

Two days and two national records for Kihleng

Oceania Aquatics

August 2, 2025

Singapore—Two days, two personal bests, two National Records. That’s the wonderful individual swimming tally for Kestra Kihleng at the World Aquatic Championships. The Federated States of Micronesia swimmer has taken the record book apart, all in under 48 hours.



her Heat.



Following up on her success in the Women’s 100m Freestyle, she stormed her way to a time of 30.51 seconds. Smashing her own previous National Record of 30.80.

‘PB and a National Record?’ She enquired, as she arrived for her interview fresh from the pool.....when we confirmed it, a smile spread across her face.

‘Yeah! I’m happy with it. I feel like there was a lot to work on though for that 50. I think I breathed too much, but overall, I’m really happy with the race.’

It was a great start, as she flew from the blocks and held on to take 3rd place in

The best swimmers never spend much time standing still after a good performance. There’s always the next thing to work on. Sure enough, Kestra is already analysing her next steps.

‘I’m already looking back at the races and seeing what I need to work on next and just making sure I fix those finer details and look forward to the next one.

At the moment, I’m having fun with it all. The 100 freestyle has been really good. I’ve been working a lot on that, especially with Russell Mark.’

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

Katerson Moya calmly doubles up on national records



Photo by Andrea Schuster

Oceania Aquatics

July 31, 2025

Singapore--‘My swimming has improved.’

That was Katerson Moya’s calm statement as he arrived in the Mixed Zone for his post-race interview following the 100m Freestyle Heat.

Swap statement for understatement and we’re close to the mark.

Anyone who has just picked up two National Records in 4 days at the World Aquatics Championships has certainly improved.

The time of 55.44 seconds lowered the National Record of the

Federated States of Micronesia by 0.27 seconds. A record set by Tas Limtiaco at the Oceania Championships on the Gold Coast in 2024.

Naturally, Katerson was pleased with his performance.

‘It hurt but it was worth it. My coach just said.. just to go all out as this is my last race this week.’

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

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Pohnpei DOE holds annual assembly under the theme “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child” Governor Joseph and Lt. Governor Movick commend educators, emphasize alignment and collaboration

Pohnpei Public Information

August 7, 2025

Pohnpei, FSM—Under this year’s powerful theme “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child,” on August 4, the Department of Education (DOE) convened its annual Assembly, gathering education professionals and leadership to reaffirm the critical role of education in the development of Pohnpei’s future. In attendance were Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, Lt. Governor Herolyn S. Movick, Board of Education members, the Chairman of the Legislature’s Education Committee, Director of the Department of Education Stanley Etse, Director of Health and Social Services, and other key education stakeholders.

In his address, Governor Joseph reflected on a moving musical performance delivered by DOE employees. He likened the moment to the spirit of educators across Pohnpei: “Even when the background music stopped, they continued to sing. That’s what many of you do every day — continuing your work despite the hardships and challenges.”

Drawing from his own experience as a former educator, Governor Joseph acknowledged the real challenges teachers face and encouraged open communication between employees and leadership. “Please share your difficulties and challenges with us. Lt. Governor Movick and I will do the best we can at our level to support you.”



In closing, Governor Joseph commended all educators and DOE employees for their dedication and vital role in shaping the future of Pohnpei. “You carry one of the most important responsibilities in our society — preparing the next generation for the challenges ahead. Your work is foundational to our island’s progress.”

He urged the alignment of policies across departments and levels of government to ensure the successful implementation of Pohnpei’s Strategic Development Plan. “Do your best to teach the children so they can become productive citizens. Education is the foundation of a stronger Pohnpei.”

Governor Joseph also highlighted an upcoming Health Symposium and encouraged the education sector to consider a similar initiative. He suggested that future DOE Assemblies be expanded into a one-week, conference-style format to provide more time for collaboration, policy alignment, and feedback-sharing.

“Your voices matter,” he emphasized. “Policies must reflect your realities in the classrooms, and your input is key to ensuring that they are effective and relevant.”



The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:
August 27, 2025**

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

Monday, August 25, 2025

Governor declares period of mourning for late educator and public servant Damian G. Sohl

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

August 4, 2025

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph has declared a three-day official period of mourning to honor the life and legacy of the late Damian G. Sohl, a highly respected educator, statesman, and cultural advocate, who passed away on August 1, 2025, in Pohnpei.

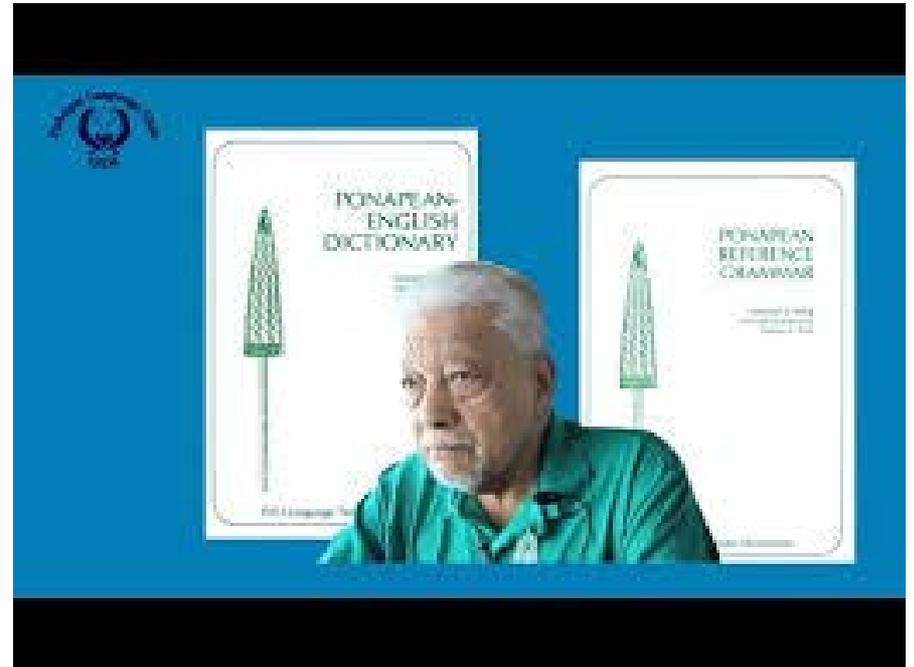
Born on August 17, 1943, in Sokehs, Sohl dedicated his life to public service, education, and the preservation of Pohnpeian culture and identity. Governor Joseph, in Executive Proclamation 25-05, described Sohl as “a distinguished and honorable son of Pohnpei,” whose contributions spanned decades and touched generations.

Sohl served in numerous high-profile roles, including as a Delegate

to the First Pohnpei Constitutional Convention, where he helped frame the State Constitution. He also served as a Senator representing Sokehs, as Director of both the Department of Education and the Department of Health Services, and as a municipal leader. Additionally, he co-authored the Pohnpei-English Dictionary, strengthening cultural and linguistic preservation efforts.

“His life’s work—in classrooms, government halls, and community forums—demonstrated a profound commitment to learning, service, and cultural pride,” the proclamation reads.

Governor Joseph expressed his “deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies” to Sohl’s family, friends, and the people of Pohnpei and the Federated States of Micronesia, urging all to honor his legacy of wisdom,



integrity, and public service.

The official mourning period will

run from August 4 through August 7, 2025, during which all flags are to be flown at half-staff across the state.

Australia backs FSM elections with upgrade to voter registration system

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 31, 2025

FSM—Australia has reaffirmed its long-standing support for democratic processes in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with new assistance to modernize the nation's voter registration system.

On August 7, Australian Ambassador to the FSM Jenny Grant visited the FSM National Election Office to show Australia’s continued support for fair and efficient elections in the country. She met with National Election Director Ausen T. Lambert and his team.

“Australia is pleased to be partnering with FSM to support its electoral administration, making it easier to update the national voter roll,” said Ambassador Grant during the visit.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has deployed two of its technical experts to assist the FSM Election Office in transitioning from the original Generic Voter Registration

System (GVRs) to a newly enhanced version known as GVRs Hybrid. The upgrade promises improved functionality, greater user-friendliness, and stronger safeguards for voter data.

Australia originally provided the GVRs to FSM in 2002 as part of broader efforts to support good governance and institutional capacity in the Pacific. The system has since served as the backbone of FSM’s voter database, used in multiple national and state-level elections. However, after two decades, the need for modernization became clear.

The GVRs Hybrid system is designed to improve the ease and accuracy of maintaining the national voter roll, helping election officials better manage voter information across FSM’s four states. It also introduces new tools to streamline registration updates and improve transparency and accountability in the electoral process.

The ongoing collaboration with FSM’s National Election Office is part of the longstanding relationship between the two countries.



Oneisomw community successfully launches aquaculture project

The Nature Conservancy

August 11, 2025

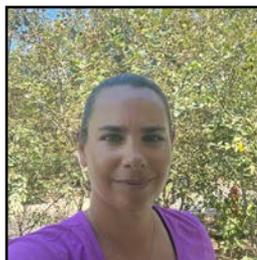
Chuuk—From July 21 to 27, 2025, the Oneisomw community in Chuuk State hosted an aquaculture training and clam farm setup led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The effort is part of TNC's broader Micronesia Coral Reefs Program, supported by the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), which works across the region to protect reefs and support sustainable local economies.

More than 20 participants — including local conservation officers, community members, and partners from the Chuuk Department of Marine Resources (DMR), College of Micronesia-Cooperative Research and Extension (COM-CRE), and the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP)— took part in practical training in giant clam farming, sponge farming, and rabbitfish aquaculture.

The week-long training combined classroom workshops with field-based training in site selection, cage construction, sponge broodstock collection, and land-based tank systems. These activities are designed to equip communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to manage sustainable aquaculture aligned with reef conservation. “This initiative strengthens coral reef resilience by reducing pressure from wild harvesting, while also creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities. It’s a win for both nature and people,” said Liz Terk, Micronesia Conservation Director at the Nature Conservancy.

A major achievement was the successful transport and stocking of 3,600 bear paw clams and 75 giant clams, the latter reintroduced to Chuuk lagoon after being locally extinct for years. The team also installed a pilot sponge farm using the Micronesian wool sponge and received training on monitoring methods to support future rabbitfish aquaculture.

“This training is about more than setting up clam cages,” said Kriskitina Kanemoto, FSM Conservation Coordinator at The Nature Conservancy, Micronesia and Polynesia, who helped organized the training. “It’s about building local leadership in sustainable aquaculture, supported by collaboration between communities, state agencies, and regional institutions.”



...Moya

Continued from front page

The term – ‘No pain, no gain’ was made for just such an effort by the gold medal swimmer at last year’s Pan Pacific Junior Championships. As he explained,

‘Well, it just started well up to the last 15 metres and that’s when I was kind of feeling the pain.’

Nevertheless, it was well worth that short term pain and he went on to explain how such success was inspiring

him for the future.

‘I enjoy being with these swimmers from other countries and I just want to keep participating with them. I’ve just applied for a scholarship to Bahrain and I’m leaving to go there in January so when I get home I’ll just keep training toward my last Junior World Championships in August.’

It’s been a tremendous week for Katerson. He clearly seems to have the qualities that not only help him swim fast but also to progress quickly in this sport.

...Kihleng

Continued from front page

Russell Mark is a renowned analyst as part of the World Aquatics Development Programme.

‘I train at Thanyapura in Thailand, with my coach Alex. Him and Russell Mark have been helping me with getting my stroke technique down. And yeah, just working on the technique and building my aerobic base.’

Once again, this access to a variety of top level support and resources, is what helps to produce days such as today for Kestra.

‘In FSM we have a 25 metre pool. The facilities open to me at Thanyapura adds to my swimming environment, and in turn I feel I’m consistently improving. I’ve been there for two years and the facilities are amazing and I’m beginning to see clear results.’

Kestra’s highlights in the pool are clear to see this week. What about outside the pool?

‘I feel for me, these competitions are a chance for me to meet and reunite with all my friends from abroad, especially the ones that used to train with me in Thailand and also the Oceania team. It’s really good to meet everyone and catch up.’

From books to iPads, student volunteer leaves gift of learning

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

August 8, 2025

Pohnpei—From a recent post on its social media page, the Pohnpei Public Library expressed heartfelt gratitude to the many patrons who have donated books in recent weeks—gifts that have ranged from well-loved children’s stories to informative guides and classic novels. Each contribution, the library noted, helps not just to fill its shelves, but also to enrich the community by giving more people access to the joy of reading.

But this week’s message singled out one volunteer whose generosity has gone far beyond books.

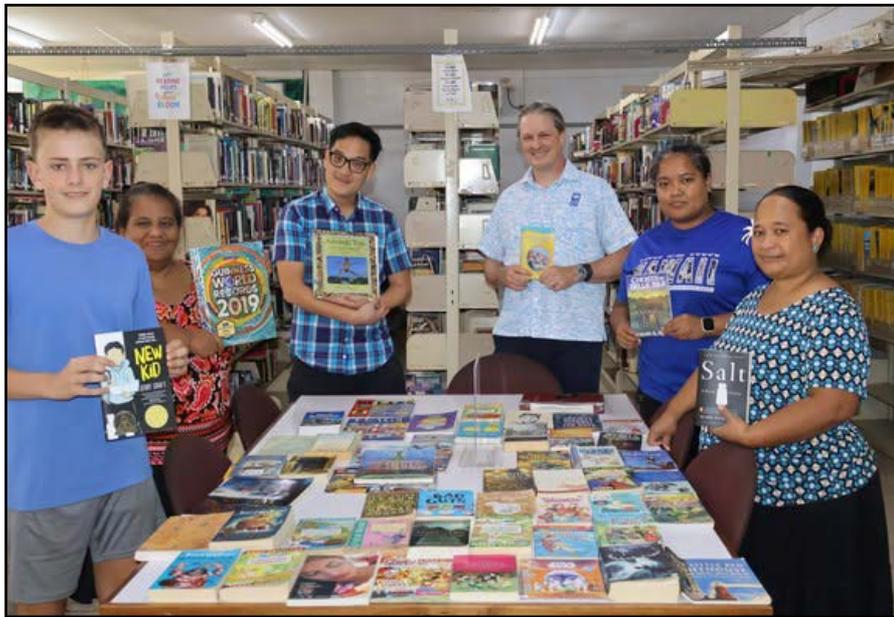
The library is offering a special “see you later” to Zachary Petrini, a dedicated student volunteer whose time, talent, and thoughtfulness have made a lasting impression. Over the course of his involvement, Petrini has helped with programs and events, donated a variety of

books, gifted a collection of LEGOs to inspire creativity, and even provided iPads to support learning for the library’s youngest patrons.

The library’s post praised Petrini’s consistent dedication and helpful attitude, saying that his contributions have had a direct and positive impact on programs and on the children and families who visit regularly.

As Petrini moves on to the next chapter of his life, the staff and Board of the Pohnpei Public Library say his presence will be missed but his influence will be felt for years to come. They extended their best wishes for his future endeavors and expressed deep appreciation for the community’s ongoing generosity.

“We are deeply grateful to be part of a community that gives so generously and cares so deeply,” the post concluded.



Governor Joseph welcomes Upward Bound Students from Majuro to Pohnpei State Government



Pohnpei Public Information

July 29, 2025

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Government welcomed a special group of visitors this week as students from the Upward Bound program based in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the Governor. The group was in Pohnpei as part of an educational and cultural tour to broaden their understanding of leadership, governance, and regional collaboration.

The visit began with a guided tour of the Pohnpei State Government Administrative Building. The students had the opportunity to walk through the various departments and offices, where they learned about the roles and responsibilities of government agencies and how public services are delivered to the people of Pohnpei.

After the tour, the students met with Governor Stevenson A. Joseph in the Governor’s Conference Room. The Governor warmly welcomed the group, expressing his gratitude for their visit and admiration for the Upward Bound program’s mission. Governor Joseph also shared a brief overview of the structure of the Pohnpei State Government and emphasized the importance of education, leadership, and staying connected to one’s community and culture.

The moment was made even more special by the fact that some of the visiting students were former students of Governor Joseph himself, who once served as Principal and educator at the Majuro Seventh-day Adventist School. There were smiles and laughter as familiar faces reconnected, adding a personal and heartfelt touch to the occasion.

As a gesture of thanks, the students sang a song for the Governor, filling the conference room with harmony and joy. Their performance reflected the warmth, talent, and spirit of youth from across Micronesia.

The Upward Bound program is a U.S. federally funded initiative that prepares highschool students—particularly those from low-income families or families without a college-going tradition—for higher education. The program offers academic support, mentoring, college prep, and enrichment activities to help students succeed in school and in life.

The Pohnpei State Government extends its deepest appreciation to the students and staff of the Majuro Upward Bound program for visiting. Governor Joseph and his administration are honored to support programs that empower the next generation and strengthen bonds among the islands of Micronesia.



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FSM PROPER Project holds a Progress and Planning Workshop to align FY25/26 priorities and drive implementation

National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (NORMA)

July 11, 2025

Pohnpei—The FSM PROPER Project convened its mid-year Project Progress and Planning Meeting on July 10–11, 2025, at the FSM Central Facilities in Palikir. The two-day workshop brought together national and state-level representatives to assess implementation progress, address delivery challenges, and finalize aligned workplans and budgets for FY25/26.

The PROPER Project is a six-year, \$56 million initiative funded by the World Bank that aims to strengthen stakeholder capacity for regional collaboration and improve fisheries sector performance and habitat preservation, while promoting smart, safe, and sustainable fisheries in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Opening Remarks Set the Tone for Collaborative Delivery
Mrs. Limanman Helgenberger, Acting Executive Director of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA), opened the workshop by welcoming returning and new participants and expressing appreciation for the strong collaboration between national agencies and states.

She acknowledged the State departments for their support and close cooperation in getting the project to implementation,



and thanked the World Bank for their support, and the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA) and the Central Implementation Unit (CIU) for their preparatory and logistical support.

Mrs. Helgenberger highlighted NORMA's commitment to providing technical and operational support to the National Working Groups leading implementation, in close collaboration with national and state-level agencies. She stressed the importance of ensuring:

- Timely implementation, by executing the \$56 million portfolio within the six-year timeline;
- Effective implementation, by delivering tangible benefits to communities and measuring impact beyond project reporting;
- Sustainable delivery, through a foundation of smart, safe, and sustainable fisheries.

She concluded by emphasizing the goal of using Smart, Safe and Sustainable fisheries to ensure long-term resilience and impact.

Members of this project-mandated bi-annual meeting are the representatives of the five Working Groups who are designated respectively by the FSM President and the four State Governors.

Collaborative Planning Across Workstreams

Throughout the workshop, component leads and working group members reviewed activity pipelines, adjusted FY25/26 budgets, and aligned timelines across environmental safeguards, social inclusion, communications, M&E, and procurement. The agenda included state presentations, procurement harmonization proposals, and breakout sessions to strengthen coordination.

A World Bank technical team participated virtually, offering guidance on procurement strategies, performance improvement, and regional synergies.

Closing Reflections Emphasize Action and Impact

Mrs. Helgenberger closed the workshop by thanking participants for their active engagement: "Our collaboration over the past two days gives us a very positive outlook as we move forward with implementation. Let's not lose the momentum—we need to ensure we not only spend the project funds on time, but more importantly, that we see real benefits on the ground that improve the lives of the people we serve." She extended appreciation to the Chairs and members of the five Working Groups for their leadership in their respective jurisdictions.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us. I wish us all the best of luck—and may the Lord bless our efforts."



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Inclusive Early Childhood Education In-Service Teacher Training for the FSM

The College of Micronesia-FSM proudly announces the successful completion of the Inclusive Early Childhood Education Teacher Training for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) – Training for Trainers of Teachers. This is a partnership project with the College of Micronesia-FSM, National Department of Education, UNICEF, which was funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) that COM-FSM started working on last November 2024, and now moving forward with the rollout training for all Early Childhood Education and ECE Special Education teachers in the FSM.

This is a project in which the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has set a national commitment to make early childhood education (ECE) compulsory for all 5-year-old children by 2024. As part of this initiative, FSM aims to provide inclusive ECE to all children, including those with disabilities and learning challenges. To achieve this goal, FSM is planning to review and revise the ECE policy, establish inter-agency coordination for ECE, develop state-specific

inclusive ECE teacher training programs, create a national ECE curriculum framework, build capacity for ECE at the state level, and implement various support strategies for ECE, including school feeding and transportation. As part of education priority reform, FSM is focusing on repositioning indigenous learning in education across all levels, which will cover ECE. FSM's ECE program implementation will therefore need to be positioned within the education priority reform. Ms. Olter brought valuable insights from her experience working with children on the autism spectrum and actively supported and contributed to each day's sessions during the training. Dean Kasiano Paul and Instructional Coordinator Joseph Felix Jr. opened the ceremony, welcoming the Vice President of Instructional Affairs, Mrs. Delihna Ehmes, who extended a warm welcome to all 20 participants representing each state of the Federated States of Micronesia. The Inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) In-Service Teacher Training for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) was



conducted from July 14 to 18, 2025. Each training session began at 9:30 AM and concluded at 4:00 PM. The sessions were organized around four core areas of effective classroom practice:

1. **Lesson Planning** - Professor Joseph J. Habuchmai
2. **Teaching Strategies** - Professor Magdalena Hallers
3. **Assessment**- Associate Professor Pearl Habuchmai
4. **Classroom Management**- Professor Susan Moses, assisted by Mercedes Olter

Each of these areas was assigned to a faculty member who presented on the topic throughout the day. Presentations included not only theoretical content but

also practical demonstrations to support in-service teachers in implementing what they learned. The training was a success, and we are now moving forward with the plan for all Trainers of Teachers to do their training in each state. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Madam President and Chief Executive Officer of the College of Micronesia-FSM, Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono, for her unwavering support. We also extend our sincere gratitude to each staff member of the College of Micronesia-FSM for their invaluable contributions to the success of this training.

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August 04-29, 2025

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Ambassador Chigiya presents her credentials in New Zealand

FSM Information Services

Turkmenistan.

August 7, 2025

Wellington, New Zealand—On July 16, 2025, Her Excellency Jane J. Chigiya officially presented her Letter of Credence to H.E. the Right Honorable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNCM, QSO, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Realm of New Zealand at the Government House as the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary cross-accredited from the Commonwealth of Australia.

In her statement, Ambassador Chigiya highlighted matters of mutual interest such as people to people exchange, the adverse impacts of climate change, ocean and biodiversity management and conservation, private sector development among others. She concluded her statement by saying, "I am excited to start my new assignment in partnership with all stakeholders in New Zealand."

In her responding statement, the Governor-General congratulated the Ambassadors on their appointments. She further expressed her strong desire to work closely with all the Ambassadors to elevate the relationship to a new height.



Ambassador Chigiya and her delegation were greeted and introduced to the Maori elders. They were welcomed with the powhiri (Maori Welcoming Tradition). Ambassador and her delegation were escorted through the Governor-General's Guard into Government House for the Presentation of Credentials (PoC) Ceremony.

A cultural tradition is part of the accreditation program where each Ambassador was asked to respond to a song by the Governor-General and her staff. Being the first Ambassador to New Zealand, Ambassador Chigiya presented a chant for voyagers and the welcoming party. It marked the end of the PoC ceremony. Ambassador Chigiya was accompanied by First Secretary Carl and members of her family.

In order of precedence, Ambassador Chigiya was the first among the non-resident Ambassadors to deliver her statement and her Letter of Credence. She was followed by the Ambassadors of the Republic of Maldives and

The Ambassador had the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on the Rt. Honorable Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs – preparation and issues for the 54PIFLM was discussed. Ambassador Chigiya conveyed her government's appreciation for New Zealand's leadership and partnership on human capacity building, social and economic development, environmental management and conservation, the value of UN's presence for the North Pacific.

The cross-accreditation to the New Zealand Government marks another milestone under the Simina-Palik Administration in deepening and strengthening relations within the Pacific family and the Global Community.



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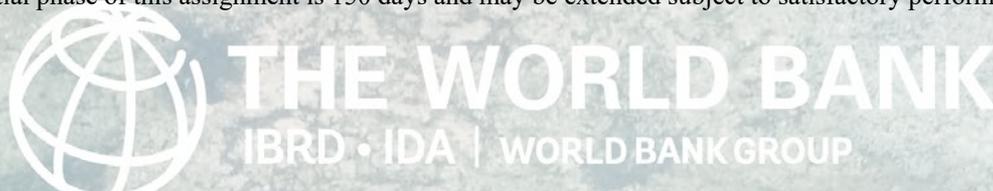




Job Announcement: Short -Term Consultant (STC) for Operations

Description: The World Bank aims to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity by substantially scaling up its program and field presence in the Pacific. The World Bank's program focuses on initiatives that address the challenges of fragility, isolation, size and limited capacity.

The World Bank is seeking to hire a local Short -Term Consultant (STC) for Operations to be based in Pohnpei, FSM and to support the portfolios and engagement in the North Pacific, namely Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. The initial phase of this assignment is 150 days and may be extended subject to satisfactory performance.



The STC - Operations will coordinate with and support the client to enhance implementation, improve coordination with key stakeholders across the portfolio and contribute to quality assurance and strategy documents.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Senior Operations Officer and in cooperation with the Pacific Operations team, the incumbent will:

1. Assist with reviewing and providing comments on packages at each stage of the project cycle; liaise with projects team leaders to ensure all comments are considered before clearance.
2. Assist with the monitoring of project portfolio and operational performance, including quality at entry, supervision, and exit, and ensuring compliance with Bank policies.
3. Assist in identifying trends and systemic issues in the pipeline and portfolio and advise on ways to address them.
4. Assist to ensure quality, timeliness, and candor of Implementation Status Reports (ISR); work with teams to develop and implement action plans to improve project performance and to anticipate and resolve bottlenecks.
5. Assist with the planning and execution of Country Portfolio Performance Reviews (CPPRs) and coordinate the update of the CPPR Action Plans.
6. Participating in meetings and follow-up with task teams, implementation support teams (including fiduciary, procurement and safeguards specialists) and with the Project Implementation Units and Government counterparts.
7. Assist in advising and supporting task teams, CMU staff and other stakeholders on operational changes and innovations.
8. Assist in responding to Government clients' queries regarding the World Bank portfolio and operational procedures by providing timely and helpful answers and/or directing them to relevant people/resources.
9. Assist in reviewing, commenting on, and clearing all out-going correspondence; manage in-coming correspondence; review/comment/clearance of all operational requests.
10. Assist to prepare reports and briefs to counterparts, regional and senior management, including Spring and Annual Meetings briefs, visiting missions' briefs and ad hoc briefs.
11. Support the preparation of high-level missions, as needed.

Selection Criteria

- University degree in economics, engineering, public policy, business administration, social science, or other relevant discipline, plus relevant professional experience: MA/MS in a relevant discipline plus minimum two (2) years of direct relevant experience, or BA/BS in relevant discipline plus five (5) or more years of relevant experience.
- Experience working in the North Pacific, and/or on WB projects and / or development financed projects in a similar context is an advantage.
- Experience working in government organizations, fiscal, economic and development aid management agencies.
- Strong understanding of project management concepts is an advantage.
- Proficient in the use of relevant software applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Excellent communications English skills, both in oral presentations and in writing sections of papers, briefs, independent reports, etc.
- Candidates must have a legal right to work in Pohnpei.

How to Apply: For detailed information on the Terms of Reference or to apply, please email your resume and a brief cover letter to Toufiq Ahmed at tahmed2@worldbank.org.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted to provide contact details for 3 professional referees.

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Closing Date: August 22, 2025

JICA volunteers join Pohnpei; support priorities on food security, NCD prevention, and sports development

Pohnpei Public Information

August 6, 2025

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomed two newly assigned Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteers to Pohnpei, accompanied by JICA Micronesia Resident Representative, Mr. Yamauchi-san.

Ms. Shiho Araki will work with the Pohnpei Department of Education's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program to help prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through education and guidance for parents, teachers, and ECE staff. Her work will focus on promoting healthy eating habits and active lifestyles from an early age—key elements of Governor Joseph's priorities on Food Security and NCD prevention.

Mr. Hoshiatsu Tanaka, specializing in baseball, will work with the Pohnpei Baseball and Softball Federation to assist in planning and conducting games, developing training programs, enhancing local coaching skills, and providing guidance on field maintenance and equipment care. His efforts will help foster physical activity and youth development, supporting the Governor's health and wellness goals for Pohnpei.

Both volunteers will be based in Kolonia, where they will bring their expertise to support Pohnpei's health, sports, and education initiatives. Governor Joseph expressed his gratitude for the volunteers' contributions, emphasizing that improving nutrition and increasing physical activity are vital to the well-being and future of the people of Pohnpei.



President Simina and MIF leaders come together on climate, connectivity, and collective security at 27th Micronesian Islands Forum

FSM Information Services

July 31, 2025

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Earlier this month, President Wesley W. Simina led the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) delegation to the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF), held from July 2–4, 2025, in Majuro, under the theme “Eju Bōkã In”, a call to navigate change together through decisive regional action.

President Simina joined leaders from Guam, CNMI, Palau, Nauru, and the Marshall Islands in reaffirming a shared commitment to strengthen cooperation, advocate with one voice, and shape solutions rooted in the priorities of Micronesian communities. The forum served as a platform to advance collective action on climate change, connectivity, regional health, gender equality, and youth inclusion.

At the margins of the Forum, a major milestone in regional trade and connectivity was achieved. The Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, and the Republic of Palau signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Regional Air Cargo Cooperation. This MOU aims to strengthen regional air cargo connectivity to accelerate trade, ensure timely access to essential goods, and build a more resilient and self-sustaining Pacific community. It will serve as a catalyst to ease the movement of food and agricultural products, medical supplies, e-commerce parcels, and official government materials, while also encouraging greater trade coordination and sustained economic integration across the region.

President Simina expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality of President Hilda C. Heine and the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He also welcomed the historic first-time participation of Micronesian youth in the Forum and echoed their calls for deeper engagement in decision-making processes. The FSM delegation supported the Youth Joint Statement

and emphasized the need to integrate youth perspectives in national and regional planning.

On climate change, the FSM backed bold positions including swift action to reduce short-lived pollutants and safeguarding maritime zones against sea-level rise. President Simina further highlighted the FSM’s progress under the Micronesia Challenge and called on all Forum members to incorporate climate-resilient maritime boundaries into national legislation.

Leaders adopted a number of significant resolutions, including support for the elimination of cervical cancer and HPV, affirmation of the 78th World Health Assembly Resolution on the health effects of nuclear weapons, endorsement of a Medical Complex in Guam to serve the region, and support for the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership. Other resolutions addressed funding for coral reef and giant clam conservation, support for Guam’s decolonization efforts, and the formal establishment of the Micronesian Gender Equality Framework (MGEF), to which FSM reaffirmed its full commitment.

The Forum also took steps to address growing regional security concerns, with leaders supporting the creation of a dedicated MIF Regional Security Committee and endorsing the Micronesia Area Research Center (MARC) as the Forum’s institutional memory and archive partner.

President Simina concluded the Forum by expressing his gratitude that Pohnpei State will host the 28th Micronesian Islands Forum in 2026 and looks forward to welcoming the Micronesian family to FSM once again.

On the margins of the Forum, President Simina also held bilateral meetings with Dr. Saia Ma’u Piukala, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Western Pacific, and Ms. Celeste Connors, the newly appointed President of the East-West Center (EWC).



President Simina and FSM Governors address energy and national priorities in back-to-back CEC meetings

FSM Information Services

July 31, 2025

Weno, Chuuk—His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina and the Governors of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) convened in Chuuk State from July 7 to 9, 2025, for two strategically linked gatherings: the FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC/Vital) Chief Executive Council (CEC) Meeting, and the national Chief Executive Council (CEC) Meeting. Held consecutively, the meetings provided a platform for strengthened coordination between the national and state governments and underscored a shared commitment to national unity and self-reliance.

From July 7 to 8, President Simina joined Governor Alexander Narruhn of Chuuk, Governor Stevenson Joseph of Pohnpei, Governor Tulensa Palik of Kosrae, and Acting Governor Francis Itimai of Yap for the first Vital CEC Meeting held in five years. The meeting focused on reinforcing oversight of FSMPC and accelerating the nation's transition toward energy security and sustainability. FSMPC's Board and leadership provided key operational updates, emphasizing the corporation's role in stabilizing fuel prices, expanding renewable energy solutions, and implementing critical infrastructure projects. Leaders acknowledged FSMPC's resilience in maintaining competitive fuel prices amid global volatility and highlighted its forward-looking investments in regional storage, risk mitigation, and long-term energy planning.

The Council adopted a series of resolutions that reinforced FSMPC's mandate to deliver affordable and sustainable energy across the nation. These included directives to expedite the full implementation of the Tonoas Coconut Project in Chuuk; accelerate the Lehnmesi Hydro Plant Project in Pohnpei; ensure equitable and transparent implementation of all national energy projects—particularly in underserved and outer island communities; and improve collaboration between FSMPC and the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation to meet the growing energy demands of the FSM Capital in Palikir through infrastructure upgrades, renewable energy planning,

and fair pricing structures.

Additionally, the Council reviewed FSMPC's legal framework—including the Enabling Legislation, Divestment Act, Coconut Tree Act, and Transformation Act—and called for modernized corporate governance, timely board appointments, and stronger onboarding processes. Increased national-state oversight and more frequent CEC engagements with FSMPC were emphasized as key to improving accountability and performance. A site visit to Tonoas and productive discussions with local leaders further underscored the importance of grounded, inclusive project design. President Simina and the Governors concluded the Vital CEC by reaffirming FSMPC's role as a national institution central to balancing sustainability, affordability, and development.

Following the Vital CEC, President Simina and the Governors reconvened for the national Chief Executive Council meeting, where they addressed broader national priorities, economic governance, and sovereignty-related issues. The session concluded with a unified communiqué articulating key decisions and shared policy direction.

The Council affirmed its commitment to safeguarding the long-term integrity of the Compact Trust Fund, currently valued at approximately \$1.8 billion. While acknowledging state-level appeals for limited drawdowns, leaders agreed that even withdrawals within the allowable four percent cap could undermine the Fund's future value. They collectively reaffirmed their responsibility to preserve this national asset for future generations through disciplined, coordinated management.

Updates on U.S. federal assistance programs in health and education were also reviewed. Leaders expressed concern over recent funding suspensions, including the loss of \$2 million in health grants, and pledged to ensure continuity of critical services while improving coordination across all levels of government. In the education sector, members emphasized the need for more equitable support across the four states and reaffirmed the national government's key coordinating role.



The Council welcomed a high-level briefing on the U.S. CONVENE Act and underscored the importance of developing an FSM national security framework that reflects the nation's sovereign interests and foreign policy values. A draft framework will be developed for internal consultation.

On deep seabed minerals, the Council reaffirmed its precautionary pause approach, emphasizing the need for science-based decision-making, robust regulatory frameworks, and alignment with international environmental and legal standards.

Additional discussions covered improved fiscal governance, including the recommitment to monthly disbursement of fishing fee revenues, enhancements to the FSM Trust Fund and customs operations, and the introduction of digital systems to increase transparency. Leaders agreed to revise the existing customs

Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen coordination between national and state governments.

The Council also reviewed a proposed FSM Bonding Policy aimed at making infrastructure development more accessible to local contractors. Members supported flexible bonding mechanisms and adjusted risk rates based on international best practices. In support of climate resilience and sustainability, the Council endorsed the development of a national Green Growth Initiative.

Together, these back-to-back meetings demonstrated the strength of national-state partnerships and the leaders' shared vision for a unified, self-reliant FSM. From energy reform and fiscal stewardship to national sovereignty and sustainable development, President Simina and the state governors emerged with renewed momentum and unified resolve through their adopted CEC Communiqué and Resolutions.





MICRONESIAN SHIPPING COMMISSION
Office of the Secretariat
P.O. Box K-2786
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941



Job Opening Advertisement

About the Micronesian Shipping Commission

The Micronesian Shipping Commission was established by a Treaty between the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. The MSC Treaty is an Agreement on Regional Cooperation in Matters Affecting International Commercial Shipping in Micronesia.

Job Opening

The Micronesian Shipping Commission (MSC) is looking for a qualified individual to fill the position of Director, MSC Office of the Secretariat. The Director is responsible for the daily operations of the MSC Office of the Secretariat located in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. The Director is responsible for the daily support necessary to assist in the Commission's overall regulation of international commercial carriers operating within the MSC region.

The Director is to provide technical support to the Commission as well as the implementation of the Commission's decisions relating to communication with carriers, and the coordination and regulation of commercial shipping services in the Micronesian region.

Such an individual must be a college graduate with at least a BS or BA degree in Marine Transportation, however, other equivalent BS or BA degree in other fields will be considered.

Salary or compensation is negotiable depending on the qualification of the candidate.

Sample Duties and Responsibilities

Communicating with international commercial carriers seeking to conduct commercial shipping service within the MSC region.

Maintaining and updating complete file of each of the international commercial vessels licensed to conduct commercial shipping service within the MSC region.

Review and analyze proposals from international commercial carriers interested in providing service within the MSC region and making recommendations to the Commissioners for appropriate action.

Monitor the cost of shipping service within the MSC region to ensure an economical international commercial shipping service in the region.

Collecting relevant data for compliance and enforcement of the MSC Treaty.

Perform other duties as assigned in the overall function and operation of the Micronesian Shipping Commission.

Duty Station

The Micronesian Shipping Commission Office of the Secretariat, located in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Application Requirement

Interested applicants should submit the following documents to postal address:

The Micronesian Shipping Commission
Office of the Secretariat
P.O. Box K-2786
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
Telephone: 691-320-3149/6821

Or submit documents in person at – MSC Secretariat Office
On the 2nd floor of the Shoniber Building, located at Ohmine, Pohnpei, FSM.

To submit documents electronically, interested applicants can contact MSC at Micronesianshippingcommission@gmail.com for instructions on electronic submission.

- (1) Resume/Personal Data
- (2) Awards or memberships in professional organizations
- (3) Two letters of references
- (4) Writing Sample

Application Deadline: Friday, September 26, 2025.

Pacific Sub-Regional Office



Title: Programme Analyst, NOB, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia [27315]

****This post is only open for the Nationals of Federated States of Micronesia ****

Call to Action

- Are you result driven and can you work well in teams?
- Do you have a keen eye for detail and can you ensure high quality and accuracy of work?
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Job Purpose:

The Programme Analyst will support the implementation of interventions funded through the Transformative Agenda at the national and sub-national levels and to ensure that the agreed strategic interventions are implemented in the context of the 2030 Agenda, ICPD Programme of Action and UNFPA Strategic Plan at the global level, the UN Pacific Strategy, UNFPA multi-country programme at the regional level, and the national development agenda of the host country.

Qualification and Experience:

Your Education

- An Undergraduate University Degree (Bachelors) in Management, International Development, Sociology, Economics, Demography, International Relations, Public Administration, Public Health, Medicine or related field is required.

Your Experience

- Minimum of four (4) years of progressive responsible professional experience in a programme and national capacity development environment and/or international development is required;
- Experience in advocacy and knowledge management in the duty station and in international cooperation;
- Proven track record of team-work and ability to coordinate inter-agency collaboration;
- Sound knowledge of the social and cultural realities of the region and skills in interpersonal and cultural relationships;
- Strong research and analytical skills with field experience is an asset;
- Substantive knowledge and practical experience in population, reproductive and sexual health programming is strongly desired;
- Computer Literacy: Knowledge of MS Office packages and the Internet.
- Previous experience with UN is an asset.

Full job description of the position and instructions on how to apply can be accessed on: <https://pacific.unfpa.org/en/vacancies>

CLOSING DATE: Sunday, 17th August 2025

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FSM launches National Revenue Management System, marking a new era in digital public finance

FSM Information Services

July 31, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei—On July 17, 2025, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) officially launched its new Revenue Management System (RMS), a major national milestone under the World



Bank-supported Public Financial Management (PFM) Project. Designed to modernize and strengthen the country's capacity to collect and manage public revenue, the RMS is expected to improve service delivery, promote transparency, and reinforce citizen trust in government institutions.

The launch event, held at the FSM President's Office in Palikir, brought together senior national leadership, development partners, and technology experts. The event opened with remarks by Hon. Rose N. Nakanaga, Secretary of Finance and Administration, followed by a keynote speech by Hon. Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the FSM. The representative from the Armenian firm IU Networks LLC, Mr. Artak Saghatelyan, the developers of the system, also spoke.

In his speech, Vice President Palik described the RMS as "a transformational tool that reflects our national commitment to good governance, improved compliance, and digital inclusion." He noted that the new system will make a tangible difference for citizens nationwide. "A tour operator in Yap, a shopkeeper in Kosrae, a businesswoman in Pohnpei, or a hotel operator in Chuuk, will now be able to register, file, and pay taxes online, anywhere, anytime". "That is a huge step forward," he added, "This is about convenience, inclusion, and fairness".

Secretary Nakanaga emphasized that the RMS represents more than a digital upgrade. "This system is a leap forward in how we manage public funds—ensuring that revenue is collected efficiently, recorded transparently, and used responsibly," she stated. "Thanks to the RMS, taxpayers will be able to access their own information, confirm transactions digitally, and avoid the delays and paperwork that previously

complicated compliance."

The RMS automates key functions across the Customs and Tax Administration (CTA), including registration, return filing, payments, audits, refunds, and risk management. For tax authorities, it means less manual work, stronger compliance mechanisms, and better tools for policy design. "The system enables real-time monitoring and analytics," said Vice President Palik. "We'll be able to forecast revenues more accurately and use data to make smarter decisions."

Following the speeches, the CTA conducted a live demonstration of the system, giving attendees a first look at its interface and core functionalities. The CTA team highlighted how the RMS supports risk-based audits, improves cash flow management, and introduces new levels of transparency and accountability.

IUNetworks' Project Manager, Mr. Artak Saghatelyan, praised the collaboration between the government and the technical team. "This project reflects a true partnership," he said. "We worked closely with the FSM tax and customs officials to design a system that is not only technically robust but aligned with local realities and long-term goals." He also acknowledged the dedication of the FSM's project team, including key staff from the Department of Finance's Customs and Tax Division, for their tireless contributions over the past year.

The RMS is part of a broader push by the FSM Government to modernize its public institutions and strengthen service delivery across sectors. The system is built to evolve over time, with the flexibility to adapt to future legal, operational, and policy changes.



Moreover, it provides end-to-end functionality for tax administration — from registration and payments to audits and refunds — all through a unified digital interface. It also enables structured case management, automated compliance checks, and tailored taxpayer communication. The CTA conducted a live demonstration of the platform during the launch, showing how core services are now accessible remotely.

Today's event builds on months of preparation, and years of research and development. Prior to go-live, the Department of Finance and Administration led extensive online training sessions, and with IU Networks, conducted follow-up in-person workshops across all four FSM states. This hands-on training supports CTA staff in adopting the system and ensures smooth onboarding for taxpayers.

"This is not the end," said Secretary Nakanaga in closing. "It is the beginning of a new chapter - one where our institutions are more responsive, our processes more efficient, and our citizens better served."

About the RMS and the PFM Project

The Revenue Management System was developed under the Public Financial Management Project, a national initiative supported by the World Bank. The project aims to improve budget execution, public procurement, and domestic revenue mobilization. With the launch of the RMS, FSM takes a significant step toward building a more accountable, transparent, and citizen-focused public finance system.

For further information, please contact:

FSM Department of Finance & Administration
 Customs & Tax Administration
 Mr. Andrew Haigh, Tax Administration Advisor
 Email: andrew.haigh@gov.fm
 Web: <https://dofa.gov.fm/customs-and-tax-administration/>
 FSM Department of Finance & Administration
 Mr. Alvaro Hoyos, Communication Specialist, CIU.
 Email: alvaro.hoyos@dofa@gov.fm
 Web: <https://dofa.gov.fm>

FSM NORMA congratulates and welcomes newly certified fisheries observers

NORMA

July 31, 2025

FSM—The FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) is pleased to announce the certification of newly trained Fisheries Observers. The certified observers are: 1) Jr JC Juny William, 2) Christopher Noda, 3) Johnmark Angei, 4) Falcam Lohette, 5) Lonno Joe, 6) Toety Likie, 7) Freddy Gilmete, 8) Jabez William, 9) Moody Talley, 10) Jake Phillip, 11) Tristan SB Sade, 12) Jacob Talley, and 13) Assa Lorenis.

The month-long training program, conducted at the Fisheries Maritime Institution (FMI), is designed to prepare participants for their critical roles in supporting the sustainable management of the FSM’s fisheries resources. The training included essential safety certifications in firefighting, sea safety, and CPR, ensuring observers can respond effectively to emergencies while at sea.

Participants also received intensive sessions on scientific and statistical data collection – a vital skill for observers to provide accurate, high-quality data to help fisheries authorities make informed, evidence-based management decisions.

In addition, observers underwent specialized training under the Maritime Stewardship Council (MSC) framework, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to collect data and monitor FSM-flagged fishing vessels certified to MSC standards.

“I enjoyed the sea safety sessions the most,” said Jabez William. “It was tough, but I believe I am now equipped with the necessary firefighting and sea safety skills to help me out there at sea.”

FSM NORMA extends its appreciation to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for technical support, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) for co-funding the training, and the Fisheries Maritime Institution (FMI) for providing facilities and staff support.

Special thanks go to the trainers – FSM Observer Coordinator Tosuo Irons Jr; Debriefer Eliaser Edward; Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG) PNAO Coordinator Steve Peter; and SPC Trainer Coordinator Siosifa Fukofuka.

Congratulations to the newly certified Fisheries Observers, and best wishes as they begin their assignments safeguarding the marine resources of the FSM.



Governor declares special election for vacant Kitti legislative seat

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 5, 2025

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph has officially declared a special election to fill the vacant seat in the 11th Pohnpei State Legislature previously held by Lt. Governor Herolyn S. Movick, who represented the Kitti Election District.

The declaration follows the July 24 notification by Speaker Marvin T. Yamaguchi that the seat had been vacated. The notification, transmitted via Legislative Resolution No. 95-25, indicated that the vacancy would remain for more than a year before the next scheduled General Election in 2027.

Under Title 10, Section 6-104 of the Pohnpei State Code, the Governor is authorized to call a special election to fill such vacancies. The law requires that this election be held no earlier than 60 days and no later than 120 days from the date of the declaration.

The Governor has set the special election for Tuesday, October 14, 2025, to fill the Kitti District seat. In accordance with procedural requirements, the Municipality of Kitti and the Office of the Chief Election Commissioner have been officially notified.

Lt. Governor Herolyn S. Movick vacated the seat after assuming her current role earlier this year.



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operation; downloadable and recorded computer software for accessing online information related to pharmacy and wellness programs; downloadable and recorded computer software for ordering and comparing pricing on discounted medicine, prescriptions, and medical and general wellness products; downloadable and recorded computer software to support wellness programs; downloadable and recorded computer software for facilitating discounted purchases and discount programs on medicine, prescriptions, and medical and general wellness products; downloadable and recorded computer software for facilitating loyalty programs for pharmacy customers; downloadable and recorded computer software for operating, installing, testing, diagnosing and managing telecommunications equipment; downloadable and recorded computer software for accessing broadband, wireless and other telecommunications networks; downloadable and recorded computer software for transmission of voice, data, graphics, sound and video by means of broadband or wireless networks; downloadable and recorded game software; downloadable and recorded computer software for electronic transmission of gaming digital media content; downloadable and recorded computer software which facilitates online services for social networking; downloadable and recorded computer software for multiplayer and collaborative gaming; downloadable and recorded computer software for accessing subscription-based digital media content in the field of video games; downloadable and recorded computer software for displaying, managing, and sharing badges, loot, and enhanced benefits in the field of video games.

Class 16: Paper gift cards, printed gift certificates, non-magnetically encoded prepaid purchase cards; printed publications; printed matter; paper; boxes of paper or cardboard; self-adhesive tapes for stationery or household purposes; padding materials of paper or cardboard bags [envelopes, pouches] of paper, for packaging.

Class 35: Administration of customer loyalty program services featuring rewards in the form of discounted shipping services, early access to retail discounts and offers, access to books and other publications, access to audiobooks, discounted online storage of photos and music, and discounted music, video and game streaming; administration of a subscription program enabling participants to obtain early access to retail discounts and offers, access to books and other publications, access to audiobooks, discounted online storage of photos and music, and discounted music, video and game streaming; providing a customer loyalty rewards program for shoppers, namely, arranging and conducting incentive reward programs to promote the sale of a wide variety of consumer goods of others; retail store services and online retail store services; retail store and online retail store services featuring a wide array of consumer goods; online retail store services featuring audio and video recordings, spoken word recordings, electronic books and computer games; online retail store services in the field of groceries, fresh and prepared foods, drug store and general merchandise; retail grocery stores; wholesale distributorship featuring fresh foods and groceries; subscription-based services featuring books, audiobooks, music, movies, TV shows, videos and games, for commercial purposes; advertising; order fulfillment; electronic processing of orders for others; logistics management, namely business management of logistics for others; business management; data processing services; business administration of pharmacy reimbursement programs and services; business administration of discount pharmacy and pharmacy loyalty programs; online retail pharmacy services; mail order pharmacy services; providing online prescription pricing information; providing online consumer product information; customer loyalty program services featuring rewards in the form of discounted medicine, prescriptions, and medical and general wellness products; administration of a discount program; administration of a discount program for enabling participants to obtain discounts on medicine, prescriptions, and medical and general wellness products; marketing and distribution of a program enabling participants to receive discounts on pharmaceutical products; sales promotion for others; promoting and marketing the goods and services of others by distributing advertising material, coupons, discounts on goods and services, and information about exclusive deals; providing an online marketplace for buyers and sellers of goods and services; advertising and marketing a wide array of consumer goods; provision of commercial information and advice for consumers in the choice of products and services; discount services (retail, wholesale, or sales promotion services); administration of consumer loyalty programs; administration of loyalty programs involving discounts or incentives; customer loyalty program services featuring rewards in the form of discounted shipping services and early access to retail discounts and offers; providing product recommendations to consumers for commercial purposes; home try-on services allowing consumers to sample clothing, apparel accessories, eyewear, watches, jewelry, wallets, and bags before selection and purchase, and discounted medicine, prescriptions, and medical and general wellness products; customer loyalty program services featuring rewards in the form of discounts redeemable for the streaming of data, text, games, game content, digital media, images, music, audio, video, movies, and animations.

Class 38: Video-on-demand transmission services; Internet protocol television (IPTV) transmission services; streaming of audio and video material on the Internet; streaming of data; streaming of music, movies, TV shows and games; broadcasting services; audio and video broadcasting services; subscription-based audio and video broadcasting via a global computer network; Internet broadcasting services; electronic data transmission; electronic transmission and streaming of digital media content for

others via global and local computer networks; transmission of webcasts; transmission of digital files; electronic transmission of digital photo files; electronic transmission and streaming of non-downloadable films, television programs, and audio, video, image, music, films, movies, tv shows, and audio-visual files via computer and other communications networks; providing access to digital music websites on the internet; subscription-based audio and video broadcasting services over the internet; providing access to online directories, databases, websites, blogs and reference materials; transmission of news; podcasting services; providing access to on-line chat lines; providing internet chatrooms, forums and electronic bulletin boards; providing an on-line forum for transmission of messages among computer users and the transmission of photos, videos, text, data, images and other electronic works; telecommunication services, namely providing internet access via broadband optical or wireless networks; telecommunications services, namely, transmission of voice, data, graphics, sound and video by means of broadband or wireless networks; providing third party users with access to telecommunications infrastructure; rental of telecommunications apparatus and installations; telecommunications gateway services; telecommunications services for providing multiple-user access to a global computer network; providing access to telecommunications networks.

Class 39: Transport services; providing a website featuring information in the field of transportation; shipping, delivery, distribution, and storage of goods; freight transportation by means of truck, train and air; goods warehousing; packaging of articles for transport; merchandise packaging for others; rental of storage containers; mailbox rental; locating and arranging for reservations for storage space for others; courier services; messenger services; expedited shipping services; providing online services which afford customers the ability to select a distribution point for goods purchased on the Internet; membership-based shipping programs; administration of a discount program enabling participants to obtain discounts on shipping services; travel arrangement for others; travel booking agencies; providing travel information and commentary via a website; pharmacy packaging service that aligns, sorts, and packages a patient's medications by date and time into individual packets; delivery of goods by self-driving delivery robots; arranging expedited shipping services, namely, arranging for freight transportation of packages by means of truck and air; computerized tracking and tracing of packages in transit to ensure on-time delivery for business purposes; supply chain logistics services.

Class 41: Entertainment services; publishing of electronic publications; providing non-downloadable electronic publications; lending and rental of books, audiobooks and other publications; providing non-downloadable videos, films, television shows, and multimedia entertainment via a video-on-demand service; film and video rental services; film, movie, TV show and video production and distribution; creating and developing concepts for movies and television programs; audio and video recording services; television entertainment, namely, ongoing television programs on a variety of topics; production of films; digital audio, video and multimedia publishing services; providing non-downloadable prerecorded music, video, audio, and multimedia files; providing a searchable database featuring audio, video and audiovisual content; providing online information and commentary in the field of video, television, films, sports, music, and video games; presenting live musical concerts and performances; music publishing services; publishing of consumer reviews; providing the ratings, reviews and recommendations of users in the fields of entertainment and education via a website; providing ratings and reviews of television, movies, videos, music, screenplays, scripts, books and video game content; providing online news, information and commentary in the field of entertainment; entertainment services, namely, profiling of musicians, artists, bands, actors, and celebrities; providing non-downloadable music, radio, movies, tv shows, videos and information about music, albums, artists and songs via a website; arranging of contests and sweepstakes; hosting online sweepstakes and contests for others; digital imaging services; providing blogs featuring information about entertainment; entertainment services, namely, in the nature of live visual and audio performances, namely, musical, variety, news and comedy shows; entertainment services, namely, providing online non-downloadable virtual clothing, colors, badges, tools and weapons for use in virtual environments created for entertainment purposes; providing online video games; publishing of game software; rental of video games; entertainment services, namely, live performances by video game players; entertainment services, namely, providing online videos featuring games being played by others; entertainment services, namely, providing virtual environments in which users can interact for recreational, leisure or entertainment purposes; entertainment services, namely, providing on-line virtual goods for use in virtual environments created for entertainment purposes; providing on-line computer games and electronic games for consumers to play and share game enhancements and game strategies via an online website portal; arranging and conducting competitions and tournaments for video game players; organizing video gaming leagues; providing enhancements within online video games, namely enhanced levels of game play.

Class 42: Rental of computing and data storage facilities of variable capacity to third parties; electronic data storage; data backup and recovery services; computer diagnostic services; cloud hosting provider services; technical support services, namely, troubleshooting in the nature of diagnosing computer hardware and software problems; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for streaming, broadcasting, transmitting, distributing, reproducing, organizing and sharing music, audio, video, games and other data; providing temporary use of non-downloadable

computer software for use in authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, playing, viewing, storing and organizing text, data, images, and audio and video files; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software to enable users to view or listen to audio, video, text and multimedia content; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for creating and providing user access to searchable databases of video, audio, and multimedia files; providing search engine software; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for wireless content delivery; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for accessing online information; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for online shopping; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for facilitating and processing payments and online transactions; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software that provides retail and ordering services for a wide variety of consumer goods; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for disseminating information regarding consumer product, services, discounts, and deals; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for use in barcode scanning and price comparison; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for scheduling shipping and deliveries; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for storing, organizing, and sharing photos; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for image and speech recognition; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for purchasing, accessing and viewing movies, TV shows, videos, music, and multimedia files; file sharing services, namely, providing technology enabling users to upload and download electronic files via a website; hosting, building and maintaining online retail stores for others; computer services, namely, creating computer network-based indexes of information, websites and resources; computer services, namely, hosting on-line web facilities for others for organizing and conducting online meetings, gatherings, and interactive discussions; computer services, namely, creating an on-line community for registered users to participate in discussions, get feedback from their peers, form virtual communities, and engage in social networking services; creating an on-line community for connecting video players, teams and leagues and organizing game and sports activities; providing software technology that creates personalized movie, tv show, video and music channels for listening, viewing, and sharing via a website; design and development of computer game software; telecommunications technology consultancy; design of telecommunications apparatus and equipment; research services in the field of information and telecommunications technology; consulting in the field of telecommunications technology; technology services, namely the design and development of satellite telecommunications networks; development and updating telecommunications networks; maintenance of software and database systems for telecommunications networks; design, development and maintenance of telecommunications software and networks; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for use in creating, managing, and disseminating advertising, promotions, and marketing; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for database management; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for customer service; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for price management; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for inventory management; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for order fulfillment; application service provider featuring application programming interface (API) software; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software; software as a service (SaaS) services; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for sales management; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for logistics management; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for shipping management.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (RE-ADVERTISEMENT)



Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program -
Second Phase for Economic Resilience (PROPER)

Grant No.: E371-FM

Assignment Title: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Marina works at Dekehtik Causeway (Pohnpei) and Marina works at Weno Port – Weno Island (Chuuk)

Reference No. : FM-NORMA-470505-CS-FBS

- The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program – Second Phase for Economic Resilience (PROPER), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services (“the Services”) include the development of two ESIA’s (one for each site) to ensure that all environmental and social (including occupational health and safety - OHS) impacts and risks from construction and operation of the proposed marina works are identified and assessed and suitable and practical mitigation strategies/plans are provided in line with the WB’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), with a duration period of approximately 10 months from the date of contract signing.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) including shortlisting criteria for the assignment is attached to this request for expressions of interest and can be found at the following websites: DOFA website at dofa.gov.fm or at the NORMA website at <https://norma.fm/>.
- Fixed budget for this activity is \$870,000.
- The FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) now invites eligible consulting firms (“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. The shortlisting criteria is:
 - General experience as a consultant in the past ten (10) years undertaking ESIA consultancy assignments in coastal engineering, climate adaptation planning and design, and coastal protection and associated infrastructure design and Development.
 - Experience in consultancy assignments in the Pacific countries, Atoll Environment or Small Island Nations
 - The Financial and Managerial capacity of the Firm to be expressed.
- Expression of Interest must address the requirements indicated in paragraph 5. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” dated February 2025 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.
- Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.
- Expressions of Interest must address the requirements indicated and must not be longer than 15 pages. Only shortlisted Consultants will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals in accordance with the Fixed Budget Selection (FBS) method set out in the WB Procurement Regulations.
- 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, by mail or preferably by e-mail) by Aug 29, 2025 Pohnpei local time.

[Download TOR for REOI - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment \(ESIA\) Marina works](#)

FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
Attn: Mr. O’Kean Ehmes, PROPER Project Manager
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Performance audits a focus for PASAI Program Director in Palau

PASAI

August 6, 2025

Koror, Palau—Program Director from the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), Mike Scott, is providing in-person technical assistance to the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) of the Republic of Palau this week.

Mr Scott’s assistance covers matters ranging from the delivery of quality audits to the internal governance of the OPA. This includes working with the Public Auditor, Satrunino Tewid, and his staff to help the OPA update its forward program of work and refine its human resource practices.

Mr Scott explained, “A big part of the OPA’s work is conducting performance audits in response to requests from the Senate and from the OPA’s annual audit plan.

“I’m here to advise the audit teams on how to approach and complete a number of those audits, as well as audits of grants received by the government and audits of the performance information prepared by public agencies.”

Of the team at the OPA, Mr Scott said, “They are committed to using

the full range of their office’s mandate to deliver quality audits and other work that provides transparency and accountability for the Palau Congress and citizens of Palau.

“This small team plays an outsized role in Palau’s public financial management system and strives to enhance public sector performance.”

Mr Tewid welcomed the assistance from PASAI through Mr Scott’s visit, saying, “My office plays a crucial role in safeguarding the efficient and effective administration of public resources for the people and Government of Palau.

“I am grateful for PASAI’s invaluable assistance in helping us to fulfil this role.”

During his mission, Mr Scott also visited the Ambassador of Australia to the Republic of Palau, His Excellency Mr Toby Sharpe, to brief him on the support PASAI is providing to the OPA.

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



President Simina promotes investment and partnership at FSM-Japan Business Forum

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

August 5, 2025

Osaka—On July 30, 2025, Ambassador Kagomiya participated in the FSM-Japan Business Forum held in Osaka along with President Simina and his delegation, who were in Japan to attend the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. This forum was hosted by the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Department of Resources and Development (R&D) to promote investment and trade between Japan and the FSM, in collaboration with the FSM Embassy in Japan and Osaka Gakuin University, and with support of the Japan Pacific Islands Association (JAPIA) and the Pacific Islands Centre (PIC).

During the forum, Ambassador Fritz (Ambassador of the FSM to Japan)



gave opening remarks, followed by a keynote speech by President Simina, remarks by President Shirai of Osaka Gakuin University (read out by Professor Kobayashi), presentation by Professor Kobayashi of Osaka Gakuin University (President of JAPIA) on the relations between Japan and the FSM, presentation by Director Saito of PIC on trade and

investment between Japan and the FSM as well as the role of PIC, presentation by Special Fisheries Advisor Pangelinan of FSM National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (NORMA) on cooperation in the fisheries sector, and a presentation by Assistant Secretary Aldis of FSM R&D on cooperation in the tourism sector. Ambassador Kagomiya also stated that the Embassy of Japan in the FSM is ready to cooperate with individuals and companies interested in promoting trade and investment between the two countries.

Displays related to Micronesian products, tourism, and fisheries sectors were showcased at the venue, including tuna jerky manufactured in the FSM by Taiyo Micronesia



Corporation, a joint venture company between a Japanese fishing company and a fisheries corporation of the FSM. Ambassador Kagomiya hopes that the trade and investment between Japan and the FSM are strengthened through initiatives such as this forum.

Two Micronesian state public audit offices benefit from PASAI organizational assistance

PASAI

August 5, 2025

Kolonia, Pohnpei—Program Director for the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo, spent 2 weeks in the Federated States of Micronesia providing in-person technical support to the staff at the state public audit offices of Pohnpei and Kosrae.

Ms Palamo-Iosefo started work at the Pohnpei office on 21 July, supporting staff to establish performance management processes, identify competencies needed for individuals and create a learning and professional

development (LPD) plan.

“Audit offices can support staff competency development by refining job profiles, creating LPD plans and maintaining databases of staff progress towards professional certification,” Ms Palamo-Iosefo said.

Ms Palamo-Iosefo guided staff to develop their own performance agreements as a basis for monitoring performance and ensuring they contribute to achieving the SAI’s organizational goals.

She also trained staff on the importance of overall audit planning so audit

offices can focus on key government priorities and matters of public interest, maximize their audit coverage, submit reports in a timely manner and conduct quality and impactful audits and investigations.

Locally-based Program Director, Sophia Pretrick, provided feedback on the office’s Investigation Division’s annual plan, ensuring it is integrated in the office’s annual operational plan.

From 28 July, Ms Palamo-Iosefo provided similar organizational technical assistance to the equivalent state office based in Tofol, Kosrae.

As well as technical support, Ms Palamo-Iosefo worked with the Public Auditor, Palikkun Kilafwasru, to review the bespoke capacity development plan used to guide the audit office’s training and development activities into 2026. A draft process for developing the office’s overall audit plan was prepared for it to finalize and adopt.

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



President Simina presents Micronesian canoe model at Expo 2025 in Japan

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

August 7, 2025

Osaka—On July 31, 2025, following the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Day Ceremony held at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, President Simina presented Minister in charge of the World Expo 2025 ITO Yoshitaka with a model of a Micronesian canoe as a token of appreciation. Following that, the President and his delegation visited the FSM pavilion and the Japan pavilion.

At the FSM pavilion, there are displays of clothes and equipment representing Micronesia's culture and tradition. The Japan pavilion, under the theme of "Between Lives", utilizes biogas power generation created from garbage from the Expo site and other cutting-edge technologies that could contribute to the world, to create a "circulation" and encourages visitors to change their behavior toward a sustainable society. The delegation was introduced to technological developments required for sustainable development, for example, such as that algae can produce 50 times the amount of protein compared to cows with the same amount of water.

In the evening, the FSM delegation hosted a return reception inviting the Japanese participants, and Ambassador Kagomiya, in his remarks, welcomed the large delegation from the FSM and stated his hope that the friendly relations between Japan and the FSM are further deepened.



Ambassador Grant meets Yap Women leaders to promote empowerment

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

July 30, 2025

Yap — Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Jenny Grant met with leaders of the Yap Women's Association (YWA) this week to reaffirm Australia's commitment to advancing gender equality and community development in Yap and across the Pacific.

Ambassador Grant was joined by Kathleen Kostka, Senior Program Manager at the Australian Embassy. Together,

they held discussions with YWA members on shared priorities in women's empowerment, leadership, and grassroots development.

Among the women leaders present were Maria Laaw, Sally Figir, and Genista Kadanged, all of whom play active roles in promoting the wellbeing and leadership of women in Yapese communities.

"Australia remains a committed partner in supporting



the leadership of women and girls across the Pacific," said Ambassador Grant, noting the importance of sustained collaboration with local organizations like YWA.

The meeting was part of the Australian delegation's broader visit to Yap, which includes participation in the National EXPO and engagement with state officials and community groups.

Chechemeni canoe highlights FSM's seafaring tradition in Japan

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

August 4, 2025

Osaka—On July 30, 2025, Ambassador Kagomiya visited the National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU) in Osaka and toured the outrigger canoe Chechemeni along with President Simina and his delegation, who were in Japan to attend the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

canoe and the navigation methods from President Simina and members of his delegation and was deeply impressed by the traditional techniques used.

Chechemeni was built in Satawal, Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and navigated 3000km (1864mi, 1620nm) using traditional methods to Okinawa in 1975 to participate in the International Ocean Exposition. This canoe has then been displayed at MINPAKU since 1977 and has to be displayed at an angle to fit in the building due to its size. MINPAKU houses exhibits displaying ethnological and cultural anthropological from across the world, and Ambassador Kagomiya and the FSM delegation viewed the displays showcasing the Pacific Islands' fishing, trade, cooking, and navigation methods that are displayed around the canoe. Ambassador Kagomiya learned about the



ENT medical team, education, and energy projects part of Australia-Yap cooperation

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 23, 2025

Yap—Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Jenny Grant met with Acting Governor Francis Itimai and members of the Yap State Legislature this week to strengthen Australia’s partnership with the state and reaffirm its commitment to development cooperation across multiple sectors.

During the visit, Ambassador Grant and Yap leaders discussed Australia’s ongoing support for health, education, infrastructure, and human resource development. One of the key initiatives is the deployment of an ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat) specialist surgical team

from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, scheduled to visit Yap in February 2026.

In the education sector, Australia has funded scholarships for 27 Yapese students to study at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in fields such as medicine, dentistry, information technology, marine science, and public administration.

Australia is also working with Yap to electrify Woleai Falalop island, improving access to reliable power and supporting local development. In addition, the Australian government is backing early childhood education efforts to help improve learning outcomes from an early age.

Ambassador Grant was accompanied by Kathleen Kostka, Senior Program Manager, and Melissa Esau, Executive Assistant. The delegation is also taking part in the national EXPO currently underway in Yap.

“Australia remains committed to supporting the FSM at all levels of government,” said Ambassador Grant, “and to working together to promote stability, prosperity, and inclusive growth throughout the country.”



FSM Doctor returns home after completing medical studies through Australia Awards

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 4, 2025

Pohnpei—Dr. Ihney Soswel, a recent graduate of the Australia Awards Pacific Scholarship (AAPS) program, has returned to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and is now serving as a physician at Pohnpei State Hospital.

Dr. Soswel earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

(MBBS) degree from Fiji National University (FNU) under the Australia Awards initiative, which supports emerging leaders across the Pacific by providing access to high-quality education and training.

The Australian Embassy in FSM recently welcomed Dr. Soswel for a visit, recognizing his academic achievements and ongoing contribution to public health in his home state.

“Programs like the Australia Awards

help strengthen the ties between our countries while building vital skills that support national development,” the Australian Embassy wrote in a social media post about the visit.

Australia continues to partner with FSM through the Australia Awards, providing opportunities for study in a range of fields, including medicine, education, public administration, and more.



Australian Embassy delegation visits Yap’s Fisheries and Maritime Institute

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 29, 2025

Yap—A delegation from the Australian Embassy to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) recently visited the Fisheries and Maritime Institute (FMI) in Yap as part of its continued engagement with FSM’s education and capacity-building institutions.

FMI Dean Lourdes F. Roboman welcomed the team, led them on a

campus tour, and introduced them to 19 cadets currently studying navigation and engineering. During the visit, the delegation also engaged in a productive exchange with faculty members about how maritime training supports FSM’s fisheries, transportation, and maritime security sectors.

The Fisheries and Maritime Institute plays a vital role in developing the technical skills and professional competencies of the nation’s future mariners—key contributors to FSM’s economic and strategic resilience.



4th Micronesia Expo concludes in Yap

FSM Information Services

July 31, 2025

Colonia, Yap--The 2025 4th Yap Micronesia Expo has concluded on July 28th, leaving a resounding message of unity, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to sustainable development across the Federated States of Micronesia.

In his closing remarks, The Honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik celebrated the significant achievements of the Expo and underscored the core themes that shaped this year's event. He began by expressing heartfelt appreciation to the traditional leaders, state officials, and ambassadors in attendance. Their strong support and contributions were recognized as vital to the Expo's success.

Vice President Palik emphasized the power of teamwork and collective action, noting how collaboration can drive meaningful progress. He reflected on the Expo's central themes—cultural heritage, food security, and sustainable practices—which not only encouraged cooperation among the four states but also strengthened community resilience and contributed to long-term economic development. The Expo served as a crucial platform for sharing knowledge and best practices, reaffirming the region's shared commitment to sustainability.

In a compelling call for unity, Vice President Palik stressed the importance of collaboration to achieve economic independence

and self-sufficiency. He pointed to the amended Compact of Free Association and the strategic planning required for the next twenty years, urging all stakeholders to utilize available resources wisely to benefit future generations.

He also called upon the four states, embassies, development partners, and non-governmental organizations to provide financial support for future Micronesia Expos. The Expo was presented not only as a celebration of cultural heritage and community, but also as a vehicle for economic growth and cohesion. Sustaining its momentum, he noted, is essential for the continued development of the region.

This year's Expo marked several notable firsts. For the first time, B2B meetings were held among private sector representatives from each state, creating a dynamic, mini business expo atmosphere. In addition, Ms. Carol R. Cruz, a representative from the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), conducted a business training session that was enthusiastically received and contributed meaningfully to the Expo's overall success.

The closing ceremony's evening program featured vibrant traditional dance performances from the states of Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae. These cultural displays delighted attendees and served as powerful reminders of the shared traditions that unite the Micronesian people.

Capping off the event was the launch of a new promotional video for the

FSM, offering a stunning visual showcase of the islands' diversity, natural beauty, and rich traditions. The video highlights the region's breathtaking landscapes and warm hospitality, reinforcing its growing reputation as a destination for cultural tourism and sustainable development.

The Yap State Government, Yap Visitors Bureau, village chiefs, municipalities, communities, performers, participants, steering committee, volunteers, sponsors, and private sector partners were all

commended for their dedication and tireless efforts in making the Expo a success.

As this chapter of the Micronesia Expo draws to a close, participants are encouraged to carry forward the relationships built and the lessons learned. The 2025 Yap Micronesia Expo has laid a foundation for lasting legacy, and the call to action is clear: by working together, the people of Micronesia can build a more sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

President Simina meets with Emperor of Japan

FSM Information Services

July 31, 2025

Tokyo, Japan—On July 29, 2025, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), made a formal State Call on His Majesty Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Residence in Tokyo, as part of his official visit to Japan to attend the Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai.

During their meeting, reflecting on the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, Emperor Naruhito expressed deep sorrow over the loss of countless Micronesian lives during the war and conveyed appreciation for the FSM's ongoing cooperation in the recovery of Japanese war remains. He also thanked President Simina for his visit to Fukushima Prefecture in March, where the President witnessed Japan's continued efforts in post-disaster reconstruction.

President Simina, in turn, reaffirmed the close and enduring ties between FSM and Japan, expressing deep respect for Japan's leadership in peacebuilding and reconciliation. The President emphasized the enduring friendship shared by the peoples of Micronesia and Japan, grounded in mutual trust, shared values, and a commitment to a peaceful Pacific.

This high-level exchange reaffirms the strong "Kizuna" (bond) between the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan, rooted in a shared history and a



common vision for a peaceful, stable, and sustainable Pacific region.

President Simina continues his official working visit to Japan, including participation in the Expo 2025.



Federated States of Micronesia presents “KAMORALE” to the world at Osaka Expo 2025

FSM Information Services

August 4, 2025

Osaka, Japan—On July 31st, the

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) proudly celebrated its National Day at the Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, with a cultural showcase that introduced KAMORALE to the world, a national expression of greetings and unity formally adopted through Executive Order by President Simina last year.

His Excellency Wesley W. Simina led the delegation and delivered remarks that emphasized the spirit of KAMORALE, the national initiative that brings together the traditional greetings from each of the FSM’s four states: Kaselehlie (Pohnpei), Mogethin (Yap), Ran anim (Chuuk), and Len wo (Kosrae). “KAMORALE embodies our collective identity and values of connection, community, and cooperation,” President Simina said, describing the initiative as both a symbol and a practice of national unity.

The FSM's National Day was kicked off by a beautiful performance of the national anthem performed by the FSM's very own Ms. Amanda Abello.

Central to the FSM’s National Day performance was the sakau ceremony from Pohnpei, a sacred practice that is central to traditional gatherings. As part of the ceremonial sequence, the fourth cup, known traditionally as ‘Sapw’ or ‘Sapwe’, was offered by President Simina to Hon. Yoshitaka Ito, Minister for the World Expo 2025, Japan. The gesture conveyed deep cultural respect and honored the strong friendship between Micronesia and Japan.

The FSM’s cultural presentation also featured the ‘Unong’ (or Ulong) performance from Chuuk State, which depicts the enduring relationship between a Traditional Chief and the people he serves. Through chant and careful movement, the performance conveyed themes of love, loyalty, and unity. At the center of the performance was the symbolic Unong wooden bowl, representing the Chief, flanked by two wooden slabs representing the community. Together, they illustrated the harmony and interdependence that underpin traditional Chuukese leadership structures.

President Simina’s address reaffirmed

FSM’s commitment to the Expo’s overarching vision, “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” by emphasizing Micronesia’s focus on sustainability, cultural resilience, and youth innovation. He invited Expo visitors to explore the FSM Pavilion and witness firsthand how traditional knowledge and community-driven solutions are helping the nation advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“As we share our heritage with the world,” President Simina stated, “we carry forward the voices of our ancestors and the hopes of our youth—woven together through culture, unity, and the spirit of KAMORALE.”

The FSM’s participation at the Osaka World Expo 2025 was spearheaded by the Department of Resources and Development’s Tourism Division. The Simina-Palik administration extends its sincere congratulations and appreciation to the entire Department of R&D team for their dedication and hard work in ensuring a successful and meaningful representation of the nation on the global stage.



FSM presents second Voluntary National Review at United Nations

FSM Information Services

July 31, 2025

New York—On July 22, 2025, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) reaffirmed its national commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by presenting its Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York.

The presentation was delivered by The Honorable Elina P. Akinaga, Secretary of the Department of Resources & Development, on behalf of His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Titled “Navigating Our Future: Balancing Traditional Values and Sustainable Development,” the 2025 VNR outlines FSM’s progress, challenges, and acceleration strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report highlights how FSM is integrating cultural identity, community resilience, and innovation into its national development agenda, while confronting the unique vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

“This report is more than a development update—it is a reaffirmation of our nation’s values, sovereignty, and resolve to leave no one behind,” Secretary Akinaga said during her remarks. “We are not merely adapting to global change—we are shaping our own future with courage, clarity, and unity.”

Key highlights from the 2025 VNR include:

- Protection of over 30% of FSM’s marine ecosystems and 20% of terrestrial areas through formal conservation.
- Doubling of renewable energy capacity, improving access to clean energy in remote islands.
- Maintenance of high immunization and maternal health coverage, despite service delivery challenges in outer islands.
- Advancements in digital transformation, including broadband expansion and e-learning in remote schools.
- Gender milestones, including

the election of women in FSM Congress and the rollout of gender-responsive policies in all states.

The report also identifies critical development gaps—particularly for youth, persons with disabilities, and outer island communities—as revealed by FSM’s national Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) analysis conducted with support from ESCAP and the UN system.

In response, FSM has outlined six national acceleration priorities: climate resilience, economic self-reliance, human capital development, infrastructure expansion, cultural preservation, and institutional strengthening.

The presentation emphasized the importance of equitable access to climate finance, development partnerships grounded in respect for national sovereignty, and deeper investment in data and service delivery systems.

“We are a small nation, but a vast ocean state with a clear vision. We invite the global community to walk with us—side by side—as we chart a future defined by inclusion, sustainability, and traditional wisdom,” Secretary Akinaga concluded.

FSM’s VNR process was nationally led and grounded in broad consultations with state governments, civil society, youth groups, and development partners. It reflects the FSM’s holistic and culturally grounded approach to sustainable development.

The full 2025 VNR report is available at: https://img1.wsimg.com/.../10076_UN_FSM_VNR_2025_V15_LR.pdf.



FSM celebrates National Day at Expo 2025 with culture and diplomacy

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

August 6, 2025

Osaka—On July 31, 2025, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Day Ceremony was held at the Expo 2025 venue. Minister in charge of the World Expo 2025 ITO Yoshitaka attended along with representatives from Japan, and Ambassador Kagomiya attended the ceremony as well. President Simina attended the ceremony representing the FSM along with his delegation consisting of First Lady Simina, three Secretaries out of eight including Secretary of Foreign Affairs Robert, three Governors out of four and their First Ladies, Mayors, and performers with a total of over 50 delegation members. Ambassador Fritz (Ambassador of the FSM to Japan), Mrs. Fritz, and members of the FSM Embassy in Tokyo also joined, bringing the total attendees from FSM to over 60 people.

Following the singing of the national anthem and raising of the flags for both countries, as part of the FSM’s traditional cultural performance, a sakau ceremony was held followed by a traditional unong or ulong performance from Chuuk State in a quiet atmosphere representing harmony of the community, and remarks by Minister Ito and President Simina. Minister Ito hoped for the Expo to be an opportunity for the two countries to strengthen their friendly relations in his remarks. President Simina stated his plan to continue working towards sustainable development, strengthening the friendly relations between Japan while valuing Micronesia’s tradition and identity.

Ambassador Kagomiya welcomes the active participation of a large delegation from the FSM to the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan and hopes for the deepening of the friendly relations between Japan and the FSM.



New JICA volunteers arrive to serve in Yap, Pohnpei, and Kosrae

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

August 8, 2025

Pohnpei—According to a social media post by the Embassy of Japan to the FSM, four Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) dispatched by JICA for fiscal year 2025 paid a courtesy call to the Embassy on July 28. The JOCV program supports grassroots economic and social development and has made a significant contribution to people-centered progress in the FSM.

The new volunteers will serve in Yap, Pohnpei, and Kosrae States, contributing to areas including education, youth engagement, lifestyle improvement, and sports.

In Yap State, Mr. Kenta Ootsubo will work in youth and civic affairs,

planning extracurricular activities for young people and helping revitalize local youth clubs.

In Pohnpei State, Ms. Shiho Araki will focus on early childhood education, teaching children about healthy eating and lifestyle habits, while Mr. Yoshiatsu Tanaka, serving with the Pohnpei Softball Association, will promote baseball and provide coaching.

In Kosrae State, Ms. Ayumi Higuchi will teach mathematics at Lelu Elementary School, aiming to strengthen basic math skills and enhance local teachers' instructional abilities.

The Embassy expressed its hope that the four volunteers will contribute meaningfully to the FSM's development and achieve great results during their assignments.



Governor Joseph joins local leaders and partners to launch China-Aided Greenhouse Project to boost local agriculture and food security

Pohnpei Public Information

July 30, 2025

Nan Mand, Kitti, Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph joined local leaders, farmers, and international partners at a special ceremony held in Nan Mand, Kitti, to officially launch four newly constructed greenhouses made possible through the China Aid Pilot Farm Project. The project is a collaborative effort between the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development, and the Pohnpei Export Association.

The China Aid team not only provided the infrastructure for the greenhouses but also delivered technical support, agricultural training, and a biogas system to support sustainable farming practices. The initiative aims to strengthen local vegetable farming, improve food security, and explore opportunities for export to neighboring islands in the North Pacific.

Governor Joseph expressed deep appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for their continued partnership and support, emphasizing that this initiative is directly aligned with

his administration's Food Security priority. "This is the kind of project that moves us forward—not only in producing food for our people but also in creating opportunities for farmers and entrepreneurs across Pohnpei," the Governor said. He also noted that this initiative was part of his broader vision to bring the expertise of the China Pilot Farm to local communities.

Also in attendance were the Director of the Department of Resources and Development, Mr. Mark Kostka; V6AH Broadcasting Commissioner Mr. Peterson Sam, who is also a co-founder of the Pohnpei Export Association; and Mr. Mavrik Mikel, who submitted the application for the greenhouse aid package. Mr. Mikel's advocacy aims to strengthen Pohnpei's vegetable production capacity and open up export channels to less agriculturally fertile islands in the North Pacific.

Governor Joseph reaffirmed his commitment to expanding partnerships that empower local growers and promote sustainable development across Pohnpei. "We are not only growing crops—we are growing capacity, confidence, and a stronger, more food-secure future," he concluded.



Dr. Franuticia Perman returns home to join Pohnpei State health team

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 29, 2025

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services has warmly welcomed Dr. Franuticia Perman to its team, celebrating her return to serve her home island.

A native of Pohnpei, Dr. Perman has rejoined the island's healthcare system after years of study and professional experience abroad.

"We are truly honored that Dr. Perman has chosen to come back and serve," the

department stated in its announcement. "Her decision to return home and share her knowledge, skills, and compassion with her own people is a beautiful example of service, sacrifice, and love for her roots."

The department extended its heartfelt appreciation and admiration, calling her homecoming a source of inspiration and renewed hope for ongoing healthcare efforts across the State.

The Department continues to prioritize strengthening local capacity and improving health outcomes throughout Pohnpei.



Governor Joseph welcomes incoming and outgoing UNDP representatives during courtesy visit

Pohnpei Public Information

July 28, 2025

Pohnpei—Governor Stevenson A. Joseph received a courtesy visit from Mr. Kevin Petrini, outgoing Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who introduced his successor, Ms. Gulbahor Nematova, during a leadership transition visit to Pohnpei State.

Mr. Petrini, who has served the Micronesia region with distinction, will be moving on to his next assignment in Sierra Leone, while Ms. Nematova, originally from Tajikistan, brings with her extensive experience in development work, including previous service in the Pacific.

Governor Joseph expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Petrini for his

partnership and dedication, especially in supporting key initiatives in water security, environmental conservation, and public health. He also warmly welcomed Ms. Nematova, expressing confidence in continued strong cooperation with UNDP under her leadership.

"We thank Mr. Petrini for his service to the people of Pohnpei and wish him well in Sierra Leone," said Governor Joseph. "We look forward to working closely with Ms. Nematova as we continue advancing our shared goals for a more resilient and sustainable Pohnpei."

The visit reaffirmed the strong ties between UNDP and the State of Pohnpei and highlighted the importance of continuity in partnership as the organization undergoes its leadership transition.



AOSIS warns final treaty must deliver for islands, people, and planet

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

August 5, 2025

Geneva—As the final round of negotiations on a Global Plastic Pollution Treaty begins, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is calling for an ambitious, legally binding agreement to tackle the plastic crisis threatening coastlines, ecosystems, and communities worldwide.

In the lead-up to the talks, known as INC-5.2, AOSIS members met to align priorities, identify compromise points, and refine a unified strategy. "We [SIDS] are so affected by the proliferation of single-use plastic especially on our shores and our beaches. We need a strong treaty that

addresses the priorities of small island developing states," said Matthew Wilson, Barbados' Ambassador to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

The 39-member coalition, which has represented small island and low-lying coastal states in global negotiations since 1990, outlined four core demands:

1. A full lifecycle approach — Addressing plastic pollution from production through design, use, and disposal to ensure comprehensive, science-based solutions.

2. Remediation of existing pollution — Establishing binding commitments to clean up transboundary waste, including in areas beyond

national jurisdiction, recognizing that SIDS are disproportionately impacted by debris they did not produce.

3. Access to predictable financing — Creating a dedicated remediation fund with priority access for SIDS and least developed countries (LDCs), ensuring fair, adequate, and easily accessible resources. AOSIS cited The Ocean Cleanup's estimate that removing the Great Pacific Garbage Patch could be achieved in five years at a cost of \$4 billion.

4. Recognition of special circumstances — Explicitly acknowledging the vulnerabilities of SIDS, such as geographic isolation, small landmass, narrow economic bases, and exposure to external shocks,

with equity-based provisions for support and implementation.

AOSIS warned that without robust action, the human and financial costs of plastic pollution will continue to mount for nations least responsible for the crisis. "The final treaty must match the urgency felt every day on SIDS' ocean and coastlines — and deliver the ambition, funding, and international cooperation needed to turn the tide," the statement said.

Since its founding, AOSIS has played an important, central role in securing historic international agreements on climate change, sustainable development, and ocean protection, advocating to ensure the UN's promise to "leave no one behind" is upheld.

PICRC's Educators-in-Science program empowers educators to teach ocean science

PICRC

July 30, 2025

Palau—The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), in partnership with Palau's Ministry of Education (MoE), recently hosted its annual Educators-in-Science professional development workshop. Held from July 15-18, the workshop included a full-day of activities on Tuesday (July 15), a half-day session on Wednesday (July 16), and concluded with a ship tour on Friday (July 18).

Now in its third year, the workshop brought together sixteen middle school teachers (grades 5-8) from Koror Elementary School, George B. Harris Elementary School, Meyuns Elementary School, Ngarard Elementary School, and Maris Stella School.

Throughout the week, the teachers engaged in a range of hands-on activities designed for classroom integration. These included lessons on ocean acidification, coral restoration, cetacean (whale and dolphin) surveys, reef fish dissection, and plankton studies. One highlight was a live interaction with Exploration Vessel



Nautilus, currently operating in the Solomon Islands, where the teachers viewed deep-sea footage collected in Palauan waters during the vessel's expedition last year. They were also introduced to the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, a regional initiative designed to empower youth to tackle plastic pollution through awareness, community engagement, and policy advocacy. In addition, researchers from PICRC presented recent findings on coral bleaching and marine mammal

surveys, providing teachers with the insights into the latest marine science research in Palau.

The workshop concluded with a certificate ceremony with Director Ida Kilcullen from the Ministry of Education and PICRC's CEO Roxanne Sial Blesam, who acknowledged the teachers' dedication and commitment to bringing ocean science into their classrooms.

On Friday, the teachers were invited onboard the Okeanos Explorer, a research vessel operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Exploration. The teachers received a 90-minute tour of the vessel and learned about its research capabilities and exploration objectives. The ship is the only US federal vessel dedicated to exploring our largely unknown ocean for the purpose of discovery. Okeanos Explorer is currently in Palau, carrying out deep-sea mapping surveys in the Palau National Marine Sanctuary between late July – October 2025.

The Educators-in-Science workshop is designed to empower and equip teachers with the tools and confidence to bring ocean science into their classrooms through hands-on learning and exposure to the latest marine research in Palau.

"Teachers are the stewards of our next generation," stated PICRC CEO Roxanne Blesam. "Supporting them in sharing knowledge with their students is a vital part of raising environmentally-conscious citizens. I want to congratulate and thank all the teachers who attended our workshop."

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club launches new phase of growth and development for local youth

PSAKC

August 2, 2025

Kolonia, Pohnpei—The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) is proud to announce a major organizational transformation aimed at expanding and professionalizing its youth soccer program. As the only registered NGO in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) fully dedicated to youth soccer, PSAKC is introducing a new structure that will enhance player development, broaden access to local and international competition, and build stronger community involvement.

Starting September 11, 2025, PSAKC will officially operate as a fully structured club with mandatory registration, group-based training

tailored by age and skill level, and new criteria for match eligibility. The club is also preparing to welcome international volunteer coaches to strengthen training quality and long-term capacity.

"We're entering a new era," said a PSAKC spokesperson. "This transformation is not just about better soccer; it's about giving our youth a stronger, healthier, and more connected foundation for their futures."

Key program changes include:

- Mandatory player registration and attendance tracking
- New internal grouping: U8 and U15 divisions, with U15 subdivided into Rookies, Learners, and Little Champions based on effort and attendance

- Monthly recognitions (Player of the Month and Newcomer of the Month), with winners receiving cleats or jerseys
- Regular training on Tuesdays and Thursdays, plus monthly Sunday clinics at elementary schools across the state
- A new internal league launching in October
- Rotational futsal training for skill development
- Increased parental involvement, including logistics support and the formation of a broader club board

PSAKC strongly encourages families and community members to take part in this transition by supporting their children's participation, volunteering in support roles, and engaging in the club's governance.

"This isn't just about soccer—it's about building a better future for our children and for Pohnpei," the club representative added. "We invite all parents, teachers, and local leaders to join us in this exciting journey."

For more information or to get involved, contact PSAKC by email or phone, or speak directly with a coach at the training field.

About PSAKC:

The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club is a community-rooted, youth-centered nonprofit based in the State of Pohnpei, FSM. It is committed to promoting inclusive, ethical, and sustainable development through the power of soccer.

Opinion Editorial

The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right: the Pacific's fight for climate justice has been validated by the World Court

By Miles Young
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

The recent landmark International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change demonstrates that human rights are universal and pivotal to addressing the existential threat posed to Pacific Island countries by climate change. The Court determined that climate change is real and that States have an obligation under international law to urgently and actively address it. So how can the Pacific capitalise on the opportunity presented by the advisory opinion to address the harms to our environment, using human rights as a driver?

On 23 July 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – commonly referred to as the ‘World Court’ and comprised of 15 highly-credentialed judges from across the globe – issued a unanimous Advisory Opinion on Climate Change. The advisory opinion is an authoritative interpretation of binding international law with moral weight and persuasive authority that many across the world have hailed as a ‘win’ for climate justice and an ‘historic’ and ‘landmark’ outcome. In short, the advisory opinion considered the breadth of international law and concluded that States are: (a) under a legal obligation to protect the climate system and environment from greenhouse gas emissions, both for current and future generations; and (b) therefore legally responsible for any breaches of their legal obligations (including through actions or inactions) that have caused significant climate harm.

The advisory opinion was the culmination of a campaign initiated by the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) and a United Nations General Assembly resolution led by The Republic of Vanuatu and supported by 12 Pacific Island countries. The ICJ has never received as many submissions from parties in any case before this one – in the lead-up to the issuance of the advisory opinion, the Court received 91 written statements on the matter, while a further 107 oral statements were made to the Court in December 2024. Thirteen Pacific Island countries and 11 Pacific organisations or organisations with Pacific representation, including the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, presented to the Court.

SPC provided technical assistance to Pacific Island countries for the development of their respective submissions to the ICJ, including through three regional workshops and direct bilateral support. The technical assistance enabled Pacific Island countries to prepare their legal and human rights arguments and receive scientific evidence, including evidence

generated by SPC scientific divisions, to support their national positions. SPC also provided training for senior government representatives on presenting their cases to the Court’s judges in engaging ways. The countries were also supported to present their scientific evidence in compelling ways aligned with Pacific storytelling, including through data visualisation and personal testimonials that brought the lived experiences of Pacific communities to the fore.

Ultimately, the Court’s advisory opinion supported the position taken by Pacific Island countries and organisations. Pacific voices and Pacific leadership were therefore both at the forefront of this climate change initiative and instrumental in informing the content of the advisory opinion.

A critical element of the advisory opinion was its reliance on international human rights law – the ICJ said that within the body of international law, international human rights was “directly applicable” to the matters before it for consideration. The Court was clear – States have an obligation to “respect and ensure the effective enjoyment of human rights by taking necessary measures to protect the climate system and other parts of the environment”. To emphasise the point, the Court added that “... the protection of the environment is a precondition for the enjoyment of human rights” and that this interdependency has been generally recognised since at least the Stockholm Declaration of 1972. The Court went on to provide a non-exhaustive list of examples of how human rights can be directly impacted by climate change, including the rights to life and health for current and future generations. The Court also established a clear picture of how human rights can be invoked to address the adverse impacts of climate change and in doing so, referenced many fundamental Pacific values such as family.

The ICJ’s reliance on human rights in its advisory opinion reflected the position of Pacific Island countries, namely that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right. Through the advisory opinion, the Court also affirmed the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 11 July 2022, which declared that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a fundamental human right. That countries outside the Pacific also adopted the human rights argument before the ICJ confirms that human rights are indeed universal. The deep engagement of Pacific governments, youth and communities in the advisory opinion proceedings relating to what is commonly considered the most pressing issue in the region, can therefore be said to dispel the often-made argument that human rights are a ‘foreign concept’ to the Pacific, irrelevant to our lives.

Moving forward, the following five areas are potential avenues through which the Pacific can use the advisory opinion to more effectively address climate change:

1. UN General Assembly Resolution. Following the advisory opinion, a resolution will be drafted for adoption

by the UN General Assembly. This process will be led by Vanuatu and is an opportunity to reaffirm the standards, principles and legal framework referenced in the advisory opinion, including the human rights obligations in relation to climate change. The adoption of the resolution will strengthen global acceptance of the reality we face and help facilitate the change required to protect our planet from the climate crisis.

2. Climate negotiations. The ICJ found that States must set progressive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that work towards keeping global temperatures below 1.5 degrees relative to pre-industrial levels. The advisory opinion can be used by the Pacific to campaign for ambitious NDC revisions at COP30 and beyond.

3. UN Treaty Body Committees and other International Bodies. The importance of the composition of bodies such as the ICJ and UN Treaty Body Committees cannot be underestimated. These bodies are mandated to interpret and determine issues that shape the global climate response. Currently, there is not a single Pacific Island Country representative amongst the currently 170+ Treaty Body Committee members. The Pacific should ensure its voice is at the table within critical institutions such as these.

4. UN Human Rights Council. The Pacific could use existing resolutions as well as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process to ensure States implement the advisory opinion. UPR is a peer-to-peer accountability mechanism among nations. High-emitting States can be held accountable by the Pacific in highlighting the human rights breaches they could be committing in relation to climate change and making recommendations on corrective action.

5. Strategic Litigation. The advisory opinion widens the options for strategic litigation. A key component of the advisory opinion is the ICJ’s confirmation that restitution and compensation may be sought for “damages caused” by any failure of a State to comply with its obligation to protect and preserve the environment. The advisory opinion will be of particular relevance for States that accept the moral weight and persuasive authority of international law, as well as for national courts that have regard to international law when interpreting domestic laws or dealing with international treaties. Where Pacific Island countries decide to explore strategic litigation to this end, human rights law can provide a legal foundation for such cases.

6. National Domestication. As stated above, the ICJ has delivered an authoritative interpretation of binding international law with moral weight and authority. In Pacific Island countries where it is open for courts to have regard to international law when deciding cases, there is an opportunity to seek to domesticate the ICJ advisory opinion through its application in court decisions to strengthen domestic jurisprudence and the application of the advisory opinion.

The advisory opinion has detailed a pathway to more effectively address the impacts of climate change. Bringing the global community along that pathway is a different matter, however. The Pacific played a leading role in securing the advisory opinion and it should play a leading role in climate action to give effect to it – this can be done through strengthening Pacific engagement with the international system, strengthening the enjoyment of human rights in the region, and continuing to ensure Pacific voices and lived experiences are brought to the fore at the global level. This will increase the region’s legitimacy and power at the global level and strengthen understanding of how human rights can improve all aspects of Pacific societies, not just in relation to climate change.

The distance to access the World Court has been a challenge for the region but the commitment by Pacific peoples to travel for up to three days straight to attend the ICJ proceedings is testament to the importance they attach to this issue. We must encourage the United Nations systems and global multilateral processes to come closer to the region so that our communities are better able to meaningfully access them in just and equitable ways now and into the future.

Opinion Editorial by Miles Young, Director, and Ashley Bowe, Adviser, Human Rights & Sustainable Development at the Pacific Community (SPC). SPC is the principal scientific and technical organisation working for 22 Pacific Island countries and territories as an extension of government. SPC holds a mandate in youth development, human rights, gender equality, and many other areas of science and technical areas of work. SPC worked alongside the students who led this work and with the Republic of Vanuatu to support meaningful Pacific engagement through this process.



Counsel for Vanuatu speaking to media after the ICJ AO was delivered - photo credit SPC



The ICJ delivering its advisory opinion on climate change - photo credit International Court of Justice

Australia supports youth-led food security project in Tamil, Yap

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 7, 2025

Yap—Australia is continuing its support for community-led development initiatives in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) through a new grant to the Tamil Youth Organization (TYO) in Yap.

While in Yap for the Micronesia Expo, Australian Ambassador to the FSM Jenny Grant officially handed over a Direct Aid Program (DAP) grant to support the Tonari Food Security Project, an initiative designed by local youth to address growing food security challenges in the region.

TYO Board President Virginia Gechig, Board Treasurer Carmen Kigimnang, and TYO Coordinator Marialyn

Tiningmown formally accepted the DAP grant, which totals USD 15,224.03. Ambassador Grant also thanked Yap State Senator Anne-Marie Laamar, who attended the handover ceremony, for her support of the project.

Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and shifting rainfall patterns are placing increased pressure on traditional food production systems across Yap's low-lying and coastal areas. In response, the Tamil Youth Organization developed a project aimed at rehabilitating local taro patches and launching food gardens to promote greater self-reliance and resilience.

The Tonari Food Security Project will also conduct outreach programs to encourage youth participation in sustainable farming practices and

strengthen community-based solutions to food insecurity.

"Projects like this empower young people to take the lead in addressing the real and growing impacts of climate change in their communities," said Ambassador Grant.

Australia's Direct Aid Program is a flexible, small grants scheme supporting development activities across FSM and the broader Pacific region, with grants of up to USD 20,000 available for eligible initiatives. The program supports grassroots efforts in areas such as education, health, environment, human rights, and food security.

For more information about the next DAP funding round and application guidelines, visit the Australian Embassy website at: www.fsm.embassy.gov.au



Economic Ministers affirm regional economic integration and private sector growth

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

August 8, 2025

Suva, Fiji—Forum Economic Ministers convened in Suva from 22 to 23 July 2025 for the annual Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM), where they reaffirmed the region's commitment to strengthened economic integration, private sector development, and collective resilience.

Under the theme "Stronger Together: Advancing Economic Resilience and Sustainable Futures in the Pacific," Ministers engaged in high-level dialogue to address shared challenges and chart a path forward for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Against a backdrop of increasing global uncertainty and a downgraded global growth forecast—from 2.7% to 2.3%—Ministers emphasized the urgency of deepening regional cooperation.

Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Tonga and FEMM Chair, Hon. Dr. Aisake Valu Eke, called for renewed solidarity in advancing the vision of Forum Leaders:

"The need for working together amidst the increasing global uncertainties confronting our region is critical and

cannot be overstated. We need to work together in solidarity to realize our Forum Leaders' vision for collective aspirations and action," he said.

A major milestone from the meeting was the unanimous endorsement of the Pacific's first-ever Regional Private Sector Strategy (PRPSS). Recognized as a cornerstone of economic transformation, the Strategy reflects a strong regional commitment to empowering the private sector—particularly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)—through an enabling environment that fosters innovation, job creation, and sustainable growth.

Ministers highlighted the Strategy's alignment with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development, and called for clear, actionable implementation tailored to the diverse realities and comparative advantages of all Forum Members, including smaller economies.

Ministers also welcomed progress across a few strategic regional initiatives. These included the expansion of the Pacific Correspondent Banking Relationships (CBR) Project



to include Solomon Islands, bringing the total membership to eight and reinforcing regional efforts to mitigate financial exclusion.

Ministers further noted positive developments toward the ratification of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) Treaty, to be considered at the 54th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Solomon Islands, reaffirming their commitment to a Pacific-led, sustainable approach to climate adaptation financing.

Australia's update on its bid to co-host COP31 in partnership with the Pacific was welcomed as a vital opportunity to amplify Pacific leadership on global climate issues.

Ministers also expressed strong support for Fiji's bid to host the Green Climate Fund's Pacific regional office in Suva, highlighting the need for a unified regional position to maximize the opportunity and strengthen climate finance access for all Pacific nations.

The 2025 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting concluded with a united call for bold and coordinated action to address regional economic vulnerabilities and unlock shared opportunities. Ministers emphasized the importance of inclusive and equitable economic strategies, sustainable financing mechanisms, and robust international partnerships to secure a resilient and prosperous future for the Blue Pacific Continent.

From shorelines to the strategy room: Solomon Islands youth join the push on Loss and damage

By Ednal Palmer,
In-Depth Solomons

August 7, 2025

Apia, Samoa—As Pacific leaders prepare for the Regional Loss and Damage Dialogue 2025 in Apia next week, two young Solomon Islanders are part of a pack of ambitious young Climate Change advocates across the Pacific who in Samoa to be part of a Climate Change dialogue on Loss and Damage.



Roderick Rollands and Melissa Horokou have been active in the Climate Change space and are familiar with the rigorous processes and challenges it takes for youth voices to be heard and actioned by policy makers.

This week, at a youth climate change dialogue hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the young Solomon Islanders are stepping up to the plate as informed influencers bridging the realities of frontline communities with the decision-making halls of power.

For many of these youth, the climate crisis is not an abstract idea—it's an everyday experience.

Rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, food insecurity, and disappearing coastlines are challenges they live with, not just read about.

Now, for the first time, they have come to share testimonies and experiences in order to devise a compelling case to be presented to policy makers, leaders and partners in a Climate Change - Loss and Damage Dialogue from August 11- 15.

“We are not here to tick the box of youth inclusion. We are here because we want our stories heard, and there is urgency from our communities,” said Melissa Horokou from the Ministry of Climate Change in the Solomons.

Horokou added that if policies are created without the input of youths and those who work with affected communities, they will miss realities on the ground.

Beyond Symbolism – Youth as Strategic Voices

The SPREP-organized youth dialogue is the first part of a broader effort to ensure youth voices are central in shaping regional climate strategies before leaders meet with donor partners and key climate policymakers next week.

Roderick Hollands of the Solomon Islands, in appreciating the opportunity for youths to freely discuss, said the initiative is not just about empowering youth—it's about utilizing them as a critical asset in crafting grounded, equitable, and community-informed climate responses.

Participants from across the Pacific are engaging in a dialogue to understand Loss and Damage, formulate a youth presentation for a Climate Change dialogue next week, strengthen relations amongst Pacific youth advocates, and enhance their professional network.

“Loss and Damage clearly define the negative experiences and losses of our people, although people enjoying huge landmasses may not understand, it is the reality we Pacific Island countries are bracing daily,” Hollands added.

A New Generation of Climate Diplomats

With support from SPREP, the young Pacific Islanders now have a name to call the impacts their people are facing back in their communities - Loss and Damage.

They are also forming coalitions with other Pacific youth, ensuring the region's next generation is clear on the concept and speaks with one voice.



“We want to be in the room where decisions are made—not just after they've been made,” Horokou said, appreciating the opportunity to present their case to next week's dialogue.

Their messages are grounded, and they do not shy away from the emotional weight of climate loss. Stories of ancestral burial grounds disappearing under water and the relocation of entire communities add urgency to their advocacy.

Youth Participation as Policy Innovation

SPREP's approach to facilitating this dialogue reflects a growing recognition that youth participation is not a box-ticking exercise—it's an innovation in policymaking.

“Young people bring fresh perspectives, local knowledge, and an unmatched sense of urgency,” said SPREP Climate and Resilience Director Tagaloa Cooper-Halo.

“If we are serious about climate resilience, we must treat youth as co-designers of solutions.”

Looking Ahead: From Dialogue to Impact

As these young climate advocates return to their home islands, their journey doesn't end in Apia. Many will be part of national delegations in future high-level forums, some will work with NGOs on local adaptation projects, and others will hold their own governments accountable for turning commitments into action.

But for now, in the heart of Samoa,

they've already achieved something powerful: reframing the narrative of youth from passive recipients to proactive policy shapers.

“We're not just leaders of tomorrow,” said Hollands. “We are standing up now, because Climate Change cannot wait for us to become leaders.”

The inaugural Pacific Youth Dialogue on Loss and Damage, guided by the theme “Navigating our Future” is held from 7- 8 August, Taumeasina Resort, Samoa. This precedes the Pacific Regional Loss and Damage Dialogue 2025 to be held from 11-12 August at the same venue in Samoa.

The inaugural Pacific Youth Dialogue on Loss and Damage and the Pacific Regional Loss and Damage Dialogue 2025 are made possible with funding support from the Loss and Damage Capability and Capacity (LDCC) Project with the Government of New Zealand.

Hosted by Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the dialogues bring together Pacific governments, youths, civil society, academia, NGOs, and the private sector to collectively advance the region's priorities on Loss and damage.

This story was produced by the Pacific Media Team covering the meetings. Their attendance is made possible with funding support from the Loss and Damage Capability and Capacity (LDCC) Project with the Government of New Zealand.

‘Building the next generation of Pacific climate leaders is non-negotiable’

By Inoke Rabonu
Fiji Sun

August 7, 2025

Apia, Samoa—The Pacific is struggling to keep pace with the accelerating impacts of climate change, and youth leaders say they must be equipped to step into critical roles before it’s too late.

Gabriel Mara, 29, one of Fiji’s youngest climate policy experts and international negotiators, says the number of communities in need of support is growing too rapidly for governments and organisations to keep pace.

Mara is part of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme’s (SPREP) Pacific Youth Dialogue on Loss and Damage currently held in Apia, Samoa.

He previously served as a Climate Change Officer – Adaptation with Fiji’s Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and is now a negotiator and coordinator within the UNFCCC and Group of 77 and China negotiation spaces.

“When I was in my previous role in Government, what I saw was that the need was quickly increasing over our ability to keep up,” Mara said.

“We don’t have the capacity, the resourcing, the money, the materials to really keep up with the level of modification, adaptation or even relocation.”

Ultimately, Mara believes that building and supporting the next generation of Pacific climate leaders was non-negotiable.

“Youths are the future. In fact, not even of the future but of the present,” he said.

“Everything that’s impacting us now, we will inherit it. That’s why it’s so important that youths are well informed, they know what they’re doing, technically sound, and they’re able to confidently assume not only these roles, but these spaces.”

While his work is now at a global scale, Mara said his motivations were deeply personal.

“Growing up, I was raised... by both my parents, but also my grandparents. And seeing them, how they rely so much on the sea, and being in the village, it makes me want to preserve that. Because... my identity is very much rooted to the land and to the ocean. And I do not want to see it go out,” he said.

“Everybody here are youths that are in government, and youths working in the CSO and NGO space... I’m here to hear the different perspectives from the diversity in the room,” he said.

Bid for an Australia-Pacific COP
He added that a united, well-networked Pacific is key to amplifying its voice and influence, especially as the region looks to the proposed Pacific COP, to be co-hosted with Australia in 2026.

“It’s very critical. Apart from the fact that climate change is impacting us, of all the SIDS regions... the Pacific SIDS is the one that is affected the most,” Mara said.

“A Pacific COP is somewhere that I believe we can also lead. Even co-



facilitate certain agenda items during negotiations, where the Pacific negotiators can step up and assume these roles of leadership within the climate regime.”

But he acknowledged major hurdles, especially around resourcing, capacity, and continuity in representation, that still hold the region back in global forums.

“You need a little time to perfect what you are doing,” he said. “Often when there’s a high turnover... there’s no continuity. Or if there is, very little continuity. And often that creates a gap.”

“Technically, we are sound. We just need to find our voice in this leadership approach within the multilateral system.”

Pacific Youth called to define their own climate story at inaugural Pacific Youth Dialogue on Loss and Damage

By Sanjeshni Kumar
Pacnews

“You today are exactly where you are meant to be.”

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Climate Change Resilience Director, Tagaloa Cooper told the participants at the first Pacific Youth Dialogue on Loss and Damage in Apia, Samoa on Thursday.

Cooper urged the Pacific young people to take ownership of their stories and lead the way in defining what loss and damage means for their communities.

“The most important people here today are the representatives, the youth from the Pacific Island countries. I acknowledge you,” she said.

“I promise you; your voice will be heard. We will provide support for your

work.”

The dialogue, supported by the Government of New Zealand, brings together young leaders from across the Pacific region to discuss how climate-induced loss and damage has affected their lives, their cultures, and their futures.

“Loss and damage is not new to us,” Cooper said.

“It has a name. But believe it or not, it has no definition. It is defined by what you feel and how you are guided.”

She shared her personal story as a Niuean woman who experienced the devastation of Cyclone Heta, which wiped out kamilo trees, a plant central to her community’s traditional medicine.

“When you lose biodiversity that you use for cultural practices, you lose the practice. And when you lose the

practice, it starts to erode who you are,” she said.

Her message to the youth was clear: climate change is already part of their lives, but so is their power to shape the future.

“The harms caused by climate change will inevitably be part of your story,” she said.

“But the beauty of being young people is your story is still in progress. And that is yours to define.”

Reflecting on her own experiences as a young delegate at international climate negotiations, Cooper said the dialogue was designed to create a safe space where youth could speak freely.

“This meeting is unique so that you don’t feel overwhelmed,” she said.

“Hopefully, you will have the conviction



to forge ahead and tell your stories on loss and damage and know that we will be with you.”

She assured participants that SPREP would make sure their voices are heard at the global level.

“We want to make sure that you have a voice in the next COP... no matter where it is,” she said.

Tagaloa told the youth: “Walk boldly, trusting that God is walking with you. We love you, and we value your stories.”

Palau's coral refugia offer hope for reefs facing rising temperatures

The Nature Conservancy

August 7, 2025

Palau—Coral reefs across Micronesia are under growing threat from warming oceans. As temperatures rise, bleaching events are becoming more frequent and severe, pushing many reefs closer to collapse. Without urgent climate action, scientists warn that nearly all reefs could suffer from degradation in the coming decades.

But recent research offers hope: some reefs in Palau are proving to be less exposed to heat stress than others, thanks to natural conditions that can help corals survive high temperatures. These special areas, known as thermal refugia, can form where cooler currents from the open ocean and unique water flows protect reefs from extreme heat. Other reef refugia can be associated with the presence of healthy coastal ecosystems, like mangroves and seagrass beds, that can naturally shield reefs from pollution and produce murky waters that can help reduce

harsh sunlight that can damage corals during heatwaves.

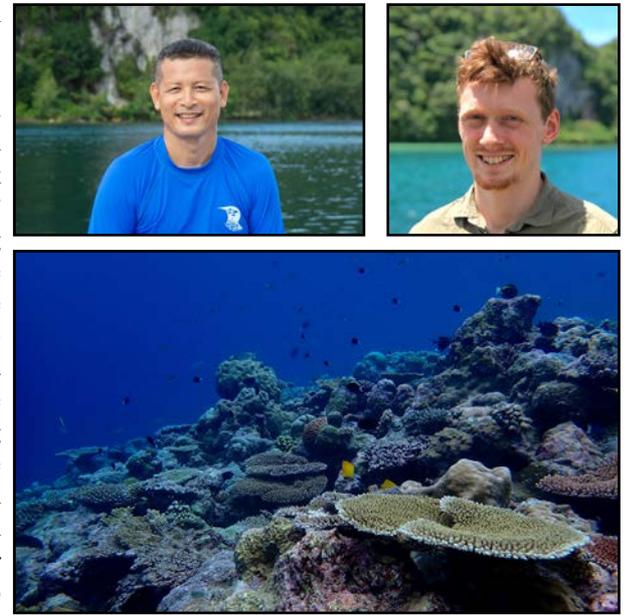
The study, led by Dr. Liam Lachs of Newcastle University and the University of Queensland, mapped potential thermal refugia in Palau and found some surprising results. “The previous science suggested we should expect heat-tolerant corals to be at hotter reefs, but across Palau’s barrier reef we found the highest coral heat tolerance and greatest diversity of tolerances at thermal refugia.” says Dr. Lachs, adding that “These thermal refugia seem to be critical reservoirs of resilience and so we should consider prioritising them in conservation portfolios.”

This unexpected extra buffer at thermal refugia means they could endure heatwaves that might otherwise push them past a tipping point, giving the broader reef system a better chance to recover. These locations may also be critical for preserving and promoting naturally heat-tolerant corals in reef

management and restoration.

“This new science gives us a powerful tool to build on our existing network of protected areas,” stated Dr. Yimnang Golbuu, Coral Resilience Director at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Micronesia and Polynesia and co-author of the study. “By identifying these thermal refugia, we can strategically expand our marine protected areas and focus our restoration efforts to help our reefs not just survive, but thrive, for generations to come.”

TNC is working with partners around the world to identify reef refugia, expand marine protection, safeguard coastal habitats, and restore damaged reefs. By putting this knowledge into action, we can help reefs adapt, recover,



and continue supporting communities across the Pacific.

For those interested in learning more, the full research article High coral heat tolerance at local-scale thermal refugia by Lachs, L. et al (2024) is published in PLOS Climate

World Bank focuses on jobs and economic resilience in the Pacific

World Bank

August 1, 2025

Sydney—The World Bank’s Managing Director of Operations Anna Bjerde has concluded a week-long visit to Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Australia focused on delivering new approaches to job creation and economic resilience, and faster, more impactful development solutions.

Ms. Bjerde also announced new reforms to the World Bank’s procurement framework that require companies bidding on international civil works contracts—such as the construction and maintenance of transportation and energy infrastructure—to ensure that 30 percent of labor cost is local.

“The World Bank Group is proud to support the people of the Pacific with solutions that address development challenges in the region, with jobs at the center—giving young people the chance to shape their own future,” said Ms. Bjerde. “We see the effects of slowing growth, climate shocks, and global policy uncertainty, but Pacific nations

are pioneering regional initiatives and investing in the foundations for jobs and inclusive growth.”

In Fiji, Ms. Bjerde attended the Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers Meeting where she emphasized the importance of smaller Pacific nations’ connectivity to international financial institutions. The World Bank is supporting a regional correspondent banking project that is already active in eight nations with additional countries planning to join.

In Papua New Guinea, Ms. Bjerde met with Prime Minister Hon. James Marape and visited young people supported by an urban youth employment project to build skills and contribute to their communities. “Supporting inclusive job creation, especially for young people, is key to Papua New Guinea’s development and is central to the World Bank Group’s approach to promoting prosperity,” she said.

Ms. Bjerde’s visit also highlighted the World Bank Group’s growing Pacific presence, including new director-level



positions in Suva and Port Moresby and a significant increase in technical specialists across the Pacific, bringing global expertise and support closer to Pacific governments.

The World Bank Group has scaled up its operations in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific more than seven-fold over the past 12 years, with 86 active operations totaling US\$3.4 billion in commitments. In fiscal year 2025, around half of the Bank’s Pacific investment was climate financing,

with a focus on building resilience and durable solutions.

Ms. Bjerde concluded her visit in Australia where she met with senior government officials and development partners, and discussed deepening cooperation in the Pacific and Australia’s critical support to the region and to IDA, a part of the World Bank Group that provides concessional funds to Papua New Guinea and most Pacific Island countries.