

FSM mourns the passing of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 17, 2025

FSM - The Federated States of Micronesia is mourning the passing of the Honorable Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, whose decades of service helped shape the nation's diplomacy and global relationships. The Office of the President confirmed his passing on November 15, 2025, noting the profound loss of one of the country's most respected public servants.

Secretary Robert began his

distinguished career in 1984 as a Foreign Service Officer and went on to serve in nearly every senior role within the FSM's foreign service. His leadership included diplomatic assignments abroad and key posts in Palikir, where he played a central role in defining the FSM's foreign policy and strengthening its ties around the world. His clarity, humility, and steadfast commitment to the nation earned him deep respect at home, across the region, and throughout the international community.

A Presidential Proclamation issued by President Wesley W. Simina honors Secretary Robert's lifetime of service, recounting his decades of leadership: Deputy Chief of Mission at the FSM

Embassy in Tokyo from 1985 to 1990; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asian Affairs from 1990 to 1996; Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 2001 to 2007; and Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 2007 to 2019 and again from 2023 until his passing. He also served as Special Adviser to the President for Foreign Affairs between 2019 and 2023.

The proclamation calls Secretary Robert a statesman whose work "embodied the highest ideals of diplomacy" and whose contributions to nation-building and the preservation of FSM's sovereignty will remain part of the country's enduring legacy. It also extends the heartfelt

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Andrew R. Yatilman declared winner of Yap's At-Large Congressional Special Election

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 17, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — The FSM Office of the National Election Director has officially certified the results of the November 12, 2025 Special Election for Yap State's at-large seat in the FSM Congress, formally declaring Andrew R. Yatilman the winning candidate. The certification was issued on November 17 by National Election Director Ausen T. Lambert.

The special election was held to fill the vacancy created by the sudden passing of President and Senator Joseph J. Urusemal, who previously held the four-year at-large seat.

According to the certification, all ballots—including in-person, domestic absentee, and absentee ballots cast at the two special polling sites abroad in Guam and Honolulu, Hawai'i—were fully counted and tallied by the Counting and Tabulation Committee established in Yap. Electoral Aides at the overseas polling sites also certified

the unofficial results from their respective locations before they were incorporated into the final tally.

After the completion of all verification procedures, Director Lambert declared Yatilman the winner, receiving a total of 2,024 votes, the highest number cast for any candidate in the race.

As required by law, the certified

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Acting Governor Movick welcomes education leaders to FSM Principal Academy 2025

Pohnpei Public Information

November 5, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei - Acting Governor of Pohnpei State, Herolyn S. Movick, delivered welcoming remarks this morning at the Opening Ceremony of the FSM Principal Academy 2025, held at the COM-FSM China Friendship Gymnasium in Palikir.

The event gathered school principals and education leaders from across the Federated States of Micronesia under the theme: "Leading with Vision: Strengthening FSM's Education System."

Acting Governor Movick expressed gratitude to the Almighty and extended her warm welcome to President Wesley W. Simina, cabinet members, diplomatic representatives, and the many school administrators and educators in attendance from across the FSM. She highlighted the essential role principals play in shaping the next generation of leaders by empowering teachers, inspiring students, and building supportive school environments where every child can reach their full potential.



Reflecting on her own educational journey, Acting Governor Movick shared a heartfelt memory of her former principal at Ohmine Elementary School, Mr. Conrad Musrasrik. She credited his inspiring leadership for helping students believe in themselves and excel academically, a legacy she said continues to be remembered with pride today.



"In today's world, our students are not only competing locally but also internationally," said Acting Governor Movick, emphasizing the importance

of innovation in teaching and school leadership. She encouraged principals to embrace the Academy as an opportunity to learn, collaborate, and shape change that leads to excellence in every school and every state across the FSM.

Over the next three days, participants will engage in workshops, presentations, and collaborative sessions focused on strengthening leadership capacity, improving student outcomes, and advancing education across the nation.

Acting Governor Movick concluded by thanking the organizers and participants for their dedication to advancing education: "Let us lead with vision and ensure that the students we serve grow into the leaders our islands will one day rely upon."




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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: December 3, 2025

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Monday, December 1, 2025

FSM concludes landmark 2025 Cybersecurity Symposium, forging a unified path forward



FSM Information Services

November 10, 2025

Chuuk – The Office of the President announces the successful conclusion of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Cybersecurity Symposium 2025, held in Chuuk from October 27 to 31. Under the theme “Advancing National Cybersecurity: From Strategy to Implementation,” the event marked a pivotal, whole-of-nation effort to transform the national cybersecurity strategy into tangible action.

The symposium convened senior government leaders from the national and state levels, cybersecurity and IT professionals, and key international partners. This collaborative gathering underscored the nation’s unwavering commitment to building a secure and resilient digital future for all citizens.

Co-organized by the FSM Department of Justice (DOJ) and Norway Registers Development (NRD) Cyber Security, with sponsorship from the Embassy of Lithuania to Japan, the symposium exemplified the power of international cooperation. The expertise and support from global partners are invaluable as the nation navigates the complex cybersecurity landscape and strengthens its sovereign capabilities.

In his opening remarks, Vice President Palik set a decisive tone for the week, articulating the core of the national mission. “Cybersecurity is not only a technical issue alone,” the Vice President stated. “Rather, it plays a crucial role in safeguarding our national security. Absolutely, it is a matter of

national security, plain and simple.”

This statement encapsulates the FSM Government’s position and serves as the guiding principle for ongoing efforts. The symposium agenda was structured to address the multifaceted challenges, beginning with leadership and strategic governance, followed by intensive technical capacity-building for IT professionals, and concluding with a focus on community building and partnership.

Key outcomes from the symposium include:

- Development of an actionable roadmap to advance the FSM National Cybersecurity Strategy, focusing on establishing a national Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), policy reforms, and critical infrastructure protection.
- A reinforced and urgent call for the FSM Congress to expedite the passage of the Cybersecurity Bill, the Cybercrime Bill, and the Personal Data Protection Bill. Establishing this legal framework is essential for empowering national agencies, protecting citizens, and enabling the effective implementation of the national strategy.
- Enhanced technical skills of the national workforce in incident response, CSIRT and Security Operations Center (SOC) operations, and critical infrastructure protection.
- Strengthened partnerships with international donors and regional organizations, ensuring the



FSM remains a proactive and collaborative member of the global cybersecurity community.

Next Steps:

1. Advance Legislative Action: The Administration looks forward to continued collaboration with the FSM Congress to:

- Hold timely public hearings on the national security bills.
- Ensure the passage of these critical bills to establish a robust legal framework.

2. Finalize and Enforce the National Information Framework: The Executive Branch, through the appropriate departments and agencies, will:

- Finalize the proposed Four-Tier Information Classification Scheme.
- Implement and operationalize the scheme across government agencies.

3. Execute the National Security Mandate: As the lead agency for

national security, the Department of Justice, through its Cyber Security and Intelligence Bureau, will:

- Activate and operationalize the FSM Computer Emergency Response Team (FSM-CERT).
- Prioritize this action pursuant to the existing Executive Order.

Protecting the FSM’s national security is a collective responsibility. The Office of the President encourages continued collaboration among all branches of government to ensure these measures are advanced with care and effectiveness.

The FSM Government extends its deepest gratitude to the Chuuk State Government for hosting this critical event, to the co-organizers, and to all participants whose dedication is essential to the nation’s security. The 2025 Symposium marks not an end, but a significant step forward in our ongoing, collective journey to secure the FSM in the digital age.

“One People, One Flag, One Future”: FSM celebrates 39th Independence Day with flag raising ceremony at the Office of the President



FSM Information Services

November 3, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) proudly marked its 39th Independence Day with a national ceremony commemorating this historic milestone of self-governance, unity, and partnership among its four states.

The ceremony took place at the President’s Office Grounds in Palikir, bringing together national and state leaders, members of FSM congress, students, diplomatic partners, and community representatives.

The event began with a ceremonious flag raising by the National Police Honor Guard, accompanied by a 25-gun salute to honor the nation’s sovereignty and independence. The national anthem followed, performed by the College of Micronesia Choir, filling the grounds with a sense of pride and unity. Special musical numbers were also presented by Ohmine Elementary School, featuring their winning song from a recent competition, and the Kosraean community, adding a vibrant cultural touch to the celebration.

In his address, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, extended his gratitude to the people of Pohnpei for hosting the nation’s capital and acknowledged the nation’s founders for their vision and courage in shaping the FSM’s destiny.

“About forty-six years ago, the founders of our island nation chose a path of independence and self-government,” President Simina said. “Through this path, they affirmed our national, cultural, and historic identity, declaring to the world that our people are capable of shaping our own destiny. Because our forefathers dared to dream, we dare to build. Because they stood together then, we can stand tall now.”

The President reflected on the FSM’s journey toward independence, from the 1978 referendum that united the island states, to the ratification of the Constitution in 1979, and ultimately, to the end of the Trusteeship in 1986. He emphasized that each step along this path demonstrated the nation’s commitment to unity, democracy, and self-determination.

“Our independence marked the beginning of a new era, one in which the FSM would stand as equals among nations, responsible for our own progress and our own destiny,” he stated. “At the United Nations, the FSM holds its own seat, its own vote, and its own voice, just like any other nation, big or small.”

Looking toward the future, President Simina called on citizens to uphold the same courage and foresight that inspired the nation’s founding fathers as the FSM approaches its 40th year of independence.

“To protect our sovereignty, strengthen our democracy, and build a future worthy of our children,” he said. “To all citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, at home and abroad, I wish you a heartfelt congratulations for achieving this 39th anniversary of our independence. Please take time to celebrate this accomplishment with your families and loved ones.”

The President also encouraged nationwide participation in the “Flags Up FSM” campaign, urging everyone to raise the FSM flag and share their national pride on social media.

As the FSM looks ahead, this Independence Day ceremony stands as a

...Andrew Yatilman

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official results and declaration of the winning candidate are being transmitted to the President and Vice President of the FSM, the Speaker and Members of the 24th FSM Congress, the Cabinet, state leaders across the FSM, members of the diplomatic corps, and all candidates who contested the election.

The Election Office reaffirmed its commitment to “smooth and orderly elections” as it concluded the certification process.

reminder of the nation’s enduring spirit, resilience, and collective responsibility to build a brighter future for generations to come.

“Let this be a tradition we carry forward every year to remind us all of who we are — one people, under one flag, with one future,” he said. “Long live our unity. And long live the Federated States of Micronesia,” President Simina concluded.

...Lorin Robert

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condolences of the Government and the People of the FSM to his wife, Ignacia H. Robert; his children—Edmond Taro Robert, Judy Robert John, Joanna Robert, and Lorin Robert Jr.; his many grandchildren; his siblings; and his extended family, colleagues, and friends.

In honor of his memory, President Simina has proclaimed a national period of mourning and ordered the FSM flag flown at half-mast for four consecutive days. A memorial and State Funeral will be held on November 17, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter’s Church in Sokehs.

The Office of the President invites the nation to come together in remembering Secretary Lorin S. Robert—a diplomat, mentor, and devoted public servant whose legacy of service, integrity, and dedication to the FSM will be remembered for generations.

Team FSM joins First Global Challenge 2025: Learning, teamwork, and new dreams

Pohnpei Department of Education

November 17, 2025

Panama City, Panama — Team FSM joined over 181 countries at the First Global Challenge 2025, a big robotics event where students from around the world build robots and work together. For the students from the Federated States of Micronesia, who placed 117th in the robotics challenge, it was a chance to learn, meet new people, and think about their future.

“This is our first time coming to this event,” said the coaches. “We are amazed by how many smart and creative young people are here. For FSM, this is a great chance for our youth to connect with the world of technology and think about studying engineering.”

Students from Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS), Nanpei Memorial High School (NMHS), and Madolenihmw High School (MHS) worked hard to build their robot and take part in the challenge. But what they learned went beyond just building.

“I learned a lot from working on our robot,” said Xerxes Primo. “I got help from other teams and saw how teamwork works. I’m now thinking about studying software engineering.”

Ethan Ponapart said, “I saw how teams from other countries worked together. It helped me understand what good teamwork looks like.”

Marcello Ardos shared, “I liked going to the robot hospital. People there helped me and taught me how to build the climber for our robot. Teamwork made hard things easier.”

Payton Andreas said, “I learned how to build a robot and work with others. This made me want to join the army and study engineering. In our Upward Bound Program, we learn coding, but I think adding robot building would help students more.”

Mary Jane Ludrick, who did the

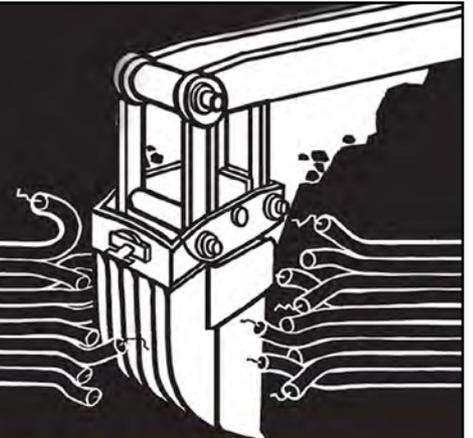
coding for FSM’s robot, said, “This made me want to study software engineering. I hope my school, MHS, can start a robotics club. But we need materials and equipment to make it happen.”

Team FSM showed strong teamwork and spirit. They didn’t just build a robot—they built new friendships, skills, and dreams. Now they return home ready to share what they learned and help more youth in FSM explore robotics and engineering.

We want to thank everyone who made this journey possible. Special thanks to First Global, Habele, Camille Movic Inatio, Pohnpei State Department of Education, the Upward Bound Program under COM-FSM/CTEC, Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor of Pohnpei State, Pohnpei State Department of R&D, Division of Tourism, Pohnpei New Horizon, Cheeney Ludwig, Lmwei Dihwen Santos, and most especially the parents. Your support helped us grow, learn, and represent FSM with pride.



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Pohnpei Governor unveils major climate commitments at COP 30 in Brazil

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 13, 2025
Belém, Brazil—

Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph took the global stage at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP 30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, announcing two national climate initiatives designed to steer the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) toward a safer, more resilient future.

According to a document from the Governor's Office, Governor Joseph formally launched the FSM Methane Reduction Roadmap 2026–2035 and FSM's Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) during his address at the high-level gathering.

Ambitious Climate Commitments for a Vulnerable Nation

In his speech, Governor Joseph emphasized that NDC 3.0 represents FSM's "most ambitious climate commitment to date," calling it a comprehensive national blueprint for low-emission and climate-resilient development. He said that the plan is designed to align with the Paris Agreement while ensuring the well-being of communities and ecosystems across the islands.

Though FSM contributes less than 0.01 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the governor said that the nation "refuse[s] to see ourselves as victims" and continues to lead with moral authority on the world stage. He spoke candidly about the real and immediate threats the country faces—including rising seas, stronger storms, heat waves, and water shortages.

"We are not merely on the frontline of climate change; we are living in its midst," he said.



Governor Joseph identified methane as one of the most potent greenhouse gases, describing it as "about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over 20 years."

As part of its new roadmap, FSM—already a Global Methane Pledge Champion—has committed to support the global goal of reducing methane emissions by at least 30 percent below 2020 levels by 2030. The national roadmap extends this ambition further by setting a domestic reduction target and action plan through 2035.

Key Actions Identified in the Roadmap Include:

- Improved landfill management
- Expansion of organic-waste composting
- Waste reduction through circular-economy initiatives
- Deployment of decentralized wastewater treatment systems capable of recovering methane for energy

According to Governor Joseph, these measures are intended not only to reduce emissions but also to generate local benefits such as job creation, improved public health, strengthened food security, and new renewable energy opportunities.

A core feature of the plan is the development of a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification

(MRV) system to be led by the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECHEM). The governor said the system will enhance transparency, support evidence-based decision-making, and help unlock access to climate finance.

"Accurate data is the backbone of accountability—and our bridge to greater global support," he said.

Governor Joseph extended gratitude to the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) for technical assistance and to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), convened by UNEP, for its financial and strategic support. He credited these partners with helping transform the roadmap from vision into an actionable national framework.

The governor closed his address with a message of hope and determination, reminding delegates that "even the smallest of nations can illuminate the path for the world." He urged countries to pair ambition with tangible implementation, particularly in methane reduction—"our most effective near-term lever to keep the global temperature rise to 1.5°C alive."

"Together, through courage and cooperation, we can clear the air, cool the planet, and secure a livable future for generations to come," he said.

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Adaptation finance crucial to strengthen health in the face of life-threatening climate conditions

Climate and Health Alliance

November 13, 2025

Belem, Brazil – Today, on Health Day at COP30, Regions4, the Global Climate & Health Alliance and CarbonCopy hosted a press conference, focused on “Positioning Health at the Centre of Adaptation Finance.”

High level speakers at this event warned that, as the global climate crisis accelerates, its devastating impacts on health are intensifying, making climate change one of the most important threats to human health. They argued that concerns about the health impacts of continued global warming and the benefits of immediate actions should significantly shape decisions about climate policy and climate action.

The press conference saw the participation of Dr Marina Romanello of the Lancet Countdown, along with ministerial representatives, including Dr Sandra Cortes of Chile, Md Ziaul Haque of Bangladesh, Oden Ewa of Nigeria and Dr Vishwas Chitale of India and Carlos Lopes, the COP30 Presidency’s Special Envoy for Africa. The press conference was moderated by Jeni Miller of the Global Climate and Health Alliance.

“Each year, more than half a million lives are lost due to heat, and over 150,000 deaths are linked to wildfire smoke exposure,” said Dr Marina Romanello, Lancet Countdown Executive Director, Institute for Global Health, University College London. “Health systems, already stretched and underfunded, are struggling to cope with these growing pressures, and most are still unprepared for what is coming.”

“Adaptation in the health sector is essential, but current funding is nowhere near sufficient,” says Dr Marina Romanello. “Only 44% of countries have costed their health adaptation needs, and existing finance falls short by billions. Without urgent investment, we will not be able to protect populations from escalating climate impacts.”

The discussion at the press conference highlighted that the health finance gap is a critical component of the overall adaptation finance gap, and the world’s inaction is further compounding the situation and the cost. The latest Adaptation Gap Report estimated that developing countries’ needs will be \$310-365 billion a year by 2035. The international community is struggling to

mobilise the c.\$40 billion Glasgow Pact Goal for adaptation finance.

“With regards to finance, the reality is that we have a deficit that is quite colossal,” Carlos Lopes, Special Envoy for Africa, COP30 Presidency. “We have to admit that most of the efforts that are being done are from the national authorities, so what we need to expect from financing coming from abroad is that it needs to be complementary.”

This year’s Adaptation Gap Report highlighted that just 4% of multilateral climate adaptation funding between 2019-2023 was allocated to health. A recent report by adelphi stressed that out of all multilateral climate finance, only 0.5% goes to health, health being critically threatened by climate change.

“Our Health National Adaptation Plan was designed to identify the real problems, build capacity and use our limited resources more effectively,” said Md Ziaul Haque, Additional Director General, Ministry of Environment, Bangladesh. “But the truth is, our adaptation financing for health is far below what is needed. The gap between what we require and what we receive is enormous. We need multilateral funding entities to bring forward concrete, holistic proposals that match the scale of the challenge.”

The latest Lancet Countdown Report, published last month, stressed the dire situation in which the world finds itself, with the number of climate change-related deaths reaching the millions, and millions more affected by extreme heat, extreme rainfall and flooding, ever more vicious storms and creeping desertification. In this context, world leaders are meeting in Belem, Brazil, in what is being termed both the “Adaptation COP” and the “Implementation COP”.

“According to India’s 2023 national communication to the UNFCCC, the country will require \$643 billion between now and 2030 to adapt to climate change under a business-as-usual scenario,” said Dr Vishwas Chitale, Fellow, Council for Energy, Environment & Water, India and Research Fellow, United Nations. “India has already made significant progress, spending \$146 billion in 2021-2022 alone, the equivalent of 5.6% of GDP, a remarkable rise from 3.7% spent in 2015-2016.”

Speakers highlighted the recently announced Climate and Health Funders Coalition which has committed an initial



\$300 million for integrated action to tackle both the causes of climate change and its consequences for health - accelerating solutions where they are needed most.

“The launch of the Climate and Health Funders Coalition, with an annual commitment of \$300 million in philanthropic funding, is an important and encouraging signal. We know that much more than that is needed to fully address adaptation needs,” said Jeni Miller, Executive Director, Global Climate and Health Alliance. “Nevertheless, it shows that the world is beginning to recognize that protecting health must be at the center of climate adaptation.”

The speakers highlighted the importance of adaptation finance being delivered to strengthen health systems, and said this finance must be just, equitable, transparent, accessible, to enable health resilience, especially in vulnerable countries. The Belem Health Action Plan, a roadmap that aims to strengthen health systems globally, so that they can better cope with the impacts of climate change, particularly in vulnerable countries and communities, will help reinforce health and health systems across the world, and the Global Goal on Adaptation, with its diverse health and finance indicators will be a crucial foundation to ensure meaningful progress.

“To confront the climate crisis effectively, we cannot work in silos,” said Dr Sandra Cortes, President of the Climate Change Scientific Committee, Ministry of Environment, Chile. “It is vital to combine the efforts of different ministries, not only health but also transport, energy and food production, so that we generate co-benefits across sectors. A more integrated approach will allow us to improve public health, reduce emissions and create fairer, more sustainable development opportunities for everyone.”

As negotiators in Belem aim to reach meaningful progress on adaptation and implementation, this press conference highlighted the urgency of immediate policy action on adaptation finance for health, globally and among the most vulnerable communities.



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Japanese ambassador meets with two professors from Tokai University



Embassy of Japan to the FSM

November 14, 2025

Pohnpei - On November 14, 2025, Ambassador Kagomiya met Professor Ippei OOE and Associate Professor Takehiro KUROSAKI from Tokai University, Japan.

These two professors came to Pohnpei for the preparatory research for educational voyage of Bosei-maru, a training vessel of the University, which is scheduled to arrive at Pohnpei with more than a hundred students next February.

The professors and Ambassador exchanged their views on the current economic, social, cultural, and political situations of the FSM and the plan of coming educational cruise.

Ambassador sincerely hopes the success of the cruise and wishes that this kind of exchange of people between Japan and the FSM will further enlarge and contribute to the friendship between the two countries.

The family of the late Sarako K. Pedrus would like to extend its deepest appreciation to friends, relatives, and supporters for gracing us with your presence, and contributing your time, effort, and monetary support during this time of grief. May God bless you all.



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U.S. Department of the Interior awards \$926,860 for Technical and Maintenance Assistance in the FSM

U.S. Department of the Interior

November 14, 2025

Kolonia — The Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) has awarded \$926,860 in fiscal year 2025 funding through the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).



- \$100,000 to the FSM Public Auditor for Audit Consulting Services

Maintenance Assistance Program:

- \$136,000 to the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation for tree trimming equipment
- \$96,800 to the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation for Wastewater Infrastructure Modernization
- \$18,000 to the Kosrae Public Radio Station for Broadcasting

Technical Assistance Program:

- \$398,000 to the Pohnpei State Department of Land for Digital Transformation of Public Land Governance
- \$161,000 to the College of Micronesia for Enhancing Payroll Efficiency through Iris Recognition Digital Timekeeping

- Equipment and Supplies
- \$17,060 to the Kosrae Tourism Authority for Women’s Handicraft Center Renovation

The Office of Insular Affairs is awarding additional TAP and MAP funding in the amount of \$649,585 to the following non-profit organization and federal partner to support the FSM as follows:

- \$350,000 to Pacific Mission Aviation for Aircraft Tugs in Palau and Taxiway Improvements in Yap - Pacific Mission Aviation (MAP)
- \$299,585 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Drinking Water Operator Training and Lab Certification Program for the Freely Associated States (TAP)

The Office of Insular Affairs is also awarding TAP funding to the

Close Up Foundation for the Close Up Insular Areas Program, which is a civic education program that benefits all seven insular areas, and to the Prior Service Trust Fund to fund employee benefits under the former Trust Territory Government. Maintenance Assistance Program funding is being awarded to the Yap State Utilities Corporation for the Pacific Linemen Training Program for the Pacific Territories and the Freely Associated States, which provides lineman training to many of the Pacific Insular Areas.

OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Find more information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia

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Australian Ambassador visits the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP)

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

November 6, 2025

Pohnpei - Ambassador Grant, together with MERIP Board Member Marstella Jack and Public Diplomacy Officer Kawika Mendiola-Aldis recently visited MERIP.

Executive Director Simon Ellis led a boat trip to MERIP's farm sites that cultivate rabbitfish, giant clams, corals and sea sponges.

"Australia is proud to support the aquaculture efforts that contribute to sustainable marine resource management and the protection of FSM's rich marine biodiversity," said Ambassador Grant.

MERIP supports local livelihoods and promotes ocean conservation. The organisation was founded in 1997 as part of the former Pohnpei agriculture and trade School in Madolenihmw



Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick makes first official visit to the President of the SM

Pohnpei Public Information

November 13, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — Acting Governor of Pohnpei State, the Honorable Herolyn S. Movick, paid her first official visit to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, at the Office of the President in Palikir on November 12, 2025.

The meeting marked Acting Governor Movick's first official engagement with the President since her election as Lieutenant Governor of Pohnpei State. The discussion was cordial and productive, underscoring the strong partnership and continued cooperation between the National and State Governments.



were Secretary of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure, the Honorable Carlson D. Apis, Special Assistant to the President for State Affairs, Mr. Jack Harris, and Chief of Staff to the President, Mrs. Yolanda Joab Mori. Representing Pohnpei State was Mr. Daniel Isaac, Administrator of the Pohnpei State Office of Transportation and Infrastructure.

was to discuss the management and implementation of Infrastructure Management Fund (IMF) projects in Pohnpei State, ensuring alignment between the National and State Governments on priorities, coordination, and project execution.

The meeting provided an opportunity for a general discussion on areas of mutual interest and collaboration, reaffirming a shared commitment to continued cooperation in advancing development priorities for the people of Pohnpei and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The main purpose of the meeting Also present during the meeting

IOM, INCERT GIE agreement to guide Palau’s transition to secure e-passports

International Organization for Migration

October 15, 2025

Koror, Palau – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 15 October 2025 entered into an agreement with INCERT GIE to support Palau’s transition to an electronic passport (e-Passport) system that meets international travel document security standards.

The Japan-funded e-Passport project, valued at approximately USD 4.5 million, is implemented by IOM in close collaboration with the Palau Ministry of State and the Palau Ministry of Finance. The project aims to equip Palau with a secure e-Passport issuance system that is compliant with standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International

Organization for Standardization (ISO). This initiative will enhance the integrity of Palauan travel documents, improve service delivery to citizens, and facilitate travel for Palauan passport holders.

INCERT GIE, a public entity based in Luxembourg, manages the electronic issuance and security of the country’s e-Passports and digital identity systems. It also serves as Luxembourg’s center of excellence for Public Key Infrastructure, cryptography, and electronic documents. As part of the agreement, INCERT GIE will carry out a comprehensive technical assessment to support the development of a secure and efficient e-Passport issuance system tailored to Palau’s needs.

The assessment will take a deep look at Palau’s passport system

to determine requirements for a modern, secure e-Passport. Experts from INCERT GIE will study existing passport issuance and verification processes, assess legacy systems, policies, regulations and institutional settings, and recommend business scenarios for the acquisition and deployment of a suitable e-Passport issuance system for Palauans. They will also help design the legal, cybersecurity, human resources management, and financial foundations needed to make the new system sustainable.

“This agreement lays the foundation for Palau’s full transition to secure, electronic passports,” said Yohan Senarath, Head of the IOM’s Sub Office in Palau. “By leveraging INCERT GIE’s international expertise and working hand-in-hand with our government counterparts, we

are helping ensure that Palau’s new passport system meets the highest global security and integrity standards.”

Benoît Poletti, Chief Executive Officer of INCERT GIE, emphasized the organization’s commitment to supporting Palau’s digital transformation journey. “This collaboration underscores our commitment to advancing global standards in travel document security and supporting nations in their digital transformation journeys. By working closely with IOM and the Government of Palau, we aim to support the establishment of a robust, sustainable, and future-ready e-Passport issuance system that enhances the security and integrity of Palauan travel documents while facilitating seamless international travel for its citizens,” he said.

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Building new FAD anchors to support offshore fisheries in Palau

The Nature Conservancy

November 13, 2025

Palau - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Micronesia and Polynesia, Palau's Bureau of Fisheries, and the Civic Action Team (CAT) 84-10 have joined forces to fabricate a new set of anchors for Palau's growing Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) network. By the end of October 2025, twelve anchors had been completed at Camp Katuu, the CAT base in Palau.

This effort is part of an ongoing initiative to strengthen Palau's offshore fisheries. FADs attract tuna and other pelagic fish closer to shore, providing local fishers with alternative fishing opportunities and helping reduce pressure on nearshore reef fish populations. One of the biggest challenges, however, has been maintaining enough anchors for new deployments and replacements.

Unlike older models, the new anchors are lighter and designed for deployment using the Bureau of Fisheries' own vessel, saving both time and money. The design relies on locally available materials, ensuring new anchors can be built quickly whenever replacements are needed. The prototype was designed by Roman Mongami from the Bureau, with TNC providing materials and coordinating partners. Fabrication was led by CAT 84-10's Sergeant Miller, who welded the anchors. The states of Ngarchelong and Ngeremlengui offered storage space for the completed anchors.

"The collaboration with CAT has really helped," said Dean Kloulechad, Fisheries Research Assistant at TNC Micronesia and Polynesia. "It's made the process faster, cheaper, and more sustainable. It's great to see local skills and teamwork driving the work forward."

The new anchors have already been distributed to coastal communities and will be used for upcoming FAD deployments or replacements.



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



THE WORLD BANK



THE WORLD BANK

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, Country Management Unit (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 wbnorthpacific@worldbank.org.

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

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Closing Date: November 28, 2025



Acting Governor Movick honors veterans at FSM Veterans of Foreign Wars Day Event

Pohnpei Public Information

November 11, 2025
Oumoar, Sokehs

— Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick, on behalf of Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, attended the FSM Veterans of Foreign Wars Day commemoration held at AA Getaway in Oumoar, Sokehs on November 11, 2025. The annual event serves to honor the dedication, bravery, and sacrifice of Veterans across the Federated States of Micronesia.



Also in attendance were the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; Her Excellency Jennifer Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM; the Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Speaker of the 24th FSM Congress; and the Honorable Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, Senator representing Election District One.

In her remarks, Acting Governor Movick expressed deep gratitude for the men and women of Pohnpei and the FSM who have served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. She paid tribute to Veterans'

families who stand beside their loved ones in sacrifice and resilience, and offered solemn remembrance to those who have fallen and the families they left behind.

On behalf of Governor Joseph, she reaffirmed the administration's ongoing support for Veterans in Pohnpei, including efforts to provide designated office space for the U.S. Veterans of Pohnpei organization to continue serving current and future Veterans throughout the State.

She started by saying, "The official theme for this year's Veterans Day, 'Service to Our Nation', reminds us that service transcends uniforms, branches, and generations. It unites all who have put duty before self—whether on land, at sea, or in the air—all bound by a shared devotion to protect and serve"

Acting Governor Movick also shared a personal reflection, honoring the service of members within her own family — including her son, a Drill Sergeant in the U.S. Army; her grandson in the Air National Guard; her brother, the President of the U.S. Veterans of Pohnpei, Herman Semes Jr.; and her sons-in-law who have served and continue to serve.

She concluded by reminding the community that "freedom is never free—and that your dedication will never be forgotten. Thank you for your service," and that the courage and sacrifice of Veterans will always be remembered with gratitude and respect.

Following the formal program, Acting Governor Movick joined First Lady Estefania H. Simina and Senator Abello-Alphonso for the ceremonial cutting of the Veterans Day cake.

Acting Governor Movick extended her sincere appreciation to all Veterans across the FSM, honoring them as a source of strength, pride, and unity for the nation.



Office space turnover between Pohnpei Transportation Authority and FSM Social Security Administration

Pohnpei Public Information

November 13, 2025

Peilapalap, Pohnpei — Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick and FSM Social Security Administration (FSMSSA) Administrator, Mr. Leon Panuelo Jr., jointly officiated a handover ceremony at the Office of the Acting Governor on November 12, 2025. The event marked the official turnover of office space at the Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA) in Kolonia to the Pohnpei Branch of FSMSSA.

The temporary relocation of FSMSSA services to the PTA premises comes as the Pohnpei Branch office undergoes much-needed renovation.

This arrangement ensures that the FSMSSA can continue to provide uninterrupted services to the public during the renovation period.

Also in attendance were PTA Acting Commissioner Mr. Raynard Bardelas and members of the PTA Board, including Chairman Mr. Salvason Salvador, and members Mr. Iso John Adolph, Mr. Dahker Abraham, and Mr. Cassidy Shoniber. Deputy Administrator FSMSSA, Francky Ili, Branch Manager Ms. Felixtina Oliver Irons, and her staff were also present to witness the turnover.

Acting Governor Movick commended the spirit of cooperation between government institutions,



emphasizing that such collaboration reflects the shared commitment to serving the people of Pohnpei and the Federated States of Micronesia effectively.

UNFPA funds FSM Youth Forum on Technology and Risk

UNFPA

November 14, 2025
Pohnpei, FSM - A two-day, UNFPA-funded Youth Forum on Technology and Risks was held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), on November 13-14, 2025. The event successfully convened participants from Government and Civil Society to deliberate over key concerns, vulnerabilities, and risks associated with the vast and rapid development in technology.



Core Findings and Concerns

The Forum participants identified a significant and growing threat to FSM youth: the increase in Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV). This includes harmful acts such as nonconsensual sharing of intimate images, online harassment, sextortion, economic abuse and exploitation and grooming. FSM youth are severely at risk as they constitute the majority of the population and are the most technologically and cyber-active for educational, sexual reproductive health, economic, recreational, employment and social purposes.

Key Objectives and Recognized Needs

1. The Forum established that urgent action is required to address TFGBV through:
 2. Awareness: Creating and disseminating relevant, context-tailored, and youth-friendly awareness campaigns, including promoting digital parenting (parental supervision of minors' use of technology).
 3. Advocacy: Increasing awareness of TFGBV and advocating for the creation of related laws, policies, and regulations to protect youth, women, and all vulnerable communities. Specific services and protection for men and boys are also required.
 4. Capacity Building: Providing TFGBV capacity building for law enforcement, service providers, and technology companies on digital

- protection and the right to privacy. Digital Literacy.
- 5. Risk Reduction: Actively reducing risks through positive engagement in sports and other youth activities.

Call to Action: Targeted Responsibilities

To achieve the necessary protection for all FSM youth, the Forum issues the following differentiated calls for action:

We urge youth, political, traditional leaders and development partners to prioritize awareness and advocate for legislative and institutional reforms to combat TFGBV:

1. Legal Review: Initiate legal review of existing legislations (such as Domestic Violence and Bullying laws) to identify and close gaps concerning technology-facilitated violence.
2. People approach: Advocate for good practices in schools, families, churches and communities.
3. Capacity and Funding: Dedicate national, regional, and international resources and funding for TFGBV awareness, prevention and response.
4. Working Group: Support the creation of an FSM youth Cybersafety working group to coordinate, collaborate and localize national efforts, including the key agencies:
 - Pohnpei State Attorney General's Office
 - Kosrae Youth Council

- Pohnpei State Department of Health & Social Services
- Chuuk Youth Council
- Pohnpei Youth Council
- Yap youth

Call to Action: The General Public
 We call upon parents, guardians, the private sector, and the wider public to take immediate and protective action within their families and communities:

1. Parental Supervision: Exercise greater parental supervision of minors' use of technology (Digital Parenting).
2. Digital Literacy: Actively participate in and support digital literacy campaigns focused on body-righting and responsible digital citizenship.
3. Awareness Campaigns: Support the youth-led initiatives, including youth video campaigns, social media outreach, and community outreach.
4. Risk Reduction: Promote sports or youth gatherings as a means of positive engagement and risk reduction for young people.



Vice President Palik delivers special remarks at the opening of the 2025 American College of Trial Lawyers workshop for judicial officers and lawyers

FSM Information Services

November 4, 2025

Kolonia, Pohnpei – The Honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik attended the opening of the 2025 American College of Trial Lawyers Trial Practice Training, where he delivered special remarks to participants. The event, hosted by the Pacific Judicial Council, brought together legal practitioners from across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Pacific region. This year's training focuses on strengthening trial advocacy skills and promoting excellence in the administration of justice.

In his address, Vice President Palik

cited Article XIII, Section 3 of the FSM Constitution, which states that "it is the solemn obligation of the nation and state governments to uphold the provisions of this Constitution and to advance the principles of UNITY upon which this Constitution is founded."

"Unity is our strength, and without it, peace, security, and economic prosperity would be impossible," the Vice President emphasized, reiterating one of the core principles and priorities of the Simina-Palik administration, to promote unity across the nation.

Vice President Palik further called for unity not only among the state governments but also across the three

branches of government. He noted, "The Supreme Court promotes national cohesion by resolving disputes in a manner that respects tradition, culture, and the common good. It brings a stabilizing force that complements the actions of the other political branches of government within the bounds of the Constitution. In doing so, the Court affirms that unity is best achieved through complementing each other's constitutional roles and through consistent and thoughtful application of justice."

The Simina-Palik administration commends the training and its participants, recognizing their vital role in the administration of justice

and in the broader task of nation-building, particularly in strengthening public trust in democratic institutions.



The Honorable Vice President Aren B. Palik attends the 14th Meeting of the Conference of Leaders of the Pacific Community

FSM Information Services

November 7, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), led a country delegation to the 14th Meeting of the Conference of Leaders of the Pacific Community (SPC), held on October 17, 2025, in the Kingdom of Tonga. The Conference was chaired by His Royal Highness Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala, the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Tonga and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Pacific Community (SPC), founded in 1947 with headquarters in Nouméa, New Caledonia, is the region's longest-serving scientific and technical organization, with 27 member countries and territories. The FSM has been a full member since 1983, and in 2006 established the SPC Micronesia Regional Office in Pohnpei under the leadership of former Director-General Ms. Lourdes Pangelinan of Guam.

SPC remains the principal scientific and technical organization in the Pacific, supporting development goals across the region. Its multidisciplinary approach addresses complex development challenges, including climate resilience, natural resources, food systems, equity, education and social development, sustainable economies, health, and strengthening institutional effectiveness.

Under the theme "Pasifiki: Rooted in Heritage, Honoring the Past, United for a Resilient Future," the 14th high-level Conference brought together heads of governments and administrations, ministers, and officials to review SPC's work, share regional priorities, and set the strategic direction of the organization for the years ahead.

In the spirit of Pacific regionalism and solidarity, Vice President Palik stated, "What makes SPC unique from other regional organizations is its UNIVERSALITY – where every island nation, large or small and at whatever stage of political

development, has a place and a voice." Commending SPC for its strategic establishment of regional offices in Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia, Vice President Palik acknowledged the variety of assistance provided through the SPC Micronesia Regional Office located in Pohnpei and headed by Mr. William Kostka. Among others, these include valuable technical assistance and support in the areas of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Human Rights and Social Development, Pacific People Advancing Change, Enhancing Direct Access to the Green Climate Fund, support to the Health Sector, Sustainable Energy, and assistance toward the development of the FSM Strategic Development Plan.

Notable outcomes of the Conference included the appointment of Dr. Paula Vivili of Tonga as the new Director-General of SPC, and the endorsement for the FSM to host the 15th Conference in Pohnpei in 2027.

As this was his first visit to the Kingdom of Tonga, Vice President Palik paid a courtesy call on the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Taniela Likuohihifo Fusimalohi, as well as a special audience with His Royal Highness Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala. On both occasions, the Vice President reaffirmed the FSM's continued support of the Pacific Community, highlighting the shared role of FSM and Tonga as hosts of major SPC Regional Offices in their respective subregions. The Vice President also met with outgoing SPC Director-General Stuart Minchin to reflect on SPC's current operational performance and expressed his appreciation for his successful six-year tenure of service to the Pacific Community and the Pacific region.

Vice President Palik was accompanied by the Honorable Governor of Pohnpei State, Stevenson A. Joseph, Second Lady Adelita Palik, and officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

As the FSM prepares to host the next Conference of Leaders in 2027, the Government looks forward to welcoming SPC members to Pohnpei and continuing efforts toward a stronger, more resilient Pacific future.



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President Simina honors FSM veterans at Veterans Day commemoration

FSM Information Services

Sokehs, Pohnpei — President Wesley W. Simina delivered remarks today at the Veterans Day commemoration hosted by the US Veterans Of Pohnpei Association at AA Getaway in Pohnpei. The ceremony brought together veterans, their families, government officials, and members of the diplomatic corps to honor the service and sacrifice of FSM citizens who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

President Simina noted that Veterans Day is a solemn moment for the nation to reflect on the courage, dedication, and resilience of Micronesians in uniform, and to acknowledge their contributions to peace and security both at home and abroad. He emphasized that the service of FSM veterans reflects the strength and unity of the nation.

In his remarks, the President expressed deep appreciation to veterans and their families, recognizing both the visible sacrifices made during service and the silent sacrifices endured at home.

“Thank you for your courage, for your sacrifices, and for the example you have set for all of us,” said President Simina. “You have manifested pride to your

families, your communities, and to our nation.”

President Simina highlighted several ongoing initiatives of the FSM Government to support veterans, including:

- Reviewing measures to waive the five-year citizenship residency requirement for veterans who renounced their FSM citizenship in connection with U.S. military service.
- Working with MiCare on a veteran-specific healthcare plan in the absence of a VA presence in the FSM.
- Supporting efforts that resulted in provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2026 requiring the VA to provide services to citizens of Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations, including Telehealth, Mail Order Pharmacy, and Beneficiary Travel.

The President reaffirmed that the FSM Office of Veterans Affairs, the FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C., and advocacy partners continue to work to expand and strengthen support systems for FSM veterans.

The President concluded by calling on all citizens to continue honoring veterans not only through words, but through actions that uphold unity, peace, and the values they served to protect.



President Simina and Vice President Palik receive courtesy visit from SPREP

FSM Information Services

November 5, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — President Wesley W. Simina and Vice President Aren B. Palik received a courtesy visit from a delegation from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP (SPREP), led by Deputy Director General Ms. Easter Chu Shing, at the President’s Office in Palikir.

Discussions focused on shared priorities in safeguarding the environment, addressing the impacts of climate change, and deepening cooperation between the FSM and SPREP. President Simina expressed his appreciation for SPREP’s ongoing support and acknowledged the importance of continued collaboration

in addressing pollution and environmental challenges, including the recent oil spill.

Vice President Palik thanked Deputy Director Chu Shing and her delegation for their visit and acknowledged the significance of the newly established SPREP North Pacific Subregional Office in Majuro, noting that it will support stronger and more consistent engagement moving forward.

Ms. Chu Shing thanked the FSM for its continued support of SPREP and expressed her appreciation to both the President and Vice President for the opportunity to hold open discussions on shared areas of interest.

The FSM stands committed to working in close partnership with SPREP to safeguard the environment and strengthen resilience across its islands and communities.



President Simina and Vice President Palik receive Committee to Wait after Second Special Session opening

FSM Information Services

November 11, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — President Wesley W. Simina and Vice President Aren B. Palik received the Committee to Wait on the President following the opening of the Second Special Session of the 24th FSM Congress. The meeting, held at the President's Office in Palikir, included key members of Congress and Cabinet officials.

The Committee was chaired by T.H. Senator Yoslyn G. Sigrah, with members T.H. Senator Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, T.H. Senator Perpetua S. Konman, and T.H. Senator Andy Choor.

President Simina expressed his appreciation to Congress for responding to his call for a Special Session, noting that cooperation between the Executive and Legislative branches is essential for addressing urgent national priorities and ensuring continuity of government services.

Discussions focused on priority legislative and budgetary matters, including the allocation of \$7 million in unspent Compact funds, pending nominations and grants, and pressing national budget issues. The importance of strengthening connectivity under the Pacific Connect Project was also discussed, reflecting ongoing efforts to expand and secure national communication infrastructure.

The administration also provided updates on the ongoing oil spill emergency and national cybersecurity initiatives. The Government is currently looking into deploying marine experts to assess the spill and provide guidance on appropriate response measures. Congress acknowledged the President's emergency declaration regarding the oil spill and expressed awareness of related concerns, including recent water inundation issues circulating on social media.

Vice President Palik reiterated the importance of the cybersecurity bills currently pending before Congress, emphasizing their role in strengthening national security and empowering government agencies to respond effectively to emerging digital threats.

The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to cooperation, open communication, and the advancement of national priorities, including coordinated responses to emergencies and continued efforts to safeguard the well-being of communities across the Federated States of Micronesia.



Pacific islands bring action on ocean acidification to COP30 through powerful short film

Ocean Alliance

November 10, 2025

Belem, Brazil - Pacific Island nations are taking center stage at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Meeting COP30 with the premiere of "Changing Waters: Time for Action on Ocean Acidification," a short film that showcases how Fiji and the broader Pacific Island region are leading global efforts to address one of climate change's invisible threats.

The short film "Changing Waters: Time for Action on Ocean Acidification," produced by the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance) and LUMA Studio, will premiere at the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion on November 17 at 5 pm, with a virtual screening available through the Virtual Ocean Pavilion on November 19 at 12 pm, Belém time.

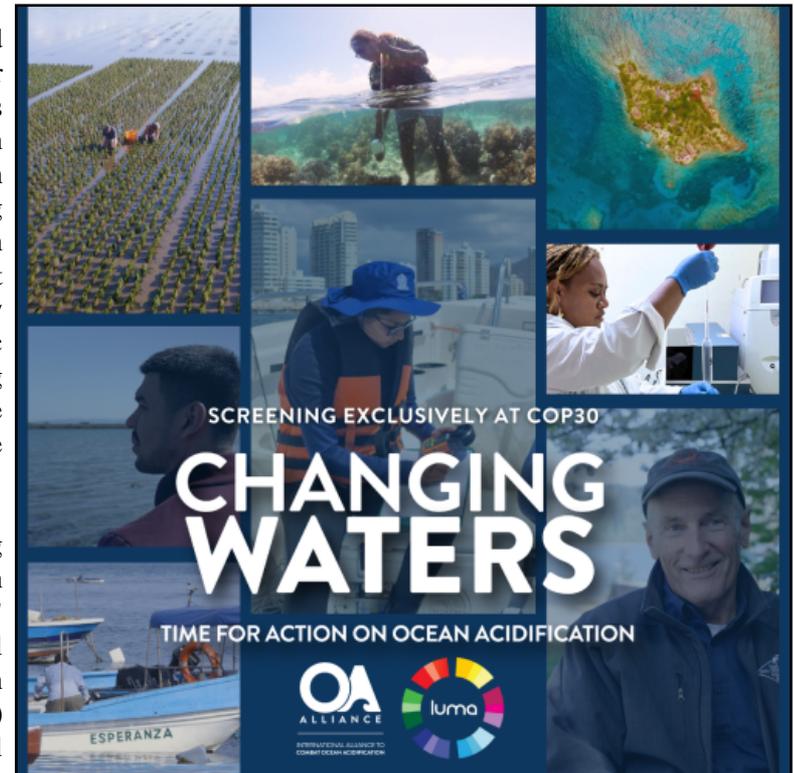
Ocean acidification – caused by the ocean absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere – may affect Pacific coral reefs, shellfish, fisheries, and the livelihoods of those who depend on healthy ocean ecosystems for food security, storm protection, and income.

Yet as the film reveals, Pacific Island communities are not just witnessing these changes; they are pioneering solutions that combine local science with local practice.

Filmed in Fiji, Colombia, and Washington State, "Changing Waters: A Time for Action on Ocean Acidification" uses personal storytelling and on-the-ground projects to highlight ocean acidification science and policy leadership around the world.

The Fiji segment showcases how island nations are advancing local monitoring, ecosystem restoration, and policy advocacy - demonstrating how applied ocean acidification science can be integrated across broader climate policy.

From traditional ecological knowledge to ocean monitoring networks, Pacific Island nations have become a model for integrating local expertise with scientific research and domestic policies.



Ocean acidification is a consequence of carbon emissions, and addressing it is central to global climate action, marine governance, and equity. Yet, many regions around the world still lack scientific, policy, and financing support in responding to acidification at the local level.

FEATURING

- Katy Soapi - Coordinator of Partnership and Engagement, Pacific Community
- Ambassador Filipo Tarakinikini - Permanent Representative to the UN, Fiji Government

HOW TO WATCH

- In-person premiere: Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion, November 17 at 5 pm - Belém time
- Virtual premiere: Virtual Ocean Pavilion, November 19 at 12 pm - Belém time
Register: [LINK](#)
- We are also offering journalists a private viewing link: Simply reply to this email and we'll share the access with you.

Empowering inclusion in the FSM

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

November 7, 2025

Pohnpei - Ambassador Grant and Senior Program Manager Kathleen Kostka were happy to attend the

successful launch of the Australian Government funded Unlock Healthy Learning in the Pacific program in the FSM, an important initiative to improve access to assistive technology (AT) for disability across the FSM.



"Ensuring everyone has access to the devices and tools they need to participate fully in the community is key to building an inclusive FSM and Australia is honoured to support that," said Ambassador Grant.

The program, implemented in partnership with ATScale and UNICEF will provide school-aged children in the FSM access to hearing aids, wheelchairs, and digital tools which will ensure that everyone regardless of ability, can learn, work, and participate fully in their communities.



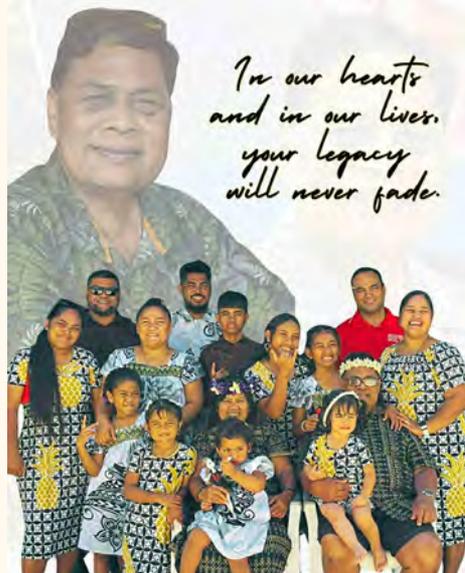
Pohnpei Lt. Governor Movick said that "There is nothing more satisfying that to see that everyone is accorded the same opportunities available and that sense of belonging is important to anyone".

Australia is proud to support FSM along with Pacific partners in building more inclusive systems that promote dignity, independence and opportunity for all.

Iheng oh Kaselehlie. On behalf of our mother, Herlinsen Habuchmai, and our entire family, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who supported us during the passing of our beloved father, Joseph J. Habuchmai. Your prayers, kindness, and compassion brought us comfort during one of the most challenging times of our lives.

We extend our profound gratitude to the Honorable Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and the Honorable Lt. Governor Herloyn S. Movick of the Pohnpei State Government; the Honorable Governor Francis Itimai of the Yap State Government, and members of the Yap State Legislature for their contribution and support in helping make the funeral arrangements proper and respectful. Your leadership and care allowed the ceremony to reflect fully the life, service, and character of the man we loved so dearly.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the traditional leaders of this land, to the Pohnpei State Legislature, and to its Speaker, Hon. Marvin T. Yamaguchi, for honoring our father's lifelong service to the people of Pohnpei through his dedicated years at the College of Micronesia-FSM. We also sincerely thank the members of the FSM 24th Congress, under the leadership of Speaker Esmond B. Moses and His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia for recognizing his life and contributions. Our father had profound respect for your leadership, and it would have meant a great deal to him to know that the nation honored his memory. Furthermore, we gratefully acknowledge the Honorable Andy Choor, Yap Congressman, and Speaker Nicholas Figirlaarwon of the Yap State Legislature for their solidarity, support, and thoughtful recognition.



unwavering support. To our family, your gesture will always be remembered as a meaningful expression of compassion and dignity in this time of loss.

We also offer a special thank you to Mr. Bill Jaynes, whose thoughtful publication of our father's story and tribute during the month of his passing helped share his legacy with the wider community here in the FSM. We are truly grateful for the respect and care he demonstrated in honoring our father's memory.

We further express our heartfelt appreciation to the St. Peter's Congregation, where our father faithfully worshiped for many years and supported church activities, including fundraising efforts that strengthened the congregation. Your kindness in providing a venue for the memorial service and surrounding our family with warmth and care means more to us than words can express.

We are deeply thankful to everyone in our community and abroad who contributed to the planning and logistics of both the memorial and the burial service. Your dedication ensured every detail was carefully prepared, allowing family, friends, and the community to gather and honor him together.

Though we cannot thank everyone individually, please know that every gesture, every tribute, and every kind word has strengthened our hearts and reminded us of the love that surrounds us here in the FSM.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS — THANK YOU. Our father would have been proud and grateful, as he always said in all his messages, "STAY STRONG AND HEALTHY. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR LOVELY

FAMILIES. ADIOS."

With love and appreciation,

Joesen Habuchmai
For the Family of Joseph J. Habuchmai

Our deep gratitude goes to the College of Micronesia-FSM for its

Pacific Island States unite in Suva to advance environmental rights in the region

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

November 4, 2025

Suva, Fiji - Representatives from across the Pacific gathered this week at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) for the first-ever Regional Consultation on Environmental Rights, held on the invitation of the Government of Vanuatu, marking a historic step toward strengthening the legal and policy recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment across the Blue Pacific Continent.

Hosted by PIFS with the support of UNESCAP, UNEP, OHCHR, and the Pacific Community (SPC), the two-day consultation brought together government representatives from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, alongside regional organizations, civil society, and legal experts.

Vanuatu's Attorney-General, Angelyne Glenda D. Roy, officially opened the consultation, emphasizing that this regional dialogue represents "a pivotal moment for the Pacific to translate global legal progress into concrete regional action."

"The recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment by the UN General Assembly in 2022, and more recently by the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, calls for both reflection and action within our own Pacific context," she said.

Fiji's Solicitor-General, Mr. Ropate Green, welcomed delegates on behalf of the host country, reaffirming Fiji's commitment to advancing environmental rights both nationally and regionally.

"Together, we can ensure that the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is not only recognised in principle, but realised in practice for every Pacific Islander," he said.

Ms. Virginia Dawson, Director of Policy at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, reiterated the importance



of developing practical modalities for concrete action to ensure environmental rights are recognised and implemented across the region. She emphasised that PIFS stands ready to support its members in advancing this shared commitment.

Delivering the keynote address, Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, Vanuatu's Minister of Climate Change, highlighted the significance of the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, delivered in July 2025, which affirmed States' binding obligations to prevent environmental harm and protect the rights of present and future generations.

"For the Pacific, these are not abstract achievements — they are hard-won victories, born of our region's persistent advocacy for climate justice," said Minister Regenvanu. "Now, the Pacific must define how we operationalize these obligations in ways that reflect our unique context, values, and customary systems of governance."

Over the two-day program, participants explored how environmental rights can contribute to achieving the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, examining their links with customary governance, and identifying the most effective pathways to accelerate progress — at the domestic and regional levels.

The consultation builds on the Pacific's leadership in global climate justice and represents the first regional step toward embedding environmental rights in the region's laws and policies.

As Minister Regenvanu concluded, "Protecting the environment is not optional; it is both a legal duty and a moral imperative — one that lies at the heart of who we are as Pacific peoples."

Pohnpei businesses adopt RMS for faster, paperless tax returns

Central Implementation Unit

FSM Department of Finance and Administration

October 13, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — The Department of Finance & Administration (DoFA), Customs & Tax Administration (CTA)

delivered a three-day, hands-on workshop to help employers and small businesses learn how to file their returns using the new Revenue Management System (RMS). Sessions ran October 14–16, 2025 (9:00am–4:00pm) at the Pohnpei State Hospital Conference Room (Director's Building, First Floor), with participants rotating through identical training days.

Designed for staff and small businesses who handle payroll and tax filing, the workshop walked participants through user management (assignees and roles), employee withholding, Gross Receipts Tax (GRT), return verification and submission, and concluded with one-on-one assistance for those ready to submit their Q3 2025 returns on the spot. Attendees brought laptops and supporting documents to practice live in the RMS.

Randy Sue, Assistant Secretary, FSM Customs & Tax Administration (CTA), said the training is part of CTA's commitment to make filing faster and fairer for everyone:

"RMS is a practical upgrade that saves people time. You can register, file, pay, and see your records online—at your convenience. These workshops are about building confidence: showing taxpayers exactly what to click, how to verify, and how to submit correctly the first time. We're pairing the new system with in-person outreach so businesses of every size can move from paper to digital without stress. Our aim is simple—less queuing, fewer errors, and better service."

Citizens' experience at the workshop

Parleene H. Tom, a local shop administrator, said the practical format helped her get set up and confident: "It's a very friendly system. I received my temporary username and password,



logged in, and could tell it's simple to use. I'm busy during the day, so this will let me submit my tax at night from home."

Jessica Sicra, who runs a small mom-and-pop store with four employees, said the training clarified what small businesses need to go digital:

"We've always filed on time to avoid penalties. We still do everything manual and don't use laptops—but now I know exactly what I need to get started."

For larger employers, the move to RMS means fewer paper processes. Allston Abraham of an energy company welcomed the shift and credited CTA's outreach with getting his team over the line:

"Going paperless will help us. The presentation was engaging and very useful. CTA actually visited our office two weeks ago, and that was the trigger—we came to the workshop, logged in together, and now we feel comfortable using the system to file. It makes the whole process clearer and quicker."

Why this matters

Through RMS, taxpayers can register, file, pay, and view their own records online, reducing queues and routine trips while improving accuracy and compliance. The training complements CTA's phased roll-out of online services and supports a smoother filing period for both small enterprises and larger employers across FSM.

Strengthening Water Security in Piis Panue: IOM and US Government handover four new water points

International Organization for Migration

November 4, 2025

Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia – On Wednesday, 5 November 2025, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Piis Panue community and the Disaster Coordination Office (DCO), and with support from the United States Government, officially handed over four new water points to the community of Piis Panue, Chuuk Lagoon.



The newly installed water tanks, with a total storage capacity of 12,000 gallons, will serve as a vital collection point, providing reliable access to safe water for the islands 800 residents. This initiative marks a significant step toward strengthening the island’s resilience to water insecurity, especially during dry seasons and in the face of disasters such as typhoons or king tides.

years to come. We hope to replicate this collaborative effort as IOM continues its work across other target locations,” he added.

Supported by both the US Government, the IMPACT project is guided by extensive community consultations to identify the unique needs of outer island communities and ensuring that each interventions is tailored to address these needs. This initiative underscores that collaboration



with community members not only fosters a strong sense of ownership but also enhances the potential for project scalability across the FSM.

The installation was achieved through close collaboration between IOM and community members, who actively participated in every stage of the initiative, including supporting logistics and construction.

During the handover ceremony, Piis Panue Mayor, Larry Nereo, expressed his gratitude for the newly installed water points stating this was a pressing need within the community. Stephen Kama, DCO Emergency Operation Coordinator, echoed his sentiments noting, “These water collection points will address critical water needs, especially when resources are scarce during the dry season. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with IOM and the US Government to continue to implement practical resilience building solutions for communities, particularly for those in vulnerable situations,” he said.

IOM’s Head of Sub-office, Lee Arkhie Perez, underlined the critical need for access to water, especially in more remote locations saying, “Access to safe and reliable water is fundamental to community well-being and resilience.”

He also commended the proactive role of the Piis Panue residents. “They have demonstrated true ownership and willingness to sustain the water points for

Challenging narratives: Media training in Palau guides ethical reporting practices

International Organization for Migration

November 17, 2025

Koror, Palau –Media professionals and key government officials convened Friday (14 November 2025) in Koror for an interactive training session aimed at enhancing fair and ethical communications and media reporting on migration. Organized with support from the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Development Fund, this event follows a workshop held recently to validate Palau’s draft National Migration Policy.

Negative narratives about migrants and migration can have lasting, adverse impacts on the lives and livelihoods of migrants. They can lead to exclusionary practices such as discrimination and xenophobia.

With Palau’s policy development phase now complete, the training challenged practitioners to examine critical narratives surrounding migration and to adopt reporting practices that protect the rights and dignity of migrants. Further, it

aimed to promote discussions on how the media impacts social perceptions of migrants, strengthen ethical communication, and ensure evidence-based reporting.

The training was led by experts from IOM’s Global Migration and Media Academy, a free learning platform offering tailored courses for media and communication professionals on migration-related issues.

Wandalynn T. Remeliik, Chief Division of Employment Services of the Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism and Development remarked “As Palau strengthens its approach to managing migration, the role of the media becomes more important than ever. Ethical and informed reporting helps our communities understand the realities of migration and supports a more inclusive society. Thanks to our partnership with IOM, we are able to equip our media professionals with the skills to tell these stories responsibly and with respect for the people behind them.”

Yohan Senarath, IOM’s Sub-office Head



commented “Migration is ultimately about people – their hopes, their challenges, their movement and their contribution to our shared future. The media plays a crucial role in shaping how these stories are understood. Through this training, we hope to empower Palau’s journalists with tools to report accurately, ethically, and with dignity.”

This training marks a significant step forward in promoting ethical journalism and inclusive narratives about migration in Palau. IOM is committed to continued collaboration with the Government of Palau and its partners to strengthen the country’s capacity to communicate about migration issues accurately and in a manner that upholds their dignity.

Opinion Editorial

Europe and the Indo-Pacific: Partners for a resilient future

*H.E. Barbara Plinkert
The Ambassador of the European
Union to the Pacific*

Europe and the Indo-Pacific find their futures increasingly interlinked in a world marked by geopolitical shifts, economic uncertainty, and intensifying strategic competition. Challenges ranging from growing pressure on the multilateral system intensified by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, to the weaponisation of trade and technology, and the accelerating climate crisis, are not dividing our regions. They bring us closer together. There is a greater need than ever for collective action to effectively address these common challenges.

When the European Union launched its Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific in September 2021, the world looked different. Four years on, the Strategy has become the backbone of a stronger, more engaged European presence in the region. The 4th EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels on 20-21 November is focusing on our cooperation to support our joint stability, prosperity and sustainability, while upholding international law, open trade and shared values. Ten Pacific countries will be represented at the Forum (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu).

Within the Forum, the EU High Representative/Vice-President will convene a high-level event on the protection of critical maritime infrastructure. This underscores Europe's commitment to working with Indo-Pacific partners to safeguard vital sea lanes and undersea networks that underpin global stability and connectivity.

The EU is stepping up its contribution to the security of the Indo-Pacific through new security partnerships and regular security dialogues, including on hybrid threats. Cooperation in naval activities such as Operation ASPIDES and Operation ATALANTA, as well as initiatives such as Critical Maritime Routes in the Indo-Pacific (CRIMARIO) aim to ensure freedom of navigation and

promote maritime security from Europe to the Indo-Pacific through the Red Sea.

Trade agreements with Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, New Zealand, and Kenya have already deepened economic integration, while negotiations have concluded with Indonesia and are advancing with Australia, India, Thailand, the Philippines, among others.

The EU's Global Gateway initiative is delivering sustainable development with a focus on high-quality infrastructure, working hand in hand with partners in the region and involving the private sector as well as Team Europe. In the Pacific region, projects targeting climate change resilience management, digitalisation, renewable energy and sustainable economic growth are concrete examples of the EU's commitment to advancing on key priorities of the region.

Together, we are promoting a model of growth that is environmentally sustainable, inclusive, and climate resilient. The EU also shares the Indo-Pacific's ambition for a green and blue future. From supporting the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent to advancing Green Alliances with Japan, Kenya, Philippines, Republic of Korea and 15 Pacific Island countries as well as Just Energy Transition Partnerships with Indonesia, South Africa and Vietnam. Europe stands with Indo-Pacific nations in their efforts to build climate resilience, protect biodiversity, and achieve net zero by 2050.

Europe's engagement in the Indo-Pacific is not only about policies but also about people. Over 23,000 students and professionals have already benefited from EU-funded exchanges since 2021. The EU's cultural, educational, and health partnerships and Erasmus+ mobility and research collaboration are building the foundations of lasting friendship and trust between our societies.

In an increasingly fragmented and polarised geopolitical environment, building and consolidating partnerships that reduce our common vulnerabilities



and strengthen our mutual resilience are central pillars of the EU's vision and engagement in the world.

The EU and its 27 Member States have recently reaffirmed that the EU's strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific aims to uphold the multilateral system and the rules-based international order with full respect for international law, including the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea. Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries remains the cornerstone of a future stable and peaceful world. Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine is a stark reminder of the fundamental importance of standing up for international law together.

In an era of growing uncertainty, the EU and its Member States are reliable, long-term partners. The Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels this week will be another opportunity to deepen our cooperation and work together to turn today's challenges into opportunities for shared peace, resilience and prosperity.

Nuclear-armed states must de-nuclearise and take accountability for the past crimes - Pacific groups call on halt to future nuclear testing

Moruroa e Tātou

November 12, 2025

Pacific civil society organisations and movements across the region are condemning any plans by the United States administration to resume nuclear weapons testing, arguing that the move shows blatant disregard for the Pacific's historic calls to end nuclear harm and could increase and normalise a global arms race.

This response follows reports that the Trump administration has instructed conducting nuclear tests for the first time since 1992 – a decision that would shatter the accepted global moratorium and risk escalating a new nuclear arms race based on the failed policy of nuclear deterrence.

The collective of Pacific civil society groups and movements warn that renewed nuclear testing and ongoing threats by nuclear armed-states pose grave dangers to global peace, security, and the very survival of Pacific peoples, including those that continue to live with the ongoing consequences of past nuclear testing.

For the Pacific, this announcement and other signals from nuclear-armed states are not just an abstract geopolitical

debate. They represent a direct and existential threat that recalls the devastating legacy of the Cold War, when the United States, United Kingdom, and France used the region as a testing ground for over 315 nuclear weapons. These countries continue to deny, minimise and avoid accountability for their past crimes and how they have fundamentally changed the environment and health of Pacific communities, including future generations.

This is a time for the United States to demonstrate its commitment to our Pacific Zone of Peace by joining Pacific Island states who have ratified the Treaty of Prohibition for nuclear weapons (TPNW), and ratify the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, as it is the only state that has not done so. It's time for political diplomacy not nuclearization.

At the same time, Pacific civil society groups have strongly condemned Japan's ongoing release of treated nuclear wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi power plant into the Pacific Ocean. The nuclear waste dumping which began in August 2023, poses continuing environmental and health risks for the region.

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Opinion Editorial

...Nuclear

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The youth of the Pacific feel strongly, "that the recent announcement from US President Donald Trump to restart a nuclear testing program is disappointing, an overall unnecessary violence, and further compounds the insecurity us Marshallese youth feel about the future. As youth of a community that is still dealing with the effects of nuclear weapons testing done in the 1940s and 50s, and of the broader Pacific community still seeking truth and justice, this decision is a threat to the physical and environmental health of indigenous people and proof that nuclear deterrence is a false logic for global security." - Marshall Islands Students Association (MISA4ThePacific).

"We carry the legacy of our elders' resilience and the responsibility to protect our islands for generations to come. We reject this proposal in the strongest possible terms. Our voices rise not only in resistance, but in hope for a future where our people, our lands, and our ocean can finally live free from the shadow of nuclear harm." - Jo Jikum from the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"French nuclear testing has forever devastated our health, environment and society in Mā'ohi Nui/French Polynesia. We are still grappling with the aftermath of these nuclear explosions that we experienced thirty years ago. For the sake of a healthy planet, we strongly condemn any new thoughts or attempts to restart nuclear testing." - Moruroa E Tātou (MET) from Mā'ohi Nui/French Polynesia.

"We are also deeply concerned that routine Minuteman III missile tests from Vandenberg, including launches in February, May and now November 2025, continue to use the Northern Pacific Ocean and the waters of our island nations as a proving ground for nuclear-capable weapons. Treating our ocean as a target corridor for instruments of mass destruction is incompatible with the Pacific's vision of a nuclear-free, demilitarized Ocean of Peace and disregards the lived trauma and moral authority of communities who still bear the scars of nuclear testing." - Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC).

"We urge our Pacific Leaders and regional technical institutions to uphold the principles of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Rarotonga Treaty) and to ensure its operationalising must address legacy impacts, and emerging nuclear threats." - Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG).

We call on:

- The United States to publicly and permanently abandon any consideration of nuclear testing and to reaffirm its commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We also call on the U.S. to ratify the protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (known as the Treaty of Rarotonga), and sign and ratify the Treaty of Prohibition on nuclear weapons.

- The United States, France and the United Kingdom take full accountability for their previous nuclear testing in the Pacific, and immediately address the intergenerational health impacts due to the radioactive exposure and work towards environmental remediation.

- The international community to stand in solidarity with the Pacific and condemn any move that would undermine global peace and security.

- The Japanese Government to cease its nuclear waste dumping into the Pacific Ocean and revisit its Fukushima disposal plans in light of the recent Special Rapporteurs' statement.

The "Scars": A Legacy of crimes against the Pacific:

Between 1946 and 1996, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France used the Pacific Ocean as a laboratory for their nuclear weapons programs respectively, detonating over 300 nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. The consequences were catastrophic and are still felt today, resulting in numerous health issues in Pacific communities such as high rates of cancers, leukemia, birth defects, mental illnesses and fertility issues.

Key Locations of Testing:

- The Republic of the Marshall Islands: Bikini and Enewetak Atolls were the site of 67 major US nuclear tests. The most famous was the "Castle Bravo" test in 1954, a hydrogen bomb 1,000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. Its radioactive fallout blanketed inhabited atolls, causing immediate sickness and long-term health crises.

- Mā'ohi Nui (French-Occupied Polynesia): Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls were the site of 193 French nuclear tests. The French government long denied the health and environmental impacts, but evidence now shows widespread contamination and elevated rates of cancer among the local population.

- Kiribati: The United Kingdom conducted several tests on Kirimasi (Christmas) island, and the United States used it for a series of high-altitude detonations as part of Operation Dominic.

- Hawaiian Islands: The United States used Kalama Atoll (Johnston

Atoll) as a nuclear testing site from 1958 - 1975

- Australia: The British tested nuclear weapons in the Montebello Islands, Emu Field and Maralinga from 1952-1963

We stand united in our absolute rejection of any plans to resume nuclear testing, including ongoing nuclear pollution threats. This is not a political issue. It is a matter of human survival and fundamental justice. The world turned its back on the folly of nuclear testing for a reason.

Will COP30 be the turning point we need? Health Community calls on delegates to make lives and health central to climate talks

Climate and Health Alliance

Belém, 7 November 2025:- Ahead of the COP 30 climate summit, the health community is calling on all governments, led by developed countries, to honor responsibilities to support adaptation and climate action in developing countries, and to lead the transition away from fossil fuels in order to deliver clean air, saved lives, strong health systems, and sustainable economies.

"At COP30, national delegations must make people's lives, health, and well-being central to the outcome they deliver", said Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, representing more than 200 health organizations addressing climate change. "Delegates must strive to achieve a future where children breathe clean air, health systems are resilient, and communities no longer face the daily threat of floods, heatwaves, and pollution."

"To deal with the impacts of climate change already facing us, our governments must strengthen the systems on which people's health depends, such as water, food, energy, healthcare, and transport", said Miller. "Without investment in adaptation in every country, communities around the world will face injuries, illnesses, trauma and deaths that should have been prevented".

"However, recent climate disasters have laid bare the limits of adaptation", Miller continued. Hurricane Melissa has devastated Caribbean communities, destroyed hospitals and left thousands without clean water or electricity. South Asia has endured record-breaking floods, and heat, pushing temperatures beyond human survivability. Wildfires across Europe and North America have turned skies orange and choked emergency rooms with smoke. Under current climate commitments, this is only the beginning - temperatures will continue to rise, and the impacts will exceed our ability to adapt. These are not isolated crises; they are symptoms of an overheated planet."

"Human activity, primarily the extraction and burning of coal, oil, and gas, has already warmed our climate by 1.5°C since pre-industrial times. Based on current national policies we can expect to see warming nearly double by the end of this century. Every fraction of a degree intensifies the burden of disease, poverty, and displacement", added Miller.

The recent Global Climate and Health Alliance report, *Cradle to Grave: The Health Toll of Fossil Fuels and the Imperative for a Just Transition*, provides the most comprehensive global overview yet of the health harms caused by fossil fuels. The report examines impacts across the entire

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...COP30

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fossil fuel life cycle, from extraction to waste, and throughout the human life course, from pregnancy to old age

“When COP30 delegates leave Belém, success will be measured by the courage governments have demonstrated to act on what is already known: that fossil fuels are destroying people’s health from cradle to grave; and that delaying investment in adaptation and climate action will result in increasingly insurmountable impacts and costs”, concluded Miller. “To ignore these realities would be to betray both science and humanity.”

What to Expect on Health at COP30

“There are four areas in which progress at COP30 is key for people’s health”, said Jess Beagley, Policy Lead at the Global Climate and Health Alliance “The Global Goal on Adaptation (including finance and other adaptation support); the Just Transition Work Programme; addressing trust and conflicts of interest; and implementing the COP28 commitment to phase out fossil fuels.”

Adaptation

“Adaptation isn’t just seawalls and clinics, it’s people’s health, livelihoods and dignity - nutrition, water, safe homes, mental health, and resilient care”, said Beagley. “Most countries now acknowledge health in their climate plans - 91% of NDCs. COP30 must deliver concrete, trackable measures of adaptation, and must track whether the support developed countries are required to provide to developing countries is being delivered.”

“During COP30, governments must adopt indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) that include health across targets, and lock in means of implementation - finance, technology transfer and capacity”, added Beagley. “Successful outcomes on adaptation will be a litmus test for a successful COP30”.

Just Transition

“Climate policies can improve health, such as clean cooking, clean air, safer jobs, greener cities - or harm health if done badly for instance unsafe mining, pollution or lost livelihoods”, continued Beagley. “A just transition means every worker, family, and community

benefits from clean energy, food security and healthy environments. At COP30, governments must establish a robust institutional architecture for the Just Transition Work Programme that embeds health, gender, and social protection, and must adopt the proposed Belém Action Mechanism for a Global Just Transition (BAM), to coordinate implementation support, so that benefits such jobs, clean air, and food security are real and measurable.”

“These mechanisms must be underpinned by principles for just transitions that protect the right to health and a clean healthy sustainable environment, access to healthcare, and social protection, for all.”

Trust: Conflict-of-Interest Rules

Public trust in COP depends on tackling disinformation, and keeping health-harming industries from steering outcomes. Since the Paris Agreement was agreed at COP21, COPs have seen a growing presence of fossil fuel lobbyists. At COP29, the fossil fuel industry presence was again outsized (over 1,770 fossil lobbyists), larger than nearly all national delegations.

“This cannot continue. Public trust in COP depends on excluding fossil fuel influence and disinformation”, said Beagley. “The UNFCCC must institute a conflict of interest policy, including disclosing delegates’ affiliations and funding. COP host countries must commit to excluding representatives of polluting industries from their teams, bar sponsorships by these industries, and avoid hiring marketing and communications agencies that serve these industries. And participating countries themselves should rigorously vet their delegation members, to meet the same standards.”

Information Integrity is a focus for the COP30 Presidency, which has partnered with the UN and UNESCO to spearhead the Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change. Through Global Climate and Health Alliance’s Break the Fossil Influence initiative, health organizations are leading the way, by breaking ties with marketing and PR agencies that have fossil fuel clients, to withdraw their support for agencies that contribute to fossil fuel disinformation.

Addressing the Root Cause: Phasing Out Fossil Fuels

“At COP28 governments agreed to transition away from fossil fuels - a

commitment that now needs to be implemented”, said Beagley. “Over the coming days, governments must commit to halting the expansion of new coal, oil and gas projects and set binding timelines for phasing out those still operating, as part of developing a roadmap for global fossil fuel phase-out. That roadmap should ensure that wealthier, developed countries reduce emissions fastest, and provide finance for transitions in developing countries.”

“Countries and provinces that have

phased out fossil fuel use have seen almost immediate improvements in people’s health”, Beagley added. “Continued investment in fossil fuels is simply incompatible with both a livable climate and healthy populations. The \$1.3 trillion currently given in direct fossil fuel subsidies must be redirected toward clean, renewable energy and strengthening health and social infrastructure. Every dollar spent on fossil fuels is a dollar diverted from hospitals, schools, and adaptation efforts.”

Palau launches largest-ever reef fish life history study

The Nature Conservancy

November 6, 2025

Palau - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Micronesia and Polynesia in collaboration with Palau’s Bureau of Fisheries, Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) and Coral Reef Research Foundation (CRRF) are conducting the country’s largest-ever study on the life history of reef fish.



“This research is designed to close long-standing data gaps on the growth, lifespan, and reproductive patterns of Palau’s key finfish species,” said Dr. Alex Filous, Director of Sustainable Fisheries at TNC Micronesia and Polynesia. “By generating robust, locally grounded data, we aim to strengthen fisheries management and weave modern science more closely with Palauan traditional knowledge.”

For decades, Palau’s fisheries management relied on data from studies conducted in other parts of the Pacific. These were the best available resources at the time, but they often did not reflect the realities of Palau’s ecosystems. The new study, which began in 2023, changes that by using local data from local fish, ensuring stock assessments and management plans are grounded in Palauan science and experience.

Researchers from PICRC, CRRF, and TNC are sampling key reef fish species from across the country, recording their size and weight, and extracting otoliths (tiny inner ear bones that, like tree rings, reveal a fish’s age). They also examine reproductive organs to determine the size at which fish reach maturity. This data will help communities and authorities set more accurate size limits and protection measures for reef fish

populations.

Because of the scale of the work, the team is collaborating with experts from the University of Guam Marine Laboratory and Poseidon Fisheries in Honolulu to process thousands of otolith samples. The study has already strengthened partnerships between Palau’s leading research institutions and built local capacity by training Palauan researchers in otolith extraction and analysis, enabling future studies to be completed entirely in-country.

Early findings have already been shared with local fishing groups, including the Northern Reefs Fisheries Cooperative, Molengmes Fishers Cooperative, and Ngeremlengui State Fishers Group. “Fishers have waited years for this kind of information,” said Dean Kloulechad, Palau Fisheries Coordinator at TNC Micronesia & Polynesia. “It’s rewarding to finally be able to answer their questions and see their excitement when science confirms what they’ve always known and new information about the fish they did not know”

Once completed, the study’s results will be shared with communities, schools, and government agencies, providing new locally based biological data to guide sustainable management of Palau’s reef fisheries.

Federated States of Micronesia and the United Nations sign Country Implementation Plan (2025–2027)

United Nations Micronesia

November 5, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei - The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the United Nations signed the FSM–UN Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2025–2027 during the Joint Steering Committee meeting held in Palikir on November 5.



The CIP was signed by the Honorable Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lorin S. Robert, and United Nations Resident Coordinator Micronesia, Mr. Mamadou Kane, reaffirming the deep and enduring partnership between the FSM Government and the United Nations system to advance sustainable and inclusive development across the nation’s four states.



The CIP serves as a roadmap for how the UN system will collectively support FSM’s national priorities under the FSM Strategic Development Plan 2024–2043, in alignment with the Pacific UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

In his remarks, Resident Coordinator (RC) Kane described the new agreement as “a joint commitment to action—defining how the United Nations system will collectively support FSM’s national development priorities, ensuring that no one, and no island, is left behind.”

In his remarks, Secretary Robert added “the Plan reflects the realities of our island nation—where building climate resilience is not a choice but a necessity; where the active participation of youth, women, and vulnerable groups is essential to achieving sustainable transformation; and where strengthening institutional capacity remains vital to ensuring responsive governance. It is also a call to action: to ensure that our partnerships translate into tangible outcomes for our communities, and that our shared vision is matched by shared responsibility.”

The CIP is structured around four key pillars of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework—Planet, People,

Prosperity, and Peace—each reflecting FSM’s national vision of progress:

- **Planet:** Strengthening resilience to climate change and natural hazards, safeguarding ecosystems, and advancing disaster preparedness.
- **People:** Expanding equitable access to health, education, and social protection, with special focus on outer island and vulnerable communities.
- **Prosperity:** Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, digital innovation, and livelihoods that empower youth and women.
- **Peace:** Reinforcing good governance, human rights, and transparency to build trusted and accountable institutions.

FSM Cabinet Members, Government Officials, and Heads of UN agencies in the Federated States of Micronesia attended the Joint Steering Committee, representing the collective voice of the FSM Government and UN system. Their engagement reflects how collaboration is helping to deliver results under the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

RC Kane also emphasized the special role of FSM’s traditional communities in shaping sustainable development:

“Here in the Federated States of Micronesia—home to some of the world’s richest biodiversity, pristine oceans, and

vibrant island communities—we are reminded that this nation is not only on the frontline of global challenges, but also a guardian of the Earth’s natural heritage. The traditional knowledge and leadership of FSM’s people have safeguarded these lands and waters for generations. In many ways, they are the original custodians of sustainable development, showing how balance between people and planet can be lived every day.”

RC Kane added that the UN system in FSM stands not only as a partner in support, but as one ready to learn from local wisdom and governance rooted in tradition and community.

Secretary Robert explained that “The FSM–UN Country Implementation Plan (CIP) now before us represents a culmination of collaborative effort, national ownership, and strategic alignment. It reflects our collective ambition to advance the FSM’s development priorities in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Throughout the Joint Steering Committee, both co-chairs reaffirmed their shared responsibility to ensure that the CIP delivers tangible and measurable results through strong coordination, robust monitoring, and the active participation of communities, civil society, and traditional leaders.

“The signing of the CIP reflects both progress and renewal,” RC Kane concluded. “Guided by FSM’s leadership and anchored in solidarity, we can turn this shared vision into real change—strengthening the resilience of communities, protecting the natural treasures of these islands, and ensuring that every child in FSM inherits a future of dignity, opportunity, and hope.”

“As we move with the finalized and endorsed CIP, let us reaffirm our commitment to inclusive dialogue, mutual accountability, and principled cooperation. I am confident that through this process, we will strengthen the impact of UN support, elevate FSM’s voice in regional and global forums, and chart a path forward that is both ambitious and achievable.” said Secretary Robert.

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Australia supports FSM schools and provides scholarships

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

November 10, 2025

Pohnpei - Ambassador Grant joined the FSM Department of Education Principals Academy, which brought together leaders from across the education sector in the FSM to strengthen systems and institutions.

"By building leadership and fostering collaboration, we empower educators to guide students toward a brighter future," said Secretary of Education Gardenia Aisek.

Second Secretary Josh Critchley-Evans and Assistant Program Manager Roan Cabacungan also had the opportunity to present on



our Australia Awards Scholarships, highlighting opportunities for FSM citizens to study in Australia and the Pacific, contributing to future development of their communities.

If you are an FSM citizen and meet pre-requisites, we encourage you to consider applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship in Australia or the Pacific. Applications for our 2027 intake will open in February

2026

Australia is proud to continue providing educational opportunities to the future leaders of the FSM.

Palau breaks ground for humanitarian warehouse

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

November 5, 2025

Koror, Palau - When disasters strike, timing is everything. In Palau, where remote communities can be cut off by storms or sea conditions, having emergency supplies close at hand can make all the difference.

Today, the Government of the Republic of Palau broke ground on the new national humanitarian warehouse that will be managed by the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO). The warehouse is designed to support faster, nationally-led disaster response. Once completed, it will store essential supplies such as shelter kits, hygiene items, solar lights, kitchen sets and more, ready to be deployed as early as possible to those affected by disaster.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place within the margins of the 2nd Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers Meeting. The event was a powerful example of unity: Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch and Palau's government and traditional leaders, Pacific Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Management, Heads of Delegations, and development partners of the programme, all donned hard hats and took up shovels to break ground marking this milestone. Their participation underscored the collective spirit driving regional disaster interventions in the Pacific.

"This warehouse is part of our continued

effort to ensure disaster response teams in Palau are equipped to quickly help our people in times of disaster, without having to wait for supplies to arrive from overseas," said Vice President Oilouch, who is chairman of the Palau's National Emergency Committee. "By investing in preparedness and self-reliance, we ensure that help is available when our communities need it most, strengthening our resilience for the future."

The warehouse will be built under the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Program, an initiative implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) and funded by the Governments of Australia, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. It reflects a regional commitment to strengthening national disaster preparedness and response systems.

SPC's Deputy Director-General Science and Capability, Mr. Paula Vivili, said the warehouse will be the result of Pacific-led design and decision-making. "One of the most powerful aspects of this program is co-design. It ensures that Pacific countries like Palau are not just consulted but are leading the creation of systems that reflect local realities, strengths, and aspirations. This warehouse is a practical solution to a long-standing challenge, and it has been shaped by Palau's leadership and vision."



Executive Director of Palau's NEMO, Mr. Waymine Towai, welcomed the milestone as a sign of Palau's growing disaster readiness. "This warehouse has been a long-standing priority for Palau, and we are grateful to see this progress. It means we can act immediately, with supplies already in place and systems tailored to our needs," Director Towai stated. "It's about local leadership, timely action, and making sure no community is left behind when disaster strikes."

The PHWP also supports Palau's NEMO in preparedness and response with a strong focus on developing national capability in warehouse management systems. Through collaboration and localisation, PHWP complements national systems and empowers Pacific countries to manage humanitarian efforts effectively and independently.

First Assistant Secretary of Australia's

Humanitarian Division, Mr. Steve Scott, said the warehouse is a tangible example of regional cooperation. "Australia is proud to support Palau's efforts to strengthen its emergency preparedness. This warehouse will help ensure that Palau can respond quickly and effectively, with supplies already in place and ready to go in the hours before or immediately after a disaster – when supplies are most critical and can save lives."

Chief Executive Officer of New Zealand's National Emergency Management Office, Mr Dave Gawn, added, "New Zealand is committed to supporting Pacific-led solutions. The warehouse will give Palau the ability to act swiftly in times of crisis, and New Zealand, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is pleased to be a funder of a program that puts national leadership and community resilience at the centre."

Research leads innovation in climate-resilient crops for Samoa

University of the South Pacific

November 7, 2025

Samoa - Dr Leslie Toralba Ubaub, a Lecturer in the Discipline of Agriculture and Food Technology at The University of the South Pacific (USP) Samoa Campus, has been awarded the 2025 Vice-Chancellor and President's (VCP) Strategic Fund for Female Academics to advance her groundbreaking research on screening heat-tolerant tomato and capsicum varieties suited to Samoan conditions.

The grant provides Dr Ubaub with six months of teaching release time to focus on publishing and disseminating her research findings, which address one of the Pacific's most pressing agricultural challenges - the impact of climate change on crop production, pests, and diseases.

"This grant is both a privilege and a sacrifice," said Dr Ubaub. "It gives me the opportunity to focus on writing and sharing research that can help improve food security in Samoa, while also recognising the important role of women balancing teaching, research, and family responsibilities."

Her research builds on two major projects funded under the Pacific Agriculture Scholarships, Support and Climate Resilience (PASS-CR) programme through ACIAR, and

the PEGASUS 'Take-It-Further' Project under the Future Earth Organisation, funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

The research evaluates heat-tolerant tomato and capsicum lines developed by the World Vegetable Center in Taiwan, assessing their suitability to Samoan growing conditions in partnership with Sunshine Pacific Ltd. The work aims to address the limited availability of quality, locally produced planting materials, which have long hindered vegetable production and led to high import dependence.

"Developing locally adaptable, open-pollinated varieties will ensure that farmers have access to affordable, reliable seeds and reduce reliance on costly hybrid imports," Dr Ubaub explained.

Key aspects of her research include:

1. How shifting weather patterns affect the yield and quality of vegetable crops in Samoa.
2. Analysing changes in pest populations and disease outbreaks under varying climatic conditions.
3. Exploring how local farmers understand and respond to climate-related challenges.
4. Identifying sustainable, climate-resilient approaches to safeguard vegetable production.

A passionate entomologist and beekeeper, Dr Ubaub first explored the intersection of climate change and entomology through her 2023 Future Thinker's Award project, which examined the effects of extreme temperatures on pollinators and plant reproduction. With continued support through subsequent grants, her work has evolved into a comprehensive study linking pollination, pest management, and heat tolerance in vegetables.

From the 10 tomato and 12 capsicum lines initially screened, five promising heat-tolerant lines have been selected and are currently being evaluated in farmers' fields.

The findings will guide the next phase - mass production and distribution of open-pollinated seeds by USP's Discipline of Agriculture and Food Technology, in collaboration with Sunshine Pacific Ltd.

Through these projects, Dr Ubaub has expanded her professional network, collaborating with leading agricultural scientists, including Professor Daniel Tan (University of Sydney) and Drs Derek Barchenger and Assaf Eybishitz (World Vegetable Center, Taiwan).

The research has also supported capacity building at USP, involving laboratory technician and Master's student Michael Sefilino, along with several student interns.

The University of the South Pacific continues to strengthen its leadership in applied agricultural research through initiatives such as Dr Ubaub's, which align with USP's mission to promote innovation, resilience, and sustainable livelihoods in Pacific communities.

Beyond scientific trials, Dr Ubaub's project places strong emphasis on community engagement. Local farmers in Samoa have been active partners in field evaluations, sharing traditional knowledge and insights into how weather patterns, pests, and soil conditions affect their crops. This collaborative approach ensures that research outcomes are not only academically robust but also practical and immediately beneficial to farming communities.

"The pandemic highlighted how critical local food production is for island nations," said Dr Ubaub. "This research is a step towards ensuring that Samoan farmers have access to seeds that are affordable, available, and resilient to climate change."

Dr Ubaub's recognition through the VCP Strategic Fund also highlights USP's ongoing efforts to empower women researchers in science and technology. By providing dedicated support and mentorship, the initiative enables women academics to lead high-impact research and inspire the next generation of Pacific scientists.

The project has also provided valuable hands-on learning opportunities for USP students, particularly those pursuing agriculture and environmental science. Through laboratory work, data collection, and field trials, students have gained exposure to applied research methods - strengthening the University's role in cultivating future leaders in agricultural innovation.

The next phase of the project will focus on expanding field trials to different agro-climatic zones across Samoa and neighbouring Pacific Islands. Dr Ubaub and her team also plan to work closely with local seed producers and government agricultural agencies to establish a sustainable system for community-based seed multiplication and distribution.

