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati. She hails from the islands of Beru and Onotoa.

"I want people to know we are more than climate change. They might not have heard of us but there's so much more to Kiribati than just climate change - than us sinking or disappearing.

"We've been around for a long time, and we're going to be around even longer!"



The opportunity to live in Kiribati allowed Roi to spend invaluable time with family while undertaking voluntary roles with non-governmental organisations. The resilience and resourcefulness of the people in Kiribati also made a strong impression during her time there six years ago.

"I lived in Tarawa, and I noticed how resilient and resourceful our people are. There are so many things here that we just take for granted," she says referring to day to day life in Kiribati.

"My family on Beru live in traditional houses, they fish, and live a subsistence lifestyle.

"Even just things like doing the basics, with my cousins, I was like how do you just weave a basket? Or what do you

mean, I have to get my water from the well every day?"

"These are the kinds of things you take for granted, the lifestyle of living in New Zealand, although these things are very natural for us."

Roi was born in Australia, before moving with her family to Fiji and then onto Dunedin where she completed her high school years before attending university. It was the move to Kiribati that inspired her to pursue postgraduate study; she says despite her culture celebrating women it was incongruous with the high statistics around gender-based violence.

"I was working with women's NGOs in Kiribati, and gender-based violence was a big issue, that was something I was interested in to understand more - especially with a culture that celebrates women."

"That led me to do my Masters, and coming from a geography and politics background, I came across Yvonne Underhill-Sem which is how I ended up here in Pacific Studies."

Now a month into her doctoral studies, Roi is realistic about the journey ahead

and excited that her area of research will focus on her beloved Kiribati.

Fun facts

First country to enter the New Year, as UTC+14:00 is the most advanced time zone in the world.

Kiribati has three time zones, which is quite unique for a small island nation:

- Gilbert Island Time (including the capital Tarawa) – UTC+12:00
- Phoenix Island Time – UTC+13:00
- Line Islands Time – UTC+14:00 (covers the Line Islands, including Kiritimati/Christmas Island)

Maritime Space:

Kiribati has one of the largest Exclusive Economic Zones around each of its 33 islands, resulting in a maritime area of approximately 3.5 million square kilometres—remarkable given its tiny land footprint of just 811 km<sup>2</sup>.

Kiribati Across Four Hemispheres:

Kiribati is one of the few countries in the world located simultaneously in all four hemispheres—Northern, Southern, Western, and Eastern—due to its spread of islands straddling the equator and the 180th meridian.



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

## Opportunity in the Region

### 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. PIFS 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 – Regional Peace and Security Officer

Applications are invited to fill this vacant international position at the Secretariat in Suva. The Regional Peace and Security Officer's (RPSO) role is to strengthen regional security cooperation and coordination and drive implementation of Forum regional peace and security priorities under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The key responsibilities are summarised as:

- Support effective and efficient implementation of regional peace and security priorities through Forum processes
- Project and program management support.
- Develop and maintain professional partnerships and relationships
- Production of policy advice and analysis in regional security

Applicants should have a university bachelor's degree in politics, legal, security or relevant discipline from a recognized institution with at least five years of experience in broad Pacific regional, peace and security sector background / experience. Likewise experience in developing M&E frameworks to track the effectiveness of security strategies and interventions, including creating data collection methods, analysis tools, and reporting processes.

### The Package

The position carries a competitive and attractive remuneration and benefits package including allowances for housing and education; and medical, accident and life insurance coverage. This position is based on Band 9 of the PIFS salary scale. The starting salary for the position is SDR 28,750 per annum, which is equivalent to FJD 87,174 based on 1 May 2025 foreign exchange rate.

### How to apply

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

To be eligible for the position, applicants must be nationals of Forum member countries. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The deadline for applications is **Friday 01 August, 5pm (Fiji Time)**.

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

# Historic joint submission of Extended Continental Shelf areas to the United Nations by Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu

## Secretariat of the Pacific Community

July 10, 2025

**Suva, Fiji**—Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have today taken a major step to secure 453,400 square kilometres of shared ocean heritage. The countries submitted three Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) submissions to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).



The submissions cover the North Fiji Basin (Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu), the Melanesian Borderland Plateau (Fiji and Solomon Islands), and a national claim for the extended continental shelf (Fiji) of the Lau-Colville and Tonga-Kermadec Ridges.

International recognition is sought for seabed areas beyond 200 nautical miles under Article 76 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They are crucial to securing Pacific sovereignty, protecting ocean resources for sustainable development, safeguarding entitlements against sea-level rise and ensuring clear jurisdiction for managing ocean spaces.

Establishing ownership of extended continental shelves and their resources is vital for the wellbeing and political stability of Pacific Island States. Until these “gaps in the world map” are closed, coastal States cannot fully protect their interests or effectively manage their ocean resources.

The Pacific Community (SPC), with support from a consortium of partners, has been instrumental in assisting countries with these submissions, which will ensure ownership of the extended continental shelf areas to unlock marine resources for economic growth, strengthen sovereignty, create jobs, and help safeguard the ocean for future generations.

“This is important for Pacific Island countries because it enables them to benefit from natural resources vital for marine conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development,” said SPC’s Maritime Boundaries Advisor Malakai Vakautawale.

“These submissions align with global efforts to secure climate-resilient maritime boundaries that protect sovereignty and preserve entitlements against sea-level rise. They also support SDG 14, Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions, and the vision of a thriving Blue Pacific Continent,” said Mr Vakautawale.

Fiji’s Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Dr Raijeli Taga, said the submission was about ensuring that ocean wealth supports national development and environmental protection. “This achievement is about safeguarding the future of our people. By securing these rights, we can ensure that the wealth beneath our ocean contributes to national development while protecting our marine environment.”

Solomon Islands Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Collin Beck, highlighted the importance of national sovereignty and community benefit. “This submission strengthens our sovereignty and our ability to manage ocean resources in a way that benefits every Solomon Islander, today and in the future.”

Vanuatu’s Head of Maritime and Ocean Affairs, Toney Tevi, reflected on what the joint effort means for Pacific solidarity. “Our ocean is the very foundation of our livelihoods, sustaining our communities and cultures. This collaborative effort exemplifies the powerful outcomes that can arise from Pacific unity. Together, we are committed to safeguarding the marine environments that nourish us and future generations.

The ECS submissions were made possible with support from the Pacific Community (SPC) Maritime Boundaries Programme, a multi-year initiative funded by the United Kingdom Government, in collaboration with regional and international partners, and technical consultancy provided by GeoLimits Consulting.

During the submissions, the Governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu expressed their deep appreciation to the United Kingdom Government for its generous financial support, which enabled this multi-country effort to succeed.

The submissions demonstrate Pacific leadership in global ocean governance and contribute to shared regional goals, including the 100% ocean-managed Pacific vision and Sustainable Development Goal 14.

## U.S. Coast Guard, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency successfully assist Lucky Harvest

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

July 3, 2025

**SANTA RITA, Guam** — The U.S. Coast Guard, in close collaboration with the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, safely towed the 47-foot motor vessel Lucky Harvest to Agana Boat Basin on July 1 after the vessel's crew experienced an engine failure due to a coolant leak.

The operation, which assisted two mariners, underscores the strong partnership between the U.S. Coast Guard and CQA in ensuring maritime security and safety in the region.

"The seamless coordination with Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency was critical to the success of this operation," said Lt. Brian Maffucci, the acting response department head, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "Our joint efforts with Lucky Harvest's crew ensured a swift and safe resolution, reflecting the strength of our partnership in protecting mariners in the region."

CQA has intensified interdiction efforts to combat the importation of illicit contraband through enhanced screening and inspection of potentially high-risk shipments and travelers, especially at Guam's maritime ports.

This effort resulted in the boarding of the Lucky Harvest and deployment of the agency's Drug Detector Dog Unit, Maritime Interdiction Task Force, Federal Task Force Section, and the Contraband Enforcement Team.

"Our special enforcement units are trained to detect and disrupt sophisticated smuggling techniques," said Col. Franklin Gutierrez, assistant chief of CQA's Special Enforcement Division. "Their presence assisting our maritime customs officers is a force multiplier against the criminal networks that exploit our borders, endanger lives, and undermine national security. Disrupting these schemes protects our communities, safeguards the vulnerable, and restores integrity to lawful trade and travel. CQA would like to thank the U.S. Coast Guard for their continued support in helping to monitor Guam's waters."

At 8:41 a.m. local time, U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor's 45-foot Response Boat-Medium and crew, operating with Guam Customs agents, responded to a distress call from the Lucky Harvest. The vessel, en route from Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to Agana Boat Basin, reported engine issues that left it unable to make way.

Upon arriving on scene, the RBM crew assessed the vessel and confirmed a

coolant leak in the propulsion system. At 8:54 a.m., the Coast Guard placed the Lucky Harvest in tow, safely delivering it to Agana Boat Basin less than two hours later. A post-search and rescue safety boarding revealed no recreational safety violations, and the U.S. Coast Guard case was closed for search and rescue purposes, with two lives assisted. The vessel crew subsequently made repairs and arrived safely to Saipan on July 3.

CQA's inspection yielded no contraband. However, mandatory inbound customs documents required for the vessel's scheduled arrival in Guam, as well as onboard cargo, were not available by the vessel master. The incident is currently under further review by CQA.

This event follows a previous rescue involving the Lucky Harvest in May, when the vessel, carrying two mariners, was found disabled west-southwest of Guam after its crew activated the vessel's emergency beacon. The U.S. Coast Guard, with support from the U.S. Navy and local partners, successfully rescued one mariner via helicopter hoist and coordinated efforts



to secure the vessel.

Lt. Cmdr. Derek Wallin, search and rescue mission coordinator, emphasized the importance of preparedness, "This case highlights why mariners must ensure their vessels are in good working order and equipped with reliable emergency beacons that are registered. Proper maintenance and safety equipment can make all the difference in an emergency."

## Interior Department opens FY2025 funding opportunities for U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, emphasizes timely financial audits

U.S. Department of the Interior

July 2, 2025

**Washington D.C.**—The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has opened applications for fiscal year 2025 funding to support projects in the U.S. territories and freely associated states. The Office of Insular Affairs remains committed to supporting the sustainable development, infrastructure and natural resource management of the U.S. territories and freely associated states. These funding opportunities are

an important resource for advancing local priorities and improving the quality of life in island communities.

"I'm proud to share that new funding is now available to help advance key priorities across the U.S. territories and freely associated states through our FY2025 discretionary grant programs," said **William Hague, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs**. "During my meetings last week with island finance ministers and officials, I

shared that one of my top priorities will be improving how and when required financial audits—known as Single Audits—are completed and submitted. These audits are essential for making sure federal funds are spent properly, and we look forward to working together to strengthen this process and support the goals outlined in each area's grant applications."

Funding is available through several key programs, including technical assistance, maintenance assistance, coral reef and natural resources, brown

tree snake control and energizing insular communities. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the program guidelines and submit strong, well-supported proposals by the August 15, 2025, deadline.

The priorities, eligibility requirements and application information for each fund is detailed in the Notifications of Funding Opportunity found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) under Assistance Listing #15.875.

# Pacific voices on reshaping global financing architecture

*By Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for Tonga, Dr. 'Aisake Valu Eke, and Munkhtuya Altangerel, Resident Representative, UNDP Pacific Office*

There has been a marked decline in Pacific development and progress against the SDGs since the early 2000s, attributable to the impacts of major disaster events, remoteness of Pacific Island nations and distance to markets, and the constrained size of Pacific economies, private sector, government administrations and populations.

The region remains the most aid-dependent globally based on per capita aid and reliance on external support. Likely related to the aforementioned development challenges, data also shows that aid projects are less effective on average in the Pacific than elsewhere in the developing world.

The ongoing lack of development progress despite a growing array of projects and donor engagement in Pacific continues to raise uncomfortable questions around both development and aid effectiveness, and the modalities used for aid delivery in PICs.

Over the last five years, discussions around the effectiveness of development financing modalities and the need to reform global financial architecture have gained momentum. From calls for multilateral banks to reform, to initiatives like Bridgetown and ongoing dialogue around the Green Climate Fund, there is a growing recognition that developing countries continue to face substantial challenges in accessing finance.

These challenges are often linked to structural issues in how aid is designed, programmed, and delivered, including concerns around high transaction costs. PICs face major barriers to climate finance, which is poorly aligned with Pacific priorities. These challenges are often linked to structural issues in how aid is designed, programmed, and delivered, including concerns around high transaction costs.

Over the last decade, climate financing specifically has continued to proliferate the growth of a range of multilateral initiatives, funds, facilities, project management firms, consultants, and development coalitions tasked with supporting a colourful array of different

overlapping issues. Accessing funds from this web of opportunities means navigating a range of processes, requirements, meetings, committees, and launch events which must be bolted onto existing national processes and responsibilities. Duplication and high transaction costs burden small administrations, with fragmentation being the most concerning.

Duplication is prevalent, the burden on small administrations significant, and the transaction costs are always high. Most concerning of all though is the fragmentation. In the Pacific, the urgency to improve the effectiveness of climate finance has been called for by leaders for a number of years and is now an increasing focus of policy and dialogue.

The ultimate aim of any aid should be to support institutional transformation and a transition towards the use of a country's own systems for all service delivery. However, one of many problems that persist in the Pacific is the difficulty that exists when it comes to combining existing sources of finance with aid. Utilising national systems would allow countries to produce focused, yet robust programmes of work aligned to national results frameworks.

Imagine being given a complicated task such as building a house, but then being told that each type of material must be sourced from different locations, that multiple shops sold the same materials but that each would only sell the materials for specific purposes, and that on top of that only specific delivery companies could be used to deliver the materials to the site? At what point would the actual construction begin?

For PICs, the limited time and resources of small administrations are expended on accessing climate finance funds and navigating their parameters, only to find that available resources can't be easily combined to produce coherent outcomes. Even once funds are secured, the ability to deliver results is often compromised by the complexity of managing multiple agreements, delivery partners, and external project units.

Despite these challenges, cooperation amongst PICs to reshape and re-scale financing to suit their

needs has never been more prevalent within the regional narrative. The Pacific's push for country-owned approaches had a direct influence on the agreement and content of the governing instrument for the new Fund for responding to Loss and Damage. The Pacific Leaders recent endorsement of the establishment treaty for the Pacific Resilience Facility has marked a further shift towards improving the Pacific's collective ability to shape financing arrangements that suit the needs and circumstances of Pacific Island contexts. Recent efforts to access the Green Climate Fund regionally demonstrate a desire to achieve scale through collective initiative.

In a world under pressure to demonstrate proof of concept when it comes to the ability to enhance community resilience - it is especially difficult to rationalise why countries with populations and land areas equivalent to what would be a small town or village in larger countries have not achieved access to transformative levels of financing to demonstrate potential. Instead, whether it be Tuvalu or Bangladesh, finance is accessed in project sized chunks.

While the inflexibility of climate finance and the status quo for how climate finance is programmed remains problematic, it is also clear that institutional capacity within Pacific administrations is a core driver of the problem. Yet paradoxically, this institutional capacity is further eroded as aid dependency increases. While the inflexibility of climate finance remains problematic, it is also clear that institutional capacity within Pacific administrations is a core driver of the problem. Yet paradoxically, this institutional capacity is further eroded as aid dependency increases.

Reducing aid dependency requires greater use of national systems and flexibility for country ownership, and recognition that finance spent on improving institutional capacity has far greater value than investing in reliable but expensive and ineffective third-party oversight. From a national standpoint, investment in a sound Public Financial Management (PFM) system is imperative for improving the effectiveness of aid in addition to the achievement of development

objectives. To contextualise PFM reform agendas for the Pacific, it goes without saying that climate change and social inclusion will be key priorities.

Tonga is working towards empowering national systems to drive sustainable reform. An inter-ministerial group including the Prime Minister's Office and Ministries of Finance and Climate Change is strengthening coordination to ensure that policies and plans are effectively integrated with budgetary processes. In parallel the ministry responsible for environment and climate change is operationalising the Tonga Climate Change Trust Fund, which will support the implementation of the Joint National Action Plan for climate action across sectors and to communities.

As part of the initial activities of the Trust Fund, a national water tank initiative is being rolled out with the support of the New Zealand Government. This initiative has been used to pilot a new way of working to embed climate change and disaster risks and gender and social inclusion into all community development projects. This 'risk informing' of the water tanks has included a process of comprehensive consultation with the school communities receiving the tanks, and has resulted in safer and more accessible drinking water for all school students, including those with a disability. The Climate Change Ministry is now working with the Ministry of Infrastructure on an addendum to the National Building Codes. This process also helps estimate the cost of risk mitigation for future resource mobilisation.

The Government of Tonga are demonstrating more nationally led and programmatic approaches to accessing and utilising climate finance, working across the whole of government to connect this financing with community priorities in a risk-informed manner.

Against the backdrop of intensifying geopolitical tensions, reforms such as the Bridgetown Initiative facing significant challenges, and a watered-down climate finance commitment made at COP29, there is an increasing imperative for PICs to take matters into their own hands.

## Fog horns ring in Nice Ocean Action Plan as 2025 UN Ocean Conference ends

**SPREP**  
*Biodiversity Conservation  
Environmental Monitoring and  
Governance*

**June 14, 2025**

**Nice, France**--Sounds from the Pacific during the opening ceremony were replaced by the thundering roar of fog-horns on the Port of Nice on Friday to signal the end of third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3).

The sound of the horns followed a historical moment when Pacific countries joined more than 170 nations to adopt by consensus the outcome of the conference, the Nice Ocean Action Plan, promising urgent action to protect our Ocean.

At the closing, France's special envoy for UNOC3, Mr Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, recalled that at the beginning of the week, the world called for the Nice Conference to take a chance on transformative change.

"I believe we have moved forward, but we can no longer go backwards," he said.

The meeting attended by more than 15,000 participants, including more than 60 Heads of State and Government, was the latest summit to tackle a deepening crisis in the Ocean driven by overfishing, climate change and pollution.

Communities in the Pacific Islands are amongst the worst hit by the impacts.

In Nice this week, Pacific leaders and officials were actively engaged in all the spaces to amplify their united

and collective voice to promote the protection of our Ocean so that it is healthy and productive for the survival of communities.

The Pacific countries advocated for regional and national priorities during the plenaries, Ocean Action Panels and took centre stage during the majority of 450 side events attended by 100,000 visitors.

At the end of the week, the hard work culminated in a shared call to expand marine protection, curb pollution, regulate the high seas, and unlock financing for vulnerable coastal and island nations.

During a press conference, Tuvalu Prime Minister, Hon. Feleti Teo, said the Pacific must sustain the pressure in calling for urgent action from the global community to protect our Ocean.

"The Ocean is everything to us," said Prime Minister Teo. "It sustains our livelihoods, it's our source of economic development, it's also the source of our protein in terms of fisheries. I believe that this conference has contributed to the conversations we need to have.

"Obviously I share the frustrations of many small island developing countries in terms of the non-responsiveness of international financial facilities. We need to sustain the pressure and meetings of this sort gives us an excellent opportunity to be able to tell our stories."

On the margins of UNOC3, Pacific leaders also convened for the 6th France-Pacific Summit



## Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General reaffirms central role of Micronesia In advancing regional unity and priorities

*Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat*

**July 5, 2025**

**RMI**—The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Baron Waqa, delivered a statement at the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum this week, reaffirming the region's commitment to a united, resilient, and inclusive Blue Pacific Continent.

Speaking as both Secretary General and a proud son of Micronesia, SG Waqa expressed deep gratitude to the Government and people of the Marshall Islands for their hospitality, and underscored the importance of Micronesia's leadership in shaping regional and global priorities.

"In a world increasingly marked by turbulence, the Pacific must remain a beacon of hope and unity," SG Waqa stated. "We must ensure that the Forum's priorities align with the lived realities of our people and the Leaders' vision in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent."

SG Waqa reiterated the commitment by the PIF Secretariat to work with other regional organizations to strengthen its efforts in the Micronesian subregion, highlighting the importance of coherence, the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Baron Waqa, delivered a statement at the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum this week, reaffirming the region's commitment to a united, resilient, and inclusive Blue Pacific Continent.

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SG Waqa reiterated the commitment by the PIF Secretariat to work with other regional organizations to strengthen its efforts in the Micronesian subregion, highlighting the importance of coherence between subregional and regional systems.

"The Forum Secretariat will continue to walk alongside Micronesian Leaders to ensure that our work not only complements, but is guided by, your priorities. Together, we will deepen regionalism, build trust in our institutions, and shape a future that is defined by our own terms."

The remarks come ahead of the 54th Forum Leaders Meeting to be held in Solomon Islands from the 8th-12th September 2025. between subregional and regional systems.

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# Training workshop strengthens capacity for World Bank project delivery across FSM

*FSM Central Implementation Unit, DoFA*

*June 10, 2025*

**Pohnpei**—The Central Implementation Unit (CIU) of the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA), in partnership with the World Bank, recently concluded a strategic training workshop aimed at enhancing budget planning and coordination across the Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) World Bank-funded project portfolio.

The workshop focused on building the capacity of Project Managers and Officers from various Project Implementation Units (PIUs) to develop robust Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB) for Fiscal Year 2025/26. This initiative is critically timed as the FSM's World Bank portfolio has expanded to encompass 10 active projects, valued collectively at over US\$344 million.

The workshop included technical sessions led by the CIU's Finance,

Procurement, Safeguards, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Communications teams. Participants received hands-on guidance on regulatory compliance, budget forecasting, disbursement projections, and integration of cross-cutting activities.

"This training is a vital step to ensure that all teams are equipped with the tools and knowledge to manage projects effectively and meet fiduciary standards," Leona Albert, CIU Program Officer. "Our goal is to reduce delays, eliminate errors, and improve coordination between CIU and the PIUs for better project outcomes."

Participants echoed the value of the training. "Understanding the link between budget preparation and project implementation timelines was a major takeaway," noted one Project Manager. "It really clarified how every element—from procurement to communications—must be budgeted strategically."

The CIU was established in 2018 as

a centralized service provider for all World Bank-funded projects in FSM. Its mandate spans program management, finance, procurement, communications, safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation. The CIU model allows FSM to maintain a lean, skilled core team that supports multiple projects, reducing costs and enhancing institutional memory.

The projects supported by the CIU cover a wide range of critical development themes including renewable energy, education and skills development, digital connectivity, maritime transport and coastal livelihoods, climate-resilient infrastructure, and public financial management. By providing strategic and technical expertise across these sectors, the CIU plays a vital role in aligning project implementation with national priorities and global sustainability goals.

"With our growing portfolio, this kind of structured training ensures that projects are not only compliant but impactful,"



added Assistant Secretary Senny Phillip of DoFA. "By investing in capacity-building, we're paving the way for sustainable development and better public service delivery."

The training workshop also served to reinforce CIU's role as both a technical and strategic hub—supporting project delivery while nurturing national capacity. As FSM's development needs evolve, so too does the CIU's commitment to building a more effective, transparent, and coordinated project management ecosystem.

# Building Pacific capacities to support trade and market access

*Secretariat of the Pacific Community*

*June 27, 2025*

**Port Vila, Vanuatu**—To strengthen the skills of Pacific biosecurity, border control, exporter representatives and relevant stakeholders in using Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) databases and platforms, a regional capacity-building workshop is underway in Vanuatu that will enable access to key trade-related information to improve agricultural trade facilitation and market access. The knowledge sharing event is organised by the Pacific Community (SPC) through the European Union-funded Safe Agricultural Trade Facilitation through Economic Integration in the Pacific (SAFE Pacific) project, with technical support from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development IMPACT Project, Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project, the Pacific Islands Forum's SPIRIT Project, Biosecurity Vanuatu and COLEAD.

The unavailability of organised and transparent information is a key barrier to trade. The event raises awareness of important resources and trade platforms available to ease the work of regulatory authorities and improve business processes for exporters of agro products. Knowledge of the use of these tools will help with the movement of goods across borders and maximise efficiency while reducing costs and delays.

In this respect, another focus of the workshop is immersing regional participants in the use of the "single window" concept in risk profiling, planning and facilitating efficient border clearance for both imports and exports. Vanuatu leads the Pacific in this effort, and the country's experiences were also shared by Timor-Leste.

In his opening address, Director General of the Vanuatu Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, and Biosecurity (MALFB), Timothy Tumukon shared that trade is no longer about moving goods but also about information that helps move those goods, in an efficient manner and in compliance with importing country regulations.

"Our farmers and exporters depend on accurate, up-to-date SPS information to meet biosecurity conditions, market requirements, including food safety standards, and also to gain access to new overseas markets. Knowing where to go to access essential information is critical, and it is also why digital tools are no longer optional, but essential," Mr Tumukon said.

"Cooperation amongst all actors along the value chain, and at the borders, is also important. Let us work together to build not just capacity, but resilience, where our businesses are informed, our agencies are equipped, and our trade systems are ready

for the future," he added.

Using the example of Vanuatu's Electronic Single Window System, Mr Tumukon shared how Vanuatu, through this tool, is making major strides in improving how it handles export and import processes.

"Our biosecurity team can now coordinate directly with Customs and other regulatory agencies through one platform. This means exporters get faster clearance and approvals without a big pile of paper applications, better access to regulatory information, and a clearer path to compliance with international standards."

Key trade tools and systems shared with participants in the three-day workshop includes the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) and its various module including ASYCUDA Sanitary and Phytosanitary System (ASYSPS), ASYCUDA Reconciliation Module (ASYREC), Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (eCITES), Trade Single Window, Trade Information Portals (TIPs), the electronic Phytosanitary Certification system (ePhyto), the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), Global Trade Helpdesk (GTH), Trade Analysis Information Systems (TRAINS), and SPC hosted regional Biosecurity Information Facility (BIF) and Pest List Database

(PLD).

SPC Programmes and Office Coordinator based at the Melanesia Regional Office in Port Vila, Cecile Depuille, said, "By equipping Biosecurity, Customs and Trade Officers, alongside micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the right tools and knowledge, we can better access key markets and improve trade outcomes."

"This will position our business community to better leverage and benefit from available trade instruments such as the EU-Pacific States Economic Partnership Agreement," she said.

In line with this, participants also learned provisions in the EU-Pacific States Economic Partnership Agreement that enable greater access for Pacific countries to EU markets, alongside broader awareness on World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), Melanesian Free Trade Agreement (MFTA), Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and the agreement under PACER Plus.

The tools shared at the workshop can be used to better access information for trade with the EU and other key markets such as Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Asia and intra-regional trade among Pacific Island Countries and Territories.