

Vice President Palik joins 74th Operation Christmas Drop, strengthening Pacific ties

FSM Information Services

December 19, 2025

Anderson Air Force Base, Guam – Vice President Aren B. Palik joined the 2025 Operation Christmas Drop (OCD) Push Ceremony in Guam on December 8, 2025, marking its 74th celebration since its inception over the Micronesian skies.

The operation is a tradition that began during the Christmas season in 1952, when a B-29 Superfortress aircrew saw islanders waving at them from the island of Kapingamarangi in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). In the spirit of Christmas, the aircrew dropped a bundle of supplies attached to a parachute

Click here for continuation



United States donates ambulance to FSM, strengthening emergency response

Embassy of the United States to the FSM

December 17, 2025

Pohnpei — On December 17, the U.S. government handed over a new ambulance and related medical supplies, valued at nearly half a million dollars, to the government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), reaffirming the United States' enduring commitment to the health and well-being of the Micronesian people.

Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, together with representatives

from Airport Rescue and Firefighting and the Pohnpei Port Authority, accepted the emergency vehicle and related medical supplies on behalf of the government of FSM. Their participation highlights the importance of this donation to FSM's ongoing efforts to strengthen its health and emergency response systems.

"This ambulance will help first responders act more quickly and effectively to manage emergencies, save lives, and improve health services across the islands," said U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson. "Through the Compact of Free Association, the United States is committed to supporting FSM's health sector and ensuring communities have access to life-saving services."

Click here for continuation



**Ramp & Mida
Law Firm**

Providing sound legal advice based on experience and local knowledge. <https://rampmida.fm>



Insurance • Logistics • Shipping

WWW.OICMICRONESIA.FM

Official approval of the FSM Friendship Sports Exchange Program

By: *Ringlen Wolphagen & Coach Keisuke Takano*

Kolonia, Pohnpei – December 2025 – The Yokohama International Tennis Community (YITC) has officially approved a new Friendship Sports Exchange Program with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), marking a significant milestone in international sports cooperation and cultural exchange.

Initial discussions began in October 2025 between the YITC and the Pohnpei State Tennis Association (PSTA), represented by Mr. Kazuhiro Fujita, President of the PSTA and Treasurer of the FSM Lawn Tennis Association and Ambassador John Fritz of the FSM Embassy in Japan.

Following these talks, a formal proposal was submitted to the YITC in December 2025 and subsequently received approval from the YITC Board of Directors.

The program will launch an exchange of donated tennis goods which will be

distributed not only to Pohnpei but will also be extended to other FSM states as well.

Looking ahead, the initiative envisions opportunities for children from both countries to visit each other, participate in friendly tennis matches and promote international exchange through sports. The program also aims to revitalize sports tourism between the FSM and the City of Yokohama.

Yokohama holds a special place in tennis history as the birthplace of lawn tennis in Japan. It is also a member of the Centenary Tennis Clubs (CTC), an association of historic tennis clubs worldwide with more than a century of tradition in fostering goodwill and promoting the sport of lawn tennis globally. YITC, the oldest tennis club in Japan, continues to honor and preserve its long-standing traditions as a non-profit organization dedicated to international friendship through tennis.

This partnership represents a new chapter in strengthening ties between FSM and Japan, while creating opportunities for youth development, cultural exchange and tourism growth.



IOM Chief of Mission visits Ambassador Kagomiya

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

December 18, 2025

Pohnpei - On December 10, 2025, Ambassador Kagomiya received a courtesy call from Ms. Ewa Naqvi, Chief of Mission of International Organization for Migration (IOM) Micronesia. Ms. Naqvi is based in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), overseeing the five countries of the Micronesia region: FSM, Palau, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati.

Ambassador Kagomiya and Ms. Naqvi exchanged views on the Climate Resilient Community Water Services in the North Pacific Project, funded by the Government of Japan, and implemented by IOM and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and of the assistance provided to Uman island following the oil leak from a sunken ship in Chuuk lagoon. Ambassador Kagomiya and Ms. Naqvi also reaffirmed their commitment for Japan and IOM to continue providing assistance to the FSM.




the Village Travel
Serving the Islands and abroad since 1980!
Providing your domestic and international flight arrangements

Call us now for your next trip
Tel: (691) 320-2777
921-2777
Fax: (691) 320-5375
email: villagetravel@mail.fm
Villagetravel2@gmail.com
P.O Box 339
Pohnpei, FM 96941
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

The Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

P.O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941
phone: (691) 320-6547
email: Kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON:
January 14, 2026

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:
Monday, January 12, 2026

Pohnpei State Government welcomes U.S. Pacific Air Forces team in preparation for Pacific Angel Exercise

Pohnpei Public Information

December 15, 2025

Pohnpei - The Honorable Governor Stevenson A. Joseph extended a warm welcome to a delegation of medical personnel from the United States Pacific Air Forces upon their arrival in Pohnpei today. This visit marks a crucial preparatory step for the upcoming Operation Pacific Angel; a well-established humanitarian assistance and health engagement

initiative aimed at strengthening regional partnerships and enhancing healthcare capabilities.

The PACAF team includes Jewelyn De La Cruz, a U.S. Air Force nurse; Curtis Copeland, a U.S. Air Force physician; and Antoinetta Jara, a U.S. Air Force Public Health Officer. They will work closely with officials from the Pohnpei State Government to plan and coordinate health services outreach activities, incorporating meaningful collaboration with nursing students from the College of Micronesia-FSM to promote knowledge sharing and practical training.

Accompanied by Chief of Staff Patterson K. Shed and Pohnpei Port Authority General Manager Grilly Jack, Governor Joseph conveyed deep appreciation for the ongoing support provided by the U.S. Pacific Air Forces. He emphasized that health continues to be a primary focus for the administration and the people of Pohnpei. The Governor highlighted the value of this partnership in delivering vital outreach while providing essential training and equipment to strengthen local healthcare systems, and affirmed the Pohnpei State Government's full commitment to supporting these joint efforts.



Operation Pacific Angel demonstrates the strong and lasting friendship and cooperation between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States, advancing community well-being and capacity development throughout the region.



Pohnpei State Government reaffirms commitment to Constitutional freedoms, mutual respect, and longstanding tolerance

Pohnpei Public Information

December 22, 2025

Peilapalap, Pohnpei — The Office of Governor Stevenson A. Joseph addresses recent public commentary following a press release noting a courtesy visit by Imam Farheed Arshad of the local Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

The Government respects the right of citizens to freely express their views. That right is not incidental; it is guaranteed. The Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia (Article 4, Section 2) and the Constitution of Pohnpei State (Article 4, Section 3) explicitly protect freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and freedom of association. These protections are foundational and deliberate, modeled in part on constitutional traditions of the United States, which balance Judeo-Christian values with firm guarantees that government neither establishes nor suppresses any religion.

It bears emphasis: constitutional recognition of Judeo-Christian values does not authorize exclusion. It affirms moral principles—human dignity, charity, justice, and peace—

while ensuring that people of different faiths, or no faith, are treated equally under the law. Government neutrality toward religion is not hostility to faith; it is respect for all faiths.

It is also important to clarify factual context. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has been lawfully registered in the FSM since 2015. It is internationally recognized as a peace-oriented Islamic community that explicitly rejects violence and terrorism. Members of the community have been permitted to enter, reside, and conduct their activities through the FSM immigration system in accordance with established legal requirements, reflecting their recognized and lawful status in the country.

Locally, the Ahmadiyya community has engaged in constructive outreach, including youth sports activities, homework assistance, interfaith dialogue, and peace conferences attended by representatives of multiple religious traditions, including former municipal leaders. These efforts reflect bridge-building, not division; community service, not ideology.

Historically, Pohnpei has practiced religious

balance. Our communities welcomed Christian missionaries of different denominations, lived alongside Bahá'í believers, Catholics, Protestants, and others, and maintained peaceful relations grounded in custom, respect, and hospitality. Our churches have coexisted without state favoritism. Our people have long understood that courtesy visits are not endorsements, and dialogue is not conversion.

Examples of this tolerance are visible and longstanding:

- Interdenominational cooperation during disasters and community events.
- Government protocol that receives visiting leaders of various faiths without discrimination.
- Schools and public institutions that serve all citizens regardless of belief.
- A culture that values respectful disagreement without coercion or exclusion.

The recent courtesy visit was consistent with this history and with constitutional duty. It did not alter policy, doctrine, or law. It reflected civility, not ideology.

Finally, to those who have voiced concerns: your right to speak freely is protected and respected. That same Constitution protects your neighbors' right to worship and exist freely without discrimination or persecution. Your government is duty-bound and obligated to serve all people and duly established organizations impartially. To reduce the Muslim faith to a single, stereotyped category is unwise.

Micronesians—of whom Pohnpei will always be a part—face a similar reality in many places they now call home. In some of those places, Micronesians are disparagingly referred to as “cockroaches.”

If the same logic reflected in certain posts is applied consistently, it would imply accepting such dehumanizing labels as justified. That is not a standard any community should tolerate.

Pohnpei remains what it has always been: welcoming, tolerant, and governed by law—not by fear, rumor, or division. As Pohnpeians, each of us carries the responsibility to ensure it remains so, now and for generations to come.

National Tax Reform Task Force concludes nationwide consultations across FSM

FSM Information Services

December 23, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — The National Tax Reform Task Force (NTRTF) has successfully concluded its nationwide consultations across the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), marking an important step forward in ongoing efforts to strengthen and modernize the nation’s tax system.

Chaired by the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the FSM, the Task Force conducted consultations in Kosrae, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap, engaging state leaders, traditional leaders, community members, and representatives from both the public and private sectors. These consultations provided an inclusive platform for open dialogue, allowing stakeholders to share perspectives, raise concerns, and contribute recommendations related to tax reform and domestic revenue mobilization.

Discussions focused on key issues including public awareness and communication, system implementation, potential impacts on citizens, and the relationship between proposed reforms and state-level excise taxes. The Task Force clarified that the proposed Value-Added Tax (VAT) would not interfere with state-imposed fees and emphasized that improved revenue collection would enhance the government’s capacity to fund essential services such as climate change, healthcare, infrastructure, and social programs.

Vice President Palik underscored the importance of broad-based engagement, noting that effective and sustainable tax reform must be informed by the voices of citizens, businesses, workers, and state governments across the nation.

The consultations highlighted the need for strong coordination among the national government, state governments, and the private sector to advance shared economic and development objectives.

Pohnpei State leadership reaffirmed its commitment to constructive dialogue and to ensuring that any reforms promote economic growth, fairness for taxpayers, and improved public services.

Yap State leaders expressed support for reforms that serve the nation’s long-term interests, stressing the importance of robust public education prior to implementation. Further dialogue with the state leadership and its people, vis-à-vis constitutional requirement, will be prioritized.



Leaders in Kosrae and Chuuk similarly voiced their support, recognizing the potential of tax reform to strengthen the economy and enhance government service delivery throughout the FSM.

The Task Force expressed its appreciation to state governments, community leaders, and participants for their active engagement and valuable input. Feedback gathered during the consultations will inform the Task Force’s final recommendations, which aim to establish a fair, efficient, and sustainable tax system that supports national development while respecting the FSM’s constitutional framework.

Further updates on the Task Force’s work and next steps will be shared as the review process continues. All parties reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration and outreach to ensure a smooth transition toward a more transparent and effective tax system that benefits citizens nationwide.



...Ambulance

Click here to return

The Compact of Free Association (COFA) is an international agreement that underpins the relationship between the United States and the FSM. Under the COFA, the United States provides economic assistance, access to certain federal programs, and other benefits to FSM. In return, the United States receives important strategic and security rights in the region. The COFA reflects the United States’ commitment to promoting stability, security, and prosperity in the Pacific region.



...Christmas Drop

[Click here to return](#)

to the islanders below, giving the operation its name. Today, OCD operations include more than 60 islands throughout FSM, including Palau, and for the first time, the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

In his speech, Vice President Palik shared that, "the Christmas Drop brings not only essential provisions and tools to the islands, but also hope that we are not alone, no matter how remote we may be."

Following his attendance at the 74th OCD Push Ceremony, Vice President Palik was invited to join the actual incentive drop flights, visiting the islands of Mogmog and Fasari in Yap on December 9, 2025, aboard US Air Force aircraft - Santa 32, and the villages of Lelu and Wahlung in Kosrae on December 12, 2025, aboard Republic of Korea Air Force aircraft- Santa 36.

Vice President Palik was joined by Second Lady Adelita Palik, Deputy Assistant Secretary Sean Michael Frank, Deputy Chief of Mission Vincent Mut-Tracy of the US Embassy, and Defense Attache staff member Jorge Zambrano.



DECEMBER 1 - 31, 2025

SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER

Christmas

SALE

UP TO 30% OFF

ON SELECT ITEMS

Package Deal Included!

FREE SIM CARD & \$10 PREPAID CARD

WITH ANY CELL-PHONE PURCHASE

Crafted WITH LOVE

shared with hope

A new year invites us to pause and honor the moments we have built together. The dreams we have nurtured, the progress we have made, and the care we continue to share as an island community. Each step forward crafted with love.

At Bank of Guam, we look to the year ahead with gratitude for the people who give our island its strength. From our family to yours, may the new year bring you hope, possibility, and a future filled with love.

Happy
New Year





College of Micronesia-FSM

Yap | Chuuk | Pohnpei | Kosrae

Follow us online:



82nd Commencement Exercises & Graduation Ceremony



SPRING 2026 REGISTRATION

Regular Registration

JAN 7 - JAN 9, 2026

First Day of Instruction

JANUARY 12, 2026

Last day of add/drop courses

JANUARY 14, 2026

Mark Your Calendars



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

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

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

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

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

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

Governor Joseph welcomes Japanese journalists to discuss linguistic ties between Pohnpei and Japan

Pohnpei Public Information

December 22, 2025

Peilapalap, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomed two visiting journalists from Tokyo Broadcasting Company, Katsumi Asano and Kasahiro Fukuoka, who were accompanied by Kenny Omura, a longtime resident of Pohnpei.

The journalists interviewed Governor Joseph on the historical influence of the Japanese language on Pohnpeian, highlighting the depth of cultural exchange that developed over generations. During the discussion, the Governor shared numerous Pohnpeian words with Japanese roots, including everyday items such as:

asi ‘chopsticks’
dama ‘lightbulb’
dawasi ‘Japanese brush’
dompwuri ‘bowl’
kadorsingko ‘mosquito coil’
kama ‘sickle’ or ‘pot’

manaida ‘cutting board’
parikang ‘hair clipper’
samusi ‘rice paddle’
sarasi ‘bleach’
iakiu ‘baseball’
iakumehda ‘hundred-meter dash’
iohidong ‘ready, set, go’
iranai ‘to pass in a card game’
kesso ‘to run or swim the final lap in a race’
kurop ‘baseball glove’
lepdo ‘left field’
masuku ‘catcher’s mask’
pahsdo ‘first base’
renshuh ‘to practice for an athletic event’
sahdo ‘third base’
sakura ‘hanafuda card game’
sandangdopi ‘hop-skip-jump’
sansing ‘to strike out [in baseball]’
sensuh ‘athlete’
damaski ‘pool, billiards’

Governor Joseph also explained how pronunciation and accent evolved locally, reflecting Pohnpeian speech patterns while preserving clear

linguistic links to Japanese origins. The visiting journalists expressed genuine interest and appreciation, noting their amazement at hearing familiar Japanese words adapted naturally into Pohnpeian usage.

The Governor thanked Mr. Asano,

Mr. Fukuoka, and Mr. Omura for their visit and extended his gratitude to the Government of Japan for its longstanding support and assistance to Pohnpei, underscoring the enduring historical ties between Pohnpei and Japan.



Office of the Governor addresses public concerns regarding Pohnpei State Hospital operations

Pohnpei Public Information

December 23, 2025

Kolonia, Pohnpei — The Office of the Governor acknowledges a recent social media posting regarding the procurement of medicines and medical equipment for Pohnpei State Hospital and the broader state of health services. The Governor’s Office appreciates public discourse on Pohnpei’s Health Care System. The health and well-being of our people remain among the highest priorities of the Pohnpei State Government.

On procurement and suppliers: Pohnpei State Hospital, like many health facilities in small island jurisdictions, operates within a challenging supply environment. Procurement of medicines and medical equipment must comply with state laws, financial regulations, and established procurement procedures. While local vendors play an important role in ensuring timely access to supplies, the

characterization that any single business “dictates” hospital operations or credit terms does not accurately reflect the legal and administrative processes in place. Financial constraints, delayed reimbursements, and global supply chain disruptions continue to affect procurement across the region, not only in Pohnpei. Nevertheless, such allegations are not taken lightly and will be dealt with accordingly.

On hospital financing and credit:

The extension of credit to government facilities is influenced by broader fiscal realities, including cash flow timing, compact and grant disbursements, and auditing requirements. The State Government continues to work with suppliers, development partners, and national agencies to stabilize procurement systems and reduce disruptions in essential medical supplies.

On emergency preparedness:

The Governor’s Office recognizes

ongoing challenges in ensuring that the Emergency Room is fully equipped at all times. Efforts are underway to improve equipment availability, staffing support, and maintenance through budget prioritization, donor assistance, and coordination with the FSM National Government and regional partners. While limitations exist, hospital staff continue to provide care under difficult circumstances with professionalism and dedication.

On legislative priorities:

Budget decisions, including allocations for travel, sports, and health, are made through the constitutional process involving the Executive and the Legislature. The Office of the Governor, however, is in agreement that some of the travel expenses incurred or to be incurred could be put to better use.

The Administration remains committed to advocating for strong and sustained investment in health services. It welcomes constructive engagement

with the Legislature to align spending with the most urgent needs of our people, particularly, on a broader scale, in alignment with the Pohnpei State Strategic Development Plan (PSDP). The PSDP has yet to be formally adopted by the Legislature. The Administration, however, has taken a stance and issued the budget call for FY 2027, calling on all Departments and Offices to take into consideration the PSDP in their respective budgetary planning.

The Pohnpei State Government invites informed and solution-oriented dialogue on health system strengthening. We also encourage the public to recognize the tireless efforts of our doctors, nurses, and hospital staff who serve the community every day despite resource constraints.

Further updates on health sector improvements will be shared as initiatives progress.

Martha Joel uses her shop to help champion other Micronesians

Jasmine Stole Weiss
The Husk
<https://thehusk.substack.com/>

Guam - Every item in Martha Joel's shop comes with a history that Martha is happy to divulge.

The customized ngaranga? Those were sourced from her business partner in Pohnpei, who's originally from Kapingamarangi. Coconut shell earrings? Those came from another friend in Pohnpei. There's a rack of clothing from the Island Girl Power thrift store that stands in a corner, and all proceeds from those sales go to Island Girl Power.

Beaded belts hanging on the walls of her shop recently stopped some passersby in their tracks. Martha recalled how her friend from an outer island of Yap gave them to her to sell. A couple of women from an outer island of Chuuk saw them and they were intrigued. Similar belts were made in their islands. They were delighted to see the belts, even more so when Martha told them how much she was selling them for. Martha's markup was considerably less than what the women had seen before.

Martha opened her shop, Nanwou Mart, in April this year. She has a variety of items for sale from ngaranga to clothing and mwarmwar to dishware. In her first year of business, Martha is testing the waters and selling all kinds of merchandise. She also recently started selling Christmas bundles with jewelry, clothing, and other items.

"What inspired me to open my store was to help island artisans promote and sell their products and goods," Martha told The Husk.

Her best-selling items are handcrafted jewelry she gets from Pohnpei, T-shirts emblazoned with Pohnpeian language and island motifs, Pohnpeian skirts, coconut oil, and customized ngaranga, she said.

Located in Compadres Mall's bazaar, Martha often puts in 12-hour days at her store. The bazaar is a forest of never-ending product, so it helps to sell things that stand out from the crowd. Martha quickly found her niche in selling items from Pohnpei and has found success in repeat customers. She's also encouraged other Micronesians to open their own stores, including her niece, who runs a



store two aisles down from Nanwou Mart.

"I do encourage some islanders to come to Compadres Mall and open their stores because the rental fee is fair, and the atmosphere here is very welcoming. And I think we islanders can do it, do something we love, create what makes us happy, and save time for ourselves and family," Martha said.

'Opportunity to learn'

In addition to sourcing ready-made products from business partners, family, and friends, Martha is constantly drumming up product ideas for people in her life. She had a spare sewing machine that she wasn't using, so she gave it to a woman she knows who can sew skirts. Now that woman sews skirts when she can, and Martha carries the skirts in her shop, sharing the profit.

Aside from wanting her own store to thrive, Martha enjoys helping other Pacific Islanders and she said she enjoys meeting other business owners and customers. "It gives me courage to accept challenges. It is an opportunity to learn as I go through experiences," Martha added.

Before she opened Nanwou Mart, Martha

worked as an interpreter for the court, and she sold jewelry online. Before that, she lived in the Philippines, where she spent 30 years living as a nun.

When she moved to Guam, she wanted to do something different but also something that would accommodate her health issues. She decided to open Nanwou Mart and since it launched, running the store has been a gratifying experience.

She hopes to expand her product offerings in the future. "Yes, that's my dream," she said.

To other Micronesians aspiring to open a shop, Martha encouraged them to believe in themselves. "Work for it and make it happen. Micronesians need to work together and uplift each other. Each one's success is ours," she said. "Nanwou Mart serves Micronesians and all who love to shop with us."

Support Martha Joel and Nanwou Mart

Find Nanwou Mart in the Compadres Mall bazaar, aisle E, in stall 10. Look for the Pohnpei flag fixed to the top of the stall.

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE - MICRONESIA

Notice is hereby given that

Swedish Match North Europe AB
SE-118 85 Stockholm
Sweden

is the sole owner and proprietor in
MICRONESIA of the trade mark as
shown below:

ZYN

which is used upon or in connection
with the following goods:

Tobacco and tobacco substitutes; cigarettes and cigars; electronic cigarettes; oral vaporizers; smokers' articles; matches; tobacco sticks; tobacco products for the purpose of being heated; devices for heating tobacco and tobacco substitutes for the purpose of inhalation; liquids for electronic cigarettes; tobacco free oral nicotine pouches, not for medical use; tobacco substitutes in the form of plant-fibre based products for oral use; snus; tobacco free snus; snuff; tobacco free snuff; nicotine gum, not for medical use; nicotine patches, not for medical use; nicotine impregnated strips, not for medical use; lozenges and tablets that contain nicotine, not for medical use; cases and decorative covers for electronic cigarettes, oral vaporizing devices and devices for heating tobacco and tobacco substitutes for the purpose of inhalation; cannisters, cases and tins for nicotine pouches, nicotine patches, nicotine gum, nicotine impregnated strips, nicotine lozenges and nicotine tablets; parts and fittings for the aforementioned goods.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADEMARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.

Any enquiries regarding the said trade mark may be referred to Ironside McDonald Limited, Level 3, Candida Building 4, 61 Constellation Drive, Mairangi Bay, Auckland 0630, New Zealand imip@ironsidemcdonald.com

Ganir bridge groundbreaking opens new chapter for Yap connectivity

FSM Information Services

December 20, 2025

Colonia, Yap — The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), joined Yap State leaders, traditional leaders, development partners, and community members to mark the groundbreaking of the long-awaited Ganir Bridge, a project expected to improve safety, access, and economic opportunity for Yap.

At the ceremony, Vice President Palik paid respect to Yap’s traditional and state leaders, including Chairman of the Council of Pilung, Mr. Thomas Falngin; Chairman of the Council of Tamol, Mr. Paul Marlul; Acting Governor Thomas G. Tun; Congressman Andy P. Choor; Senator-elect Andrew Yatilman; Secretary Carl D. Apis; and Secretary Rose Nakanaga. He also recognized the support of the Governor, State Senators, diplomatic representatives, and project teams.

“The Ganir Bridge has been long

awaited and long envisioned,” Vice President Palik said. “Today, we are not only breaking ground on a bridge—we are opening a new chapter toward a more connected, resilient, and united Federated States of Micronesia.”

The bridge will be built higher and stronger to withstand climate impacts, widen and deepen Chamorro Bay for safer boat passage, and connect families to opportunity while supporting Yap’s economic progress. The project is part of the national effort to strengthen connectivity across land, sea, air, and digital networks.

Vice President Palik expressed appreciation to the Asian Development Bank and the Embassies of China, Japan, the United States, and Australia, as well as the contractor, Shandong Hengyue Municipal Engineering Company, supervising engineer SMEC, and all project staff.

“This bridge is being built with the people of Yap in mind,” he said. “The national government stands shoulder to shoulder with Yap State, and we thank the people of Yap for their patience as we work to deliver this project safely, on time, and on budget.”

Once completed, the Ganir Bridge is expected to enhance daily travel, maritime access, and serve generations of Yap residents. The Simina-Palik Administration reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with Yap State to ensure the project is completed safely, responsibly, and for the benefit of current and future generations.



Vital
Energy for life

VITAL MARITIME & LOGISTICS
Safe & reliable transportation services
for our island communities

SHIPPING SOLUTIONS

CARGO TRANSPORTATION

PRIVATE CHARTERS

UPCOMING SCHEDULE TO FEFAN & TONOAS

- Jan 6
- Jan 20

CALL TO SECURE YOUR CARGO SPACE:
+ 691 330 4020/4200

Weno, Chuuk 96942
www.vitalenergy.fm/services-2/marine-2/

FSM Ambassador presents credentials to the President of India, ushering FSM-India diplomatic relations to new heights



FSM Information Services

December 24, 2026

NEW DELHI, Republic Of India — The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is pleased to announce that His Excellency John Fritz, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Republic of India, formally presented his Letters of Credence to the President of India, Her Excellency Droupadi Murmu, on December 15, 2025, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Ambassador Fritz is the second FSM Ambassador to have presented credentials in New Delhi, following the late Ambassador Alik Alik. This event marks a significant step in the continued strengthening of diplomatic relations between the two nations, which will celebrate their 30th anniversary next year.

Following the presentation of credentials, Ambassador Fritz paid a courtesy call on President Murmu, during which he conveyed warm greetings from H.E. Wesley W. Simina, President of the FSM, and reaffirmed FSM's firm commitment to further strengthening the longstanding friendship and cooperation with India. President Murmu warmly welcomed the Ambassador, congratulated him on his appointment, and wished him a successful and productive tenure, expressing confidence that his service would contribute meaningfully to deepening bilateral relations.

During the meeting, the President reaffirmed that FSM-India relations are rooted in mutual respect, shared democratic values, and close cooperation, and welcomed FSM's active participation in the Forum for

India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) as an important platform for advancing engagement between India and the Pacific Islands region. She emphasized India's continued commitment to constructive and respectful partnership with the Pacific, including the FSM, in support of a peaceful, resilient, and sustainable Blue Pacific Continent.

President Murmu highlighted the importance of development cooperation and capacity building as central pillars of the bilateral relationship. In this regard, she identified renewable energy, climate change adaptation and resilience, education and scholarship opportunities, and health cooperation as priority areas for enhanced collaboration. She also expressed interest in exploring cooperation in traditional medicine practices and improving health systems, education, and capacity-building. She reaffirmed India's support for the economic development, resilience, and nation-building efforts of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The President further underscored India's growing role and constructive leadership in multilateral affairs, particularly within the United Nations, including climate change, ocean governance, disaster resilience, and sustainable development. Ambassador Fritz, in turn, reaffirmed the Federated States of Micronesia's support for India's candidature to the United Nations Security Council for the terms 2028-2029 and reiterated FSM's longstanding support for comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council to enhance its representativeness, effectiveness, and legitimacy.

On December 16, 2025, Ambassador Fritz, joined by the Hon. Marcus Samo, Secretary of Health and Social Affairs and the Hon. Leonito Bacalando Jr., Secretary of Justice and staff, paid a courtesy call on the Honorable Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India, where they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including maritime security and maritime domain awareness, cybersecurity, and health services. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the overall state of FSM-India relations and to exchange views on ways to further advance cooperation through bilateral engagement, regional platforms, and multilateral fora. The discussions also recalled the Minister of State's recent visit to the FSM in January 2025, which both sides noted had contributed positively to strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation. The courtesy call also provided an opportunity for FSM to follow through on existing cooperations and initiatives.

As the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of India approach the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2026, both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to continued high-level engagement and to further deepening a partnership based on friendship, mutual respect, and shared aspirations.

The Government of the FSM looks forward to working closely with the Government of the Republic of India to advance common priorities and to further strengthen the enduring partnership between the two countries for the benefit of their peoples and the wider region.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that TAISHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan, of 24-1, Takada 3-Chome, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the sole owner and proprietor of the trademark below:

TAISHO

which is used in connection with the following goods in Class 5:

Pharmaceutical preparations; medicinal drinks; tonics[medicines]; vitamin preparations; nutritional preparations for medical use; nutritional additives for medical purposes; nutritional supplements for medical purposes; food supplements for medical purposes; drugs for medical purposes; dental materials; bracelets for medical purposes; oiled paper for medical purposes; sanitary masks; pharmaceutical wafer; gauze for dressings; capsules for pharmaceutical purposes; capsules for medicines; eyepatches for medical purposes; ear bandages; incontinence diapers; semen for artificial insemination; menstruation bandages; menstruation tampons; sanitary napkins; menstruation pads; sanitary pads; sanitary panties; sanitary knickers; menstruation knickers; absorbent cotton; absorbent wadding; lacteal flour for babies; lactose [milk sugar]; fly catching paper; adhesive plaster; court plaster; sticking plasters; bandages for dressing; collodion for pharmaceutical purposes; mothproofing paper; breast-nursing pads

Notice is also hereby given that: THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADE MARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.

For further information, please contact:
DENNEMEYER & ASSOCIATES
Email:
mail-au@dennemeyer-law.com

Executive leaders meet to strengthen administration

Pohnpei Public Information

December 18, 2025

Pohnpei - Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lieutenant Governor Herolyn S. Movick convened a meeting of key Department Heads, Administrative Officers, and the Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration, Mrs. Sihna N. Lawrence, in the Governor’s Cabinet Conference Room.

The session served as a continuation of ongoing training and professional development for Administrative

Officers, with a focus on strengthening administrative practices, communication, and customer service standards. The discussion was conducted constructively and transparently, reinforcing collaboration and shared responsibility in public service.

Governor Joseph reaffirmed the Administration’s commitment to continuous improvement and efficient, people-centered government services.



Governor Joseph receives courtesy visit from new Imam of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Pohnpei Public Information

December 16, 2025

Peilapalap, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph today received a courtesy visit from Faheem Arshad, the newly appointed Imam of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pohnpei.

During the brief meeting, Governor Joseph welcomed Imam Arshad. He exchanged general views on community programs and ways the Ahmadiyya community may assist and contribute to the well-being of the

people of Pohnpei.

Governor Joseph expressed appreciation for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community’s longstanding commitment to peace, service, and compassion, noting their positive role in supporting community-based initiatives.

The Governor extended his best wishes to Imam Arshad as he begins his service in Pohnpei and reaffirmed the State’s respect for all faith-based organizations working for the common good.



SOON TO RISE

SEKERE CELL TOWER



Courtesy visit by medical educators to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph

Pohnpei Public Information

December 17, 2025

Peilapalap, Pohnpei— Governor Stevenson A. Joseph received a courtesy visit from Dr. Jalkennen Joseph, a native Pohnpeian, accompanied by Dr. Seiji Yamada, MD, MPH, Professor and Medical Student Education Director at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The physicians are visiting key leaders in government to start the conversation on the possibility of restarting the Pacific Basic Medical Officers Training

Program (PBMOTP), also known as the “MO School.” From 1987 to 1996, PBMOTP demonstrated strong success in training local physicians locally, strengthening community-based healthcare capacity across the region.

Governor Joseph expressed his support for the initiative and appreciation for the physicians’ engagement. He also noted that the First Lady of Pohnpei, Dr. Aina Garstang, is a graduate of PBMOTP herself, underscoring the program’s lasting impact.

Dr. Jalkennen Joseph is a U.S.-trained,

Board-certified Emergency Medicine Physician and the author of *Becoming an American Doctor*.



The Free bi-weekly publication
KASELEHLIE PRESS

Are you looking to advertise with the Kaselehlie Press?

We have over 20 years of experience serving the FSM, with readers around the globe. Let us serve you!

Contact us today at kpress@mail.fm

Pohnpei welcomes WIPO Asia-Pacific delegation

Pohnpei Public Information

December 14, 2025

Peilapalap, Pohnpei — The Pohnpei State Government welcomed Mr. Andrew Michael Ong, Director of the Division for Asia and the Pacific at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), during his official visit to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Mr. Ong was accompanied by Mr. Houlton Fa’asau of WIPO, along with Foreign Service Officers from the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Iven Yaroipiy and Ms. Deavina Ken.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph was joined by Chief of Staff Patterson K. Shed and Assistant Attorney General Keana Segal in welcoming the delegation. Governor Joseph

expressed his appreciation for the visit and noted its timeliness, particularly as it relates to protecting intellectual property associated with Pohnpeian UROS skirts and other locally created cultural and artistic works.

WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for developing international cooperation and legal frameworks to protect intellectual property, including traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, trademarks, and designs. FSM was recently admitted as a member of WIPO, providing access to treaty-based protections and technical support.

The visit focused on establishing networks and collaboration that will allow FSM and Pohnpei to effectively benefit from WIPO treaties on intellectual property rights. These mechanisms are critical to curbing the unauthorized production and sale of Pohnpeian cultural items in foreign markets and to ensuring that those who misappropriate such intellectual property can be held accountable.

The Pohnpei State Government looks forward to continued engagement with WIPO to safeguard the cultural heritage and creative assets of the people of Pohnpei.



My Great Story: From Kabul to Pohnpei

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Every year on December 18th, we celebrate International Migrants Day (IMD). This year, we mark the day by sharing “My Great Story”: our global campaign honouring the millions of migrants who have journeyed across the world throughout history, adapting to new cultures and to new ways of life, and enriching their communities with what they bring. Migrants carry

far more than their belongings; they carry with them a wealth of experiences, cultures, traditions, skills, innovations, and unique ways of seeing the world.

Meet Ahmadi Gul Mohammad, known simply as Ahmadi to many, a valued colleague and friend who has dedicated over 15 years to IOM. His story began



in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he grew up alongside two brothers and three sisters, raised by parents devoted to providing him with a strong education and a fulfilling life. After completing his studies, Ahmadi embarked on a new chapter, building a warm and loving family of his own.

Ahmadi's professional journey with IOM began in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2010, where he served as a National Program Officer supporting humanitarian response for nationals impacted by the ongoing conflict and disasters at the time. “The response was massive,” he recalls, “with thousands displaced, and many were in urgent need of food, shelter, blankets...protection. It was no easy feat, but we were committed. I look back and take pride in those days,” he says.

Today, he finds himself nearly 10,000 kilometers away, living with his family in Pohnpei - a small but majestic island nestled by lush mangroves in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). As part of the IOM North Pacific Mission, Ahmadi now leads IOM's disaster preparedness and response program, building the capacities of

frontline responders and government partners, and strengthening the resilience of local communities. Reflecting on the shift from his days in Afghanistan, he says, “Kabul taught me what it means to respond under pressure – when people's lives depend on how well we can coordinate and deliver what they need. In Pohnpei the risks are different, but the responsibility remains the same: to operate smoothly and to deliver the assistance effectively, especially in the remote outer islands. Help needs to reach communities on time,” he says. “Of course, we always hope for the best; that the need for an emergency never arises.”

Life by the ocean has transformed his family too; once unfamiliar with the sea, his children have become avid swimmers, eagerly exploring the waters that surround their new home, sharing experiences with their classmates, friends and neighbors. Together, they truly reflect the essence of optimism, hope and determination of every migrant's journey.

Opinion Editorial

Sharia Law isn't what you've been told. Here's what it actually means

By Faheem Arshad
President, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Federated States of Micronesia

Shortly after my recent meeting with Governor Stevenson Joseph, a meeting centered on peacebuilding and mutual understanding, I began to see a very different conversation unfolding on social media.

The meeting itself was positive and beneficial. Yet the press release that followed sparked a wave of anxiety and suspicion. Online comments quickly turned fearful. Some claimed that Muslims were here to “impose Sharia law.” Others went further, suggesting that our presence on Pohnpei signaled extremism or even violence.

These reactions are not unique to Pohnpei. They echo a narrative heard across the world, often fueled by dramatic headlines, political rhetoric, and social media click bait. And yet, they are based on a fundamental misunderstanding of what Sharia truly is.

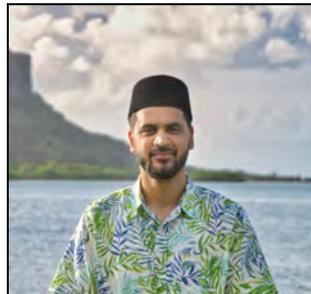
Let's start with a simple truth: Sharia

law is not a political takeover plan.

The word Sharia literally means “a path.” In everyday life, it refers to a moral and ethical framework that helps Muslims try to live responsibly and compassionately. It guides personal choices like how one prays, treats neighbors, earns a living honestly, and cares for the poor. For most Muslims, Sharia is about self-discipline, humility, and accountability before God, not about oppression, cruelty, or harsh governance.

In fact, for Muslims living as minorities, whether in the United States, Micronesia, or anywhere, Sharia explicitly does not override the law of the land. Islam teaches obedience to local laws and respect for the society one lives in. This principle is central to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, whose members are taught to be loyal, law-abiding citizens wherever they reside.

The idea that Muslims secretly seek to impose religious law on others is a fear that has been repeatedly fueled



by extremist groups and amplified by certain politicians and media personalities. When figures like Donald Trump speak of Sharia as inherently violent or incompatible with Western societies, they create fear. Fear may be politically effective, but it is not factual.

It is also important to separate Islam from those who misuse it. Extremist violence is not a product of Sharia, it is a betrayal of it. Just as no one judges Christianity by the actions of violent Christian cults, Islam should not be defined by those who distort its teachings for power and greed.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has, for decades, been one of the global voices against terrorism and religious extremism. Our community is embedded with a simple motto: “Love for All, Hatred for None.” This is a theological principle rooted in Islamic teachings.

I want to answer the most common question on social media, why are we here in Pohnpei?

We are here to build bridges, dispel misconceptions, and foster peaceful dialogue. We are here because we believe faith should inspire service, compassion, and peace, never fear.

Pohnpei has a proud tradition of community, respect, and hospitality. These values resonate deeply with Islamic principles. Misunderstandings, however, can hurt even the strongest societies if left unaddressed.

That is why I invite conversation instead of suspicion and when we replace rumors with sincere relationships and fear with facts, we move closer to the peace we all want for our islands and our world.

So, for this, I warmly invite members of the public to attend our upcoming Convention on January 18 at 4pm (COM Gym, Palakir). This convention will bring together community leaders, dignitaries, and religious leaders as we reflect on this year's theme, “One Humanity, One Purpose: Striving for Global Peace.”

The Jalsa is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds. Guests will have an opportunity to have dinner together, take part in the Unity Wall and enjoy the Peace Café, to encourage conversation and reflection on how we all can play a role in establishing peace.

We invite you to join us as understanding grows with conversation.

Opinion Editorial

Chuukese formula for making Guam a better place

The FAS community is fortunate to be here and Guam is fortunate we are here. Through the Compact of Free Association (COFA), also known as the Compact Treaty, FSM Citizens, like the Chuukese people, can enter the United States and its territories with a passport for education, work, health, and other federal programs. Chuuk, like Guam, is a protective shield for the United States Strategic Military Interests in the Western Pacific. The United States has the right to set terms for the FAS non-immigrant status. If we violate those terms, FAS citizens can be deported under Guam and the U.S Jurisdiction and Immigration Laws. Therefore, it is imperative that we identify the obstacles and challenges that prevent us from becoming a successful and law-abiding Chuukese community in Guam. I asked a few people from the Chuukese community to share their perspectives on these questions:

How are you engaged in ways that contribute to making Guam a better place? What is one obstacle that needs to be removed for you to have a greater impact than you are currently?

Mr Hentrick Eveluck, President of the Chuukese Association of Guam, and Special Project Coordinator/ Staff Assistant at Adelup provides his perspective:

One major obstacle that Chuukese and Guam together need to overcome is mutual misunderstanding and lack of trust driven by cultural barriers and misinformation. Many Chuukese residents face language barriers, limited access to education and stable employment, and stereotypes that portray them negatively. At the same time, some in the broader Guam community may not fully understand Chuukese history, culture, or the structural challenges that come with migration from the Federated States of Micronesia under the Compact of Free Association (COFA).

This gap fuels discrimination, social exclusion, and weak civic participation. Overcoming this obstacle requires a shared responsibility for:

- stronger cross-cultural education and dialogue
- inclusive policies that improve access to education, housing, and healthcare

- empowering Chuukese voices in community leadership and decision-making

When understanding replaces mistrust, Chuukese contributions in family life, labor, culture, and community resilience can more fully strengthen Guam as a better place to live for everyone.

Dreama Asor, an employee with Matson Navigation Guam shares her perspective:

Guam is a beautiful island and I, one of many Chuukese and FSM citizens, am grateful for the opportunity to live here and build a life. Guam is now our home away from home. For many of our youth, Guam is the only home they know. In every home, unity is mandatory for peace, growth, and success. There is a need for efficient collaboration from our Chuukese community with the government of Guam and its people, and other communities in Guam to achieve this.

We travel to the U.S. and rely on the host state for economic opportunities, legal protection, access to their courts, and emergency help or medical assistance. In turn, we Chuukese must strengthen our daily rules of operation. Our duties as foreigners are to follow the local laws and the terms of our FAS privileges and respect the island's customs. But let's be empowered to go beyond that! Let's be part of the solution.

As the old saying goes, "Bloom where you are planted." Be self-aware and deliberate every day to be better. If you are a student, excel at your studies and aim to get higher education. If you work, perform your duties with good intentions and work hard. And finally, contribute positively to the community; help keep the land and ocean clean, or volunteer at events to help those in need. The Apostle Paul left many great guidelines, one of them from the book of Galatians which says to be fruitful with the fruits of the Holy Spirit, as against such things there is no law.

Eddie Kanemoto, a small business owner of Enimenim lawn care, and Vice President of FAS Athletic Organization shares his perspective: Guam needs to welcome us as a family. We have children that are born in Guam

and consider Guam home. They go to school and play sports for their school and represent Guam in off island competitions. Sports bridge divides. In a community where people come from different ethnic groups, sports bring us together in unity and offers an alternative for the development of our young citizens and promotes a healthy community. There is a need to invest in a community youth center to engage our youth in sports, tutoring and mentorship, build friendship and teach respect and discipline.

William Stinnett, an Elite Guam National Basketball player, and currently serves as the Recreation Coordinator with Guam Department of Parks & Recreation shares his perspective:

I believe that sports is still one of the greatest ways to bring everyone together. This allows us to become friends and learn about each other's culture. I've seen the transition in the past 25 years from a kid to an adult and seeing more and more FSM citizens born on Guam. This is also allowing for both cultures to be in school at a younger age and slowly allowing an easier route for both cultures to coexist peacefully.

I appreciate the meaningful contributions from Mr. Hentrick, Eddie, William and Dreama. Their perspectives breathe life and hope that there is a path forward for action and small steps matter. It has to start somewhere, even if it's just talking or writing about it for improvement and that small steps matter. It has to start with us.

The Foeni Achocho Sensu (FAS) Athletic Organization, supports the intent of the Compact treaty, to promote a responsible, productive, and peaceful Chuukese community in Guam. The FAS is planning to host a Chuukese Leadership Summit in February in partnership and collaboration with the Chuukese Faith Groups (Chuukese Catholic and Protestant Leaders), including the perspectives of Mr. Hentrick, Eddie, William, and Dreama, to discuss more about the Chuukese Formula to make Guam a better place.

In closing, the FAS wish our community and all the people of the FAS and Guam a festive holiday celebration with family and friends. Let the joy and beauty of Christmas be with you throughout the year.

John Howard

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Notice is hereby given that Jiang Tai Insurance Brokers Co., Ltd., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of China of 101, Floor 1-12, Building 9#, No. 98 Lianshihu West Road, Mentougou District, Beijing, China, is the sole owner and proprietor in The Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:



which is used in International classes upon or in connection with the following goods:

Class 36: Insurance brokerage; Insurance underwriting; Insurance consultancy; Insurance information; Securities brokerage; Fund investments; Brokerage; Fiduciary.

Jiang Tai Insurance Brokers Co., Ltd. claims all rights in respect to the above trademark and will take all necessary legal steps against any person, firm or corporation counterfeiting, imitating, violating or otherwise infringing its rights in The Federated States of Micronesia.

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

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN MICRONESIA



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark, and their word format equivalents, are property of:

PayPal, Inc.

A corporation organised and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware with its head office at:

2211 North First Street, San Jose, California 95131, United States of America

That the same trademarks are used in connection with the following:

Class 9:

Downloadable and recorded computer software for processing electronic payments and for transferring funds to and from others; downloadable computer software for creating, preparing, managing, sending, processing, tracking, and reconciling invoices; downloadable computer software for issuing receipts regarding mobile payment transactions; downloadable mobile application software for processing electronic payments and for transferring funds to and from others; downloadable authentication software for controlling access to and communications with computers and computer networks; computer hardware for making, authenticating, facilitating, operating, managing, and processing payment transactions with credit cards, debit cards, prepaid cards, payment cards, gift cards, and other payment forms; electronic devices, namely point of sale terminals, chip card readers, credit card readers, payment card readers, mobile card readers, charging stands for chip card readers, credit card readers, payment card readers, and mobile card readers; magnetic encoded and coded card readers; electronic card readers for payment and credit cards; magnetically encoded credit cards; magnetically encoded payment cards being debit cards, gift cards, prepaid gift cards, prepaid cash cards, and prepaid debit cards; downloadable software for sending, receiving, accepting, buying, selling, storing, transmitting, trading and exchanging digital currency, virtual currency, cryptocurrency, stablecoins, digital and blockchain assets, digitized assets, digital tokens, crypto tokens and utility tokens; downloadable software for managing and validating digital currency, virtual currency, cryptocurrency, stablecoin, digital asset, blockchain asset, digitized asset, digital token, crypto token and utility token transactions; downloadable software for use as a digital currency, virtual currency, cryptocurrency, stablecoin, digital asset, digital token, crypto token, and utility token wallet; downloadable software for transfers of digital currency, virtual currency, cryptocurrency, stablecoins, digital and blockchain assets, digitized assets, digital tokens, crypto tokens and utility tokens between parties; downloadable computer software and downloadable mobile application software for facilitating electronic commerce transactions; downloadable computer software, namely, internet browser extensions, plug-ins, and applications for use with electronic commerce transactions and product price monitoring; downloadable computer software and downloadable mobile application software featuring offers, deals, coupons, rebates, rewards, vouchers, price tracking, price notifications, price-comparison information, links to the retail websites of others, promotional materials, and discount information; downloadable software development kits (SDK); downloadable and recorded computer software for creating and managing a business and an online store, namely, inventory management, order processing, order tracking, fulfilment of orders, sales tracking, collection of sales data, and sales analytics; downloadable and recorded computer software used for point of sale transactions; downloadable and recorded computer software used to train and manage employees, record employee hours worked, and generate payroll processing; electronic devices, namely, point of sale terminals, chip card readers, credit card readers, payment card readers, mobile card readers; charging stands adapted for use with handheld digital electronic devices namely, cell phones, MP3 players, personal digital assistants, point of sale terminals, chip card readers, credit card readers, payment card readers, and mobile card readers.

Class 35:

Promoting the goods of others, namely, providing information regarding discounts, coupons, rebates, vouchers and special offers for the goods of others; promoting the goods and services of others by providing hypertext links to the web sites of others; promoting the goods and services of others by providing a web site featuring links to the online retail web sites of others; business consulting services in the field of online payments; managing and tracking credit card, debit card, ACH, prepaid cards, payment cards, and other forms of payment transactions via electronic communications networks for business purposes; business information management, namely, electronic reporting of business analytics relating to payment processing, authentication, tracking, and invoicing; business management, namely, optimization of payments for businesses; promoting the sale of goods and services of others by providing a website featuring offers, deals, coupons, rebates, rewards, vouchers, price tracking, price notifications, price-comparison information, links to the retail websites of others, promotional materials, and discount information; promoting the sale of goods and services of others by providing interactive online applications featuring offers, deals, coupons, rebates, rewards, vouchers, price tracking, price notifications, price-comparison information, links to the retail websites of others, promotional materials, and discount information; providing incentive award programs through issuance and processing of loyalty points for purchase of the goods and services of others; customer loyalty services for commercial, promotional and/or advertising purposes, namely, administration of a program that allows participants to obtain and redeem points or awards for goods and/or services.

Class 36:

Financial services, namely, electronic funds transfer; clearing and reconciling financial transactions via a global computer network and wireless networks; providing a wide variety of payment and financial services, namely, credit card payment processing services, issuing credit cards and providing personal and business lines of credit, electronic payment services involving electronic processing and subsequent transmission of bill payment data, bill payment services with guaranteed payment delivery, all conducted via a global communications network; credit card and debit card transaction processing services; reimbursement of payment processing for fraudulent transactions, transaction errors, and disputed transactions, namely, transactions concerning lost, damaged, misrepresented, or incorrect products or services, all in the field of electronic payment purchases; providing purchase protection services for goods and services purchased by others via a global computer network and wireless networks, namely, fraud reimbursement services in the field of credit card purchases and electronic payment purchases, secure commercial transactions for credit card purchases and electronic payment purchases, and dispute resolution services and reimbursement services for disputed transactions in the field of electronic payment purchases; credit card transaction processing services; credit services, namely, providing revolving credit account services; bill payments services; providing electronic mobile payment services for others in the nature of providing secure commercial transactions and payment options using a mobile device at a point of sale; credit card transaction processing services and payment processing services in the field of credit card payments and electronic payments; electronic foreign exchange payment processing; payment processing services, namely, providing virtual currency transaction processing services for others; financial services, namely, providing stablecoin currency, virtual currency, digital currency, digital tokens, and cryptocurrency for use by others; financial services, namely, virtual currency, digital currency, stablecoin, and cryptocurrency transfer, trading, exchange, and payment processing services; electronic transfer of cryptocurrency, digital currency, stablecoins, digital and blockchain assets, digitized assets, digital tokens, crypto tokens and utility tokens; electronic wallet services for trading, storing, sending, receiving, validating, verifying, accepting, tracking, transferring, and transmitting virtual currency, and managing virtual currency payment and exchange transactions.

China funds water catchment project in Yap

Yap State Government

December 18, 2025

Colonia, Yap - Yesterday, December 18th, a Handover Ceremony was held at the Governor's Office at 10:00 am.

This ceremony was convened to hand over a check of 50,000 USD for the Ifaluk Donation from the Chinese Embassy to the Yap State Government.



This Ifaluk donation was given to the Acting Governor of Yap State, Mr. Thomas G. Tun on behalf of the Yap State Government, from the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Li Hu, and the First Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Ms. Wu Xiaoyun, on behalf of the Chinese Embassy to fund the Ifaluk Water Catchment Project.

Governor of Yap State, Mr. Thomas G. Tun, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Li Hu, and the First Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Ms. Wu Xiaoyun, Speaker Nicholas Figirlaarwon, Vice Speaker Theodore (Ted) Rutun, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, Julius Liyon Tun, Senator John Mafel, and Senator Pius Talimeisei.

In attendance, was the Acting

Class 42:

Providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for processing electronic payments; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for creating, preparing, managing, sending, processing, tracking, and reconciling invoices; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for issuing receipts regarding mobile payment transactions; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable authentication software for controlling access to and communications with computers and computer networks; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for electronic funds transfer; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for sending, receiving, accepting, buying, selling, storing, transmitting, validating, verifying, tracking, transferring, trading and exchanging digital currency, virtual currency, cryptocurrency, stablecoins, digital and blockchain assets, digitized assets, digital tokens, crypto tokens and utility tokens; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for digital currency payment and exchange transactions; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for use in issuing digital currency, virtual currency, cryptocurrency, stablecoins, digital and blockchain assets, digitized assets, digital tokens, crypto tokens and utility tokens; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for managing digital currency, virtual currency, cryptocurrency, stablecoin, digital and blockchain asset, digitized asset, digital token, crypto token and utility token payments, money transfers, and commodity transfers; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for use with digital currency wallet and storage services; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for use as an electronic wallet; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for facilitating electronic commerce transactions; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software featuring offers, deals, coupons, rebates, rewards, vouchers, price tracking, price notifications, price-comparison information, links to the retail websites of others, promotional materials, and discount information; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for fraud detection, fraud prevention, and fraud analytics; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable computer software for tracking and analyzing payment activity; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software to prevent fraud, facilitate integration with loyalty and reward platforms to allow tracking of purchases and accrual of rewards, and enable merchants to embed checkouts in third party sites and applications to sell and take payments on third party platforms; Application Service Provider (ASP) featuring Application Programming Interface (API) software for payment collection, payment transactions, forwarding data and information processing; data mining services; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software for creating and managing a business and an online store, namely, inventory management, order processing, order tracking, fulfilment of orders, sales tracking, collection of sales data, and sales analytics; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software used for point of sale transactions; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software used to train and manage employees, record employee hours worked, and generate payroll processing.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be instituted against any person or company that uses the same trademark or any imitation thereof, or against anyone that violates these trademark ownership rights.

For further information, please contact:

STOBBS IP LIMITED

Email: atlas@iamstobbs.com

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – MICRONESIA

Notice is hereby given that
SAIC-GM-WULING AUTOMOBILE CO., LTD.
No.18, Hexi Road, Liunan District, Liuzhou, Guangxi China

is the sole owner and proprietor in MICRONESIA of the trade mark shown below:



which is used upon or in connection with the following goods:

Class 12: Locomotives; remote control vehicles, other than toys; electric vehicles; vehicles for locomotion by land, air, water or rail; cars; autonomous cars; robotic cars; car hood; automobile bodies; shock absorbers for automobiles; sun-blinds adapted for automobiles; hubs for automobile wheels; anti-theft devices for vehicles; bicycles; push scooters [vehicles]; motor tricycles; electric tricycles; moped scooters; mobility scooters; electric bicycles; self-balancing scooters; self-balancing boards; self-balancing electric unicycles; telfer railways [cable cars]; two-wheeled trolleys; tyres for vehicle wheels; air vehicles; boats; suspension shock absorbers for vehicles; luggage carriers for vehicles; safety seats for children, for vehicles; windshield wipers; seat covers for vehicles; windscreens; steering wheels for vehicles; side view mirrors for vehicles; motorcycles; hubs for vehicle wheels.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADE MARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.

Any enquiries regarding the said trade mark may be referred to Ironside McDonald Limited
Level 3, Candida Building 4, 61 Constellation Drive, Mairangi Bay, Auckland, 0630, New Zealand
imip@ironsidemcdonald.com

Opinion Editorial

Firmly abide by the one-China principle

By Ambassador Wu Wei



This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration to China. On October 25, 80 years ago, the Chinese government held the surrender ceremony of Japanese forces in Taipei, Taiwan. Since then, Taiwan and the Penghu Islands were formally reintegrated into China's territory. On October 25, 54 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 2758 by an overwhelming majority, resolving the issue of representation for the whole of China, including Taiwan, at the United Nations. This year, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China adopted a decision to designate October 25 as the Commemoration Day of Taiwan's Restoration through legal means. The Chinese people commemorate this special day in various ways. There is but one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and the one-China principle is a universally recognized basic norm governing international relations and a prevailing international consensus. The one-China principle is the fundamental prerequisite and political foundation for China to establish and develop relations with all other countries. Upholding the one-China principle is a universal consensus and is where global opinion trends and the arc of history bends.

Why is Taiwan an inalienable part of China's territory?

Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China's sacred territory since ancient times. The earliest Chinese records of Taiwan date back over 1,700 years. Following the Song and Yuan dynasties, successive Chinese central governments began establishing administrative jurisdictions in Penghu Islands and Taiwan. In 1895, Japan illegally seized Taiwan and the Penghu Islands from China through the Treaty of Shimonoseki. Throughout the half-century of Japanese colonial rule, the Taiwanese people's fervent determination to remain "proud Chinese" never wavered. They waged a steadfast struggle against the colonial authorities, sacrificing over 650,000 lives over five decades. Their blood and lives embodied the integrity and dignity of the Chinese people. In 1941, the Chinese government issued a declaration of war against Japan, annulling all treaties, agreements, and contracts pertaining to Sino-Japanese relations. Under the banner of the Anti-Japanese National United Front advocated by the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people achieved a great victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression through bloody battles. In 1943, the governments of China, the United States,

and the United Kingdom issued the Cairo Declaration, stating that "all the territories Japan stole from China, such as Northeast China, Taiwan and the Penghu Islands" should be returned to China. On July 26, 1945, the Potsdam Proclamation, signed jointly by China, the United States, and the United Kingdom and later joined by the Soviet Union, reaffirmed that "the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out." On August 15 of the same year, Japan announced its acceptance of the Potsdam Proclamation and unconditional surrender. On September 2, Japan signed the Instrument of Surrender, pledging to "faithfully fulfill the obligations of the provisions of the Potsdam Proclamation." This series of documents reaffirmed under international law that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. Taiwan's return to China stands as a crucial component of the victory achieved by the Chinese people in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, as well as an integral part of the post-war international order. This truth must never be distorted or denied.

The nature and origin of the Taiwan question

Shortly after the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Kuomintang ruling clique headed by Chiang Kai-shek launched a full-scale civil war, which resulted in their comprehensive defeat within just three years. In October 1949, the People's Republic of China was founded. By the end of that year, the Kuomintang ruling clique had retreated to Taiwan. Just as the People's Liberation Army was preparing to liberate Taiwan, the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950. Seizing the opportunity, the United States dispatched its forces into the Taiwan Straits to obstruct the liberation of Taiwan while propping up the Kuomintang regime. This intervention gave rise to the Taiwan question, which remains unresolved to this day.

On October 1, 1949, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China was established, replacing the Government of the Republic of China as the sole legal government representing the whole of China. It was a change of government without changing China as the subject of international law. China's sovereignty and inherent territorial boundaries stayed unchanged. Thus, the Government of the People's Republic of China naturally and fully enjoys and exercises China's sovereignty, including sovereignty over the Taiwan region. The Kuomintang ruling clique had no authority to exercise state sovereignty on behalf of China, and had been merely a local authority within Chinese territory.

Although the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have been locked in a prolonged state of political confrontation, China's sovereignty and territory have never been and shall never

be divided, and the status of Taiwan as a part of China's territory has never changed and shall never change. The Taiwan question arose as a result of the weakness and turmoil of our nation in the past and is a legacy of the Chinese civil war in the 1940s. It is entirely China's internal affair, and will inevitably be resolved once and for all with the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The Taiwan question bears on China's core interests and the national sentiments of the Chinese people, it must be properly resolved. How to resolve this issue is China's internal affair, and it can only and must be decided by the over 1.4 billion Chinese people, including our compatriots in Taiwan. Matters concerning Taiwan are China's internal affairs, no one or no external force has the right to interfere.

Why should we uphold the one-China principle?

The one-China principle is a prevailing consensus in the international community, a basic norm governing international relations. On October 25, 1971, at the 26th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Resolution 2758 was adopted with an overwhelming majority, which "decides to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place where they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it."

The resolution solemnly confirms and fully embodies the one-China principle, and once again makes it clear that there is but one China in the world and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the only legitimate representative of the whole of China, including the Taiwan region. The UNGA Resolution 2758 completely precluded any possibility of creating "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan." It was clearly stated in the official legal opinions of the Office of Legal Affairs of the U.N. Secretariat that "the United Nations considers 'Taiwan' as a province of China with no separate status" and the "'authorities' in 'Taipei' are not considered to ... enjoy any form of government status." Taiwan does not have any right to join the UN, or any other international organization whose membership is confined to sovereign states. All member states of the United Nations should abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and relevant UN resolutions, and should not in any way support Taiwan's participation in the UN or other international organizations that are open only to sovereign states.

The one-China principle is the fundamental prerequisite and political foundation for China to establish and develop relations with all other countries. To date, China has established diplomatic relations with 183 countries, all of which have made solemn commitments to uphold the one-China principle as recorded in the joint communiqués on the establishment of

diplomatic relations. "Without trust, one cannot stand; without sincerity, one cannot succeed." All countries having diplomatic relations with China should unconditionally adhere to the one-China principle. China firmly opposes any form of official interactions between China's Taiwan region and countries having diplomatic ties with China. The United States recently announced its large-scale arms sales to China's Taiwan Region. In response to that, China has decided to take countermeasures in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on Countering Foreign Sanctions against 20 U.S. military-related companies and 10 senior executives who have engaged in arming Taiwan in recent years. The Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations. Anyone who attempts to cross the line and make provocations on the Taiwan question will be met with China's firm response. Any company or individual who engages in arms sales to Taiwan will pay the price for the wrongdoing. No country or force shall ever underestimate the resolve, will and ability of the Chinese government and people to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity. China has once again urged the U.S. to abide by the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiqués, act on the commitment of the U.S. leader, stop the dangerous moves of arming Taiwan, stop undermining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and stop sending wrong signals to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces.

36 years ago, the FSM recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China in the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries. Over the past 36 years, the two countries have firmly supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests. The FSM side pledges to firmly uphold the one-China principle, and recognizes that there is but one China in the world, that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and that the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. The FSM firmly opposes "Taiwan independence" in all forms, and firmly supports China's reunification. Like the FSM people, the Chinese people attach great importance to the concept of family. For the big family of Chinese, Taiwan is a long-lost son who will eventually return home. It should not be used as a pawn to serve others' agenda. China and the FSM are good partners, good friends and good neighbors. We believe the FSM side can surely understand the Chinese people's aspiration for reunification, continue to firmly uphold the one-China principle, support China in safeguarding its core interests, jointly defend the outcomes of WWII victory and the post-war international order, and advance the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to new heights.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that TAISHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan, of 24-1, Takada 3-Chome, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the sole owner and proprietor of the trademark below:



which is used in connection with the following goods in Class 5:

Pharmaceutical preparations; medicinal drinks; tonics [medicines]; vitamin preparations; nutritional preparations for medical use; nutritional additives for medical purposes; nutritional supplements for medical purposes; food supplements for medical purposes; drugs for medical purposes; dental materials; bracelets for medical purposes; oiled paper for medical purposes; sanitary masks; pharmaceutical wafer; gauze for dressings; capsules for pharmaceutical purposes; capsules for medicines; eyepatches for medical purposes; ear bandages; incontinence diapers; semen for artificial insemination; menstruation bandages; menstruation tampons; sanitary napkins; menstruation pads; sanitary pads; sanitary panties; sanitary knickers; menstruation knickers; absorbent cotton; absorbent wadding; lacteal flour for babies; lactose [milk sugar]; fly catching paper; adhesive plaster; court plaster; slicking plasters; bandages for dressings; collodion for pharmaceutical purposes; mothproofing paper; breast-nursing pads; dietetic foods adapted for medical purposes; dietetic beverages adapted for medical purposes.

Notice is also hereby given that: THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADE MARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.

For further information, please contact: DENNEMEYER & ASSOCIATES Email: mail-au@dennemeyer-law.com

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club thanks its donors for supporting Christmas party

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club

December 28, 2025

Pohnpei - The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) joyfully wishes everyone in Pohnpei a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2026. These warm wishes go especially to all those who participated in, supported, financed, and helped make the PSAKC Christmas Party on December 21 such a wonderful success.

Held at the Kolonia China Friendship Hall and the nearby Spanish Wall Park, the celebration brought together children from schools across Kolonia and surrounding communities for a truly festive day. Football matches, games, laughter, good food, and an exciting raffle filled the afternoon with joy. From early on, the park was buzzing with energy as children ran, played, and enjoyed the simple happiness of being together.

PSAKC extends its sincere and cheerful

thanks to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, whose generous sponsorship made the event possible. The Embassy supported the sumptuous Christmas banquet prepared by Simon Mix, provided transportation for students from Sekere Elementary School, and donated a large number of gifts that delighted the children during the raffle. Their generosity added a special sparkle to the celebration.

Warm appreciation also goes to the Kolonia Municipality for kindly allowing the use of the Friendship Hall and surrounding facilities on very short notice, after the originally planned venue suddenly became unavailable. PSAKC is equally grateful to the Pohnpei Public Library for contributing additional presents that brought even more smiles to young faces.

A big round of applause goes to the parents and volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the day. From

refereeing matches to organizing food distribution—and even managing to keep more than 60 excited children seated and quiet when needed—they did an amazing job. It was teamwork at its very best.

Thanks to favorable weather and boundless enthusiasm, many matches were played, with children arriving up to an hour before the official start time, eager to get on the field. Each school was represented by more than one team, but as always, the final results did not matter. What mattered was the joy of playing together.

At PSAKC, soccer is about friendship, inclusion, and learning to know and respect one another—on the field and off it. Children from all backgrounds mixed freely, shared happy moments, and went home with gifts, memories, and big smiles.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be a very busy year. With major tournaments, the World Cup, and many invitations to participate in events in Pohnpei and abroad, PSAKC hopes to create new learning opportunities for its young players. When possible, and without interfering with their education, the association aims to allow some children brief experiences abroad, encouraging them to grow not only as players but as respectful, healthy, and responsible young people—embracing mutual respect, healthy eating habits, and an active lifestyle.

PSAKC would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Bill Jayne and the Kaselehlie Press for their continued support over the past year. Their consistent kindness in offering space to share our activities with the wider community has been deeply appreciated.

Finally, we wish to remember our collaborator Crystal, who is no longer with us. She is greatly missed, and PSAKC remains committed to honoring her memory by continuing the work she cared so deeply about.

Her contribution to the growth and well-being of these children will not be forgotten.

Christmas is about children, and this celebration was for them. May they remain happy, keep playing, and cherish these joyful moments as we all look forward to a bright and hopeful 2026.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – MICRONESIA

Notice is hereby given that SAIC-GM-WULING AUTOMOBILE CO., LTD. No.18, Hexi Road, Liunan District, Liuzhou, Guangxi China

is the sole owner and proprietor in MICRONESIA of the trade mark shown below:



which is used upon or in connection with the following goods:

Class 12: Locomotives; remote control vehicles, other than toys; electric vehicles; vehicles for locomotion by land, air, water or rail; cars; autonomous cars; robotic cars; car hood; automobile bodies; shock absorbers for automobiles; sun-blinds adapted for automobiles; hubs for automobile wheels; anti-theft devices for vehicles; bicycles; push scooters [vehicles]; motor tricycles; electric tricycles; moped scooters; mobility scooters; electric bicycles; self-balancing scooters; self-balancing boards; self-balancing electric unicycles; telfer railways [cable cars]; two-wheeled trolleys; tyres for vehicle wheels; air vehicles; boats; suspension shock absorbers for vehicles; luggage carriers for vehicles; safety seats for children, for vehicles; windshield wipers; seat covers for vehicles; windscreens; steering wheels for vehicles; side view mirrors for vehicles; motorcycles; hubs for vehicle wheels.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE OWNER CLAIMS ALL RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE TRADE MARK AND WILL TAKE ALL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION COUNTERFEITING, IMITATING, VIOLATING OR OTHERWISE INFRINGING THE SAID RIGHTS OF THE OWNER IN MICRONESIA.

Any enquiries regarding the said trade mark may be referred to Ironside McDonald Limited Level 3, Candida Building 4, 61 Constellation Drive, Mairangi Bay, Auckland, 0630, New Zealand imip@ironsidemcdonald.com

Mrunmayi's final-year engineering project delivers smart hydration system

The University of the South Pacific

December 16, 2025

Fiji - In an era defined by technological advancement and climate realities, young Pacific engineers are stepping forward as drivers of transformative change. Among them is Mrunmayi Badgujar, whose final-year project is reimagining how everyday actions such as drinking water can be enhanced through intelligent, sustainable design.

Her innovation, AquaSync, is a Smart Hydration Enhancement System (HyES) created to help individuals maintain healthy hydration habits effortlessly. Developed as part of her course unit project, AquaSync integrates mechanical engineering principles with electronic sensing and digital technology to deliver a user-friendly, eco-conscious solution.

At its core, AquaSync tracks a user's water intake in real time, provides timely reminders to drink, and analyses hydration patterns to ensure individuals meet their daily hydration goals. Using smart sensors paired with an intuitive digital interface, the system generates personalised recommendations and encourages consistent, healthier routines.

The project is now moving from the prototype phase into refinement and real-world testing. Improvements are being made to the accuracy of the sensors, the data-logging system, and

the overall robustness of the design for daily use.

Once these technical components are optimised, AquaSync will enter user-testing stages with potential users such as office workers and individuals who struggle with hydration. Feedback from these sessions will guide further design enhancements, increasing usability, reliability, and long-term durability.

The ultimate goal is to develop AquaSync into a fully functional product that can be scaled for real-world implementation, potentially in partnership with wellness organisations, educational institutions, and industry collaborators, to promote healthier hydration habits across communities.

"Studying Mechanical Engineering at The University of the South Pacific (USP) has empowered me to think beyond technical design and create solutions that are both smart and sustainable," Mrunmayi shared.

Her commitment to social impact extends beyond academia. Mrunmayi became a G17 Ambassador for Fiji through a competitive application process that required candidates to demonstrate leadership, a commitment to sustainable development, and a clear



community, she participates in campaigns focused on climate action, youth empowerment, and gender equality, engaging directly in project implementation, event coordination, and youth mobilisation to ensure the SDGs are actively practiced within Fiji.

"Even the smallest ideas can create meaningful change when designed with empathy and intention," she highlighted.

Mrunmayi credits USP's practical learning environment for shaping her as both an engineer and a regional changemaker.

Through hands-on laboratory work, industry exposure, and collaborative projects, she has developed the creativity and resilience needed to address the Pacific's unique challenges.

Prospective students can also turn their ideas into impact with USP's School of Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Physics (STEMP). From Mechanical, Civil, and Electrical Engineering to Computer Science, Information Systems, Mathematics, and Physics, STEMP offers hands-on learning, real-world projects, and opportunities to become a Pacific innovator.

Apply Now for Semester 1, 2026 studies via www.usp.ac.fj/apply

vision for advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Her selection was based on her strong academic background, active community involvement, and clear passion for sustainability.

In her ambassadorial role, she actively champions the UNSDGs, but her contributions go beyond advocacy. She organises and facilitates workshops, seminars, and outreach programmes across different sectors.

At USP, she supports capacity-building initiatives to empower students through innovation, leadership, and sustainability awareness. In the wider

Tonga protects 30% of its ocean in groundbreaking Ocean Act

200,000 square kilometers of ocean designated as fully protected Marine Protected Areas

Waitt Institute

December 19, 2025

Nuku'alofa, Tonga – The Kingdom of Tonga has passed historic legislation to sustainably manage its ocean for generations to come. His Majesty the King of Tonga has assented to the Ocean Management Act, which was passed by Parliament, legally establishing a national Marine Spatial Plan that protects 30% of Tonga's ocean as fully protected Marine Protected Areas while supporting economic growth and community wellbeing.

In 2021, the Cabinet adopted Tonga's Ocean Management Plan, which protects 30.45% of Tonga's ocean space, nearly 200,000 square kilometers, as fully protected Marine Protected Areas. These protections safeguard fisheries, ocean ecosystems, and economic resilience. The Act aligns all ocean sectors (fishing, mining, tourism, energy, and shipping) under one unified framework while safeguarding traditional knowledge and customary practices that connect Tongans to the sea.

The Act protects Tonga's offshore and nearshore waters and continues to support community-led Special Management Areas in coastal areas. In Tonga, there are 67 established Special Management Areas that have been led by each community to manage their ocean space from 0-3 kilometers. Community-Led Development

The Act's development involved extensive community consultations across Tonga's four island groups. Local communities and ocean sectors shaped the final management plan, ensuring

the Act reflects traditional knowledge and cultural, economic, and personal relationships with the ocean. Protecting National Treasures.

The Kingdom is home to the Tonga Trench, the second deepest place on Earth at 10,823 meters (35,509 feet). Its waters are also a critical habitat for humpback whales, which migrate to Tonga's warm, shallow waters to mate and give birth. This makes Tonga world-renowned for whale swimming tourism, attracting thousands of visitors each year.

USCGC Myrtle Hazard returns home after Operation Blue Pacific patrol to combat illegal fishing, deepen regional cooperation

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

December 14, 2025

SANTA RITA, Guam — The USCGC Myrtle Hazard (WPC 1139) crew returned home Sunday after completing a successful expeditionary patrol under Operation Blue Pacific, deepening partnerships with Pacific nations and bolstering maritime security in the region.

The Sentinel-class fast response cutter crew operated for over 500 hours, patrolling 5,380 nautical miles from Nov. 17 to Dec. 14, with 15 days dedicated to providing a persistent presence in the exclusive economic zones of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau, as well as on the high seas.

Crew members worked closely with partners from FSM and Palau. They enacted the bilateral maritime law enforcement agreements with Pacific partners and embarked law enforcement officers from these nations' maritime police forces to conduct interoperable patrols. This hands-on cooperation enabled the joint teams to conduct six bilateral boardings and inspections of fishing vessels in the FSM EEZ. On the high seas, the cutter's crew inspected one vessel under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries

Commission.

These efforts helped combat illegal fishing and other illicit maritime activities. They also enhanced maritime domain awareness, supported the safe flow of commerce, and promoted good maritime governance.

Myrtle Hazard's team stepped in to provide critical presence in Palau's waters during a five-day patrol. This coverage supported Palauan authorities while their Guardian-class patrol boat underwent scheduled maintenance. The patrol went beyond simple transit. It focused on building maritime security, engaging directly with Pacific partners, and enforcing international maritime law through shared operations.

"The relationships we build with our Pacific partners are at the heart of this mission," said Lt. Emma Saunders, commanding officer of Myrtle Hazard. "Executing bilateral maritime law enforcement operations with our partners allows us to work side by side with the common goals of deterring illicit maritime activities, protecting our oceans, and supporting the communities that rely on their natural resources."

These actions advanced U.S. Coast Guard priorities, enabling border security, protecting lawful commerce and trade, and staying ready for contingencies. A persistent, low-

visibility presence fosters trust and strengthens ties within the Pacific community through shared law-enforcement-led and community-engagement efforts.

To build goodwill, the crew organized five community events in Pohnpei and Kosrae, FSM. These included a volleyball game with locals, swimming lessons for children, and tours of the cutter.

"The community events in Pohnpei and Kosrae were some of our favorite parts of the patrol," said Saunders. "We have some pretty good athletes on the crew, and sharing the court with the all-stars from the local village teams made for an unforgettable volleyball match full of laughs and friendly competition. The swimming lessons for local youth and cutter tours for veterans and their families were a hit all around. It's moments like these that really help build lasting relationships."

Crew members further maintained readiness through training, earning new qualifications and currency, and completing 10 drills covering navigation, engineering, damage

control, and medical response. During the patrol, Myrtle Hazard crossed the equator. The crew celebrated with traditional ceremonies, including a line-crossing event, a Cutterman ceremony recognizing a member serving more than five years at sea, and a promotion to lieutenant junior grade.



Kosrae State receives assistance from the Peoples Republic of China to renovate the Kosrae High School building

Kosrae State Public Information

December 23, 2025

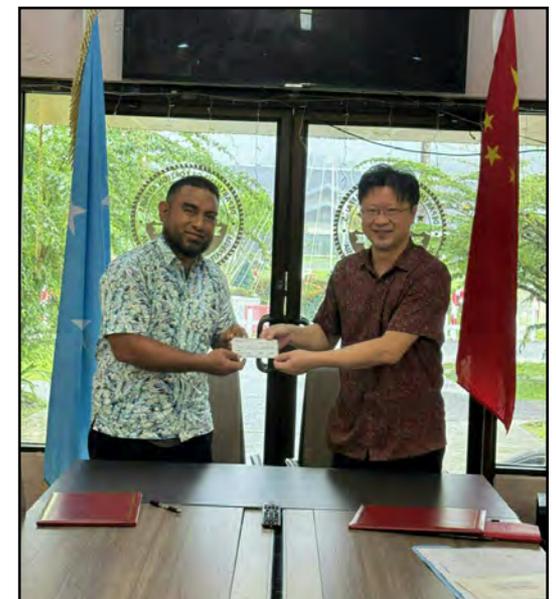
Palikir, Pohnpei - On December 22, 2025, His Excellency Ambassador Wu Wei presented a check in the amount of over Two Hundred Thousand US Dollars to a representative of Kosrae State at the National Department of Foreign Affairs Conference Room in Palikir Pohnpei to fund the first phase of renovations to Kosrae's only High School. The handover ceremony was conducted in the presence of Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Kenmore Salvador and

facilitated by Foreign Affairs staff Mr. Calvin Ehmes.

In his remarks, His Excellency Ambassador Wu Wei emphasized the continued mutual cooperation and respect shared between China and the FSM, and by extension, between China and Kosrae State.

The following day on December 23, 2025 along the margins of Kosrae's Leadership Mini-Conference at the Kosrae State Legislature Chamber, the check was officially handed

over by the Kosrae State Leadership represented by the Honorable Speaker Simeon Phillip to the Kosrae State Treasury represented by the Director of Finance, Mr. Lipar George. The Honorable Governor Tulensa Palik provided a remark to the leadership to briefly explain the purpose of the funding assistance and to express heartfelt appreciation to the People's Republic of China on behalf of Kosrae State.



PICRC launches new program with the Australian Institute of Marine Science to enhance coral reef monitoring and management in Micronesia

PICRC

December 26, 2025

Palau - The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) has launched a new project with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), titled "Enhancing coral reef monitoring and management in Micronesia", which will run through to 31st May, 2026.

AIMS, a world-class leader in large-scale and long-term marine science research, has developed ReefCloud, a cloud-based virtual knowledge hub that analyzes high-resolution images and data to provide insights into the ecological status and trends of coral reefs. PICRC conducts large-scale coral reef monitoring and fish stock

assessments.

The collaboration aims to integrate the expertise, data, and outputs from both institutions to deliver a more comprehensive understanding of coral reef ecosystems. The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation, encouraging joint research in areas including coral reef ecology, marine monitoring, habitat mapping, and marine ecosystem management.

The partnership will also focus on building regional capacity and fostering collaboration across the Pacific, supporting the delivery of science-driven solutions for managing marine resources.

Dr. Manuel Gonzalez Rivero from AIMS and Ms. Geraldine Rengiil from PICRC have been designated to oversee the implementation of this project and coordinate further discussions to expand collaborative activities based on shared priorities.

A key component of this initiative is the Train-the-Trainer Program, through which PICRC supported two researchers, Daniel Cassidy and Victor Nestor, to receive specialized training from AIMS on the ReefCloud platform. Following this training, these staff members have led ongoing capacity-building sessions with PICRC personnel, strengthening the effective use and application of ReefCloud to support

coral reef monitoring and management in Palau.

This agreement represents a significant step toward strengthening scientific collaboration in the Pacific and enhancing the stewardship of the region's invaluable coral reef ecosystems.



Participants build real-world AI solutions at industry-led hackathon at USP

The University of the South Pacific

December 18, 2025

Fiji - Students and industry professionals are gaining valuable hands-on experience in artificial intelligence through a four-day AI Hackathon hosted at The University of the South Pacific's (USP) Laucala Campus in Fiji.

Working closely with engineers and data specialists from Honeywell Aerospace, Tata Consultancy Services and Pacific Technologies, participants are learning key industry processes including teamwork methodologies, solution design, testing, deployment and pitching AI-driven solutions to stakeholders.

The hackathon is designed to provide participants with practical exposure to how artificial intelligence solutions are developed, tested and applied in real-world industry settings.

It offers a safe, collaborative environment for students to experiment, solve problems and learn directly from industry professionals skills that are often not covered in traditional classroom settings.

Open to high school students, university students, recent graduates and IT professionals, the hackathon brought together participants from diverse backgrounds to tackle a real-world AI use

case.

USP computer science student Trishaal Dutt said the hackathon provided rare exposure to industry-level problem solving.

"This was the first time I truly understood how AI solutions are built, from concept to deployment. Working alongside industry experts pushed us to think beyond theory and apply what we've learned in class to real-world challenges. The experience has boosted my confidence and showed me what's possible for students from the Pacific in the global tech space," Dutt said. Team Rawrr – made up of USP students Toni Nam, Shreshtha Sharma, George Fong, Akash Mishra, Ravinesh Narayan and Gwen Mar – said the hackathon experience reinforced the importance of collaboration in solving complex technological challenges.

"Challenges will always arise when working with advanced technologies like AI, but the key lesson we've learned is that solutions come faster and stronger when you work through them together," the team said.

"By combining different skills, perspectives and ideas, we were able to push boundaries, support one another and grow not just as individuals, but as a team of aspiring tech professionals."

Director of Data Science and Business Transformation at Honeywell Aerospace, Shawn McKay, said artificial intelligence is becoming increasingly critical in the global aviation sector.

"AI is playing a major role in areas such as predictive maintenance, operational efficiency and improving aircraft safety. Events like this show that Fijian talent has the capability to contribute meaningfully to this growing field," McKay said.

He added that the hackathon also provides valuable insights for industry and education partners alike.

"It allows industry partners to identify emerging talent early, while also helping universities understand gaps in digital and AI readiness, ensuring graduates are equipped with future-focused skills."

Honeywell Aerospace said the initiative reflects its commitment to bringing global aerospace expertise to Fiji while creating pathways for students interested in careers in aviation, information technology and artificial intelligence.

Paul Johnson, IT Business Partner at Tata Consultancy Services, praised the quality and engagement of the participants.

"We have been genuinely impressed by the students not just their technical ability, but their curiosity, collaborative mindset and the smart questions they are asking," Johnson said.

"There is a strong culture of teamwork here, and it is clear that the quality of education the students are receiving is producing talent that can think critically, adapt quickly and contribute effectively in real-world technology environments."

The AI Hackathon highlights USP's continued commitment to industry engagement and future-ready education, while strengthening partnerships between global technology leaders and the Pacific region.

With enrolment for Semester 1, 2026 now open, USP continues to equip students with future-ready skills through industry-aligned initiatives such as the AI Hackathon.

Apply now via www.usp.ac.fj/apply.



Steering the canoe forward: WHO Regional Director's visit elevates FSM Office and health partnerships

World Health Organization

December 22, 2025

FSM - "Our vision is clear: resilient health systems that leave no island behind," said Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, during his first official visit to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on 24–28 November 2025. His journey combined high-level diplomacy, cultural immersion, and firsthand experiences of the challenges faced by communities across FSM's islands.

The visit also marked a historic milestone: the elevation of WHO's presence in FSM from a Country Liaison Office to a full multi-country WHO Representative Office, with WHO veteran Dr Roderico Ofrin introduced as the new WHO Representative for the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau.

Strategic dialogues in Pohnpei State

In Pohnpei, one of FSM's four states and the seat of the federal government, Dr Piukala engaged in pivotal discussions with national and state leaders:

- Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lt Governor Herolyn S. Movick. The conversation focused on health as an economic investment and implementing a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach.

- Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky F. Cantero. Dr Piukala reinforced FSM's global climate diplomacy with a call to put health at the center of climate advocacy and policy.

- Secretary of Health and Social Affairs Dr Marcus Samo. Priorities included accelerating action to address the enormous burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), expanding digital health to better reach populations even in the most remote areas, and integrating environmental health into policy. Dr Piukala and Minister Samo – one of

the most senior health ministers in the entire Western Pacific Region – also discussed operationalizing outcomes from the seventy-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, held in Fiji in October, where the main agenda items included strengthening climate-resilient health systems, boosting health emergency preparedness, prioritizing alcohol control policies and, not least, elevating the importance of oral health.

Pohnpei State Hospital visit

A key highlight was the meeting with Mr Stuart Penias, Director of Pohnpei State Hospital, and his team. Dr Piukala toured the hospital's units, gaining insight into the challenges of delivering care across FSM's dispersed islands. Discussions focused on:

- Strengthening primary health care – taking health to where the people are – as the most cost-effective approach to ensuring health for all.

- Improving hospital infrastructure and workforce capacity, amid concerns that the current generation of doctors, nurses and other health care providers are approaching retirement age and the country urgently needs to replenish its human resources for health.

- Exploring digital health tools to enhance service delivery.

Presidential commitment

During his meeting with President Wesley W. Simina, Dr Piukala emphasized the importance of mobilizing all sectors to improve health outcomes and integrate health into FSM's national climate adaptation plans covering water security, resilient health infrastructure, and vector control. He also highlighted the elevation of WHO's presence from a Country Liaison Office to a full WHO Representative Office, reaffirming WHO's long-term commitment to FSM and its role in strengthening health systems across all states.

Feeling the journey

The visit wasn't confined to boardrooms. Dr Piukala and Dr Ofrin visited the Madolenihmw Health Dispensary, where they met frontline health workers and observed the realities of delivering care in remote settings. This hands-on experience highlighted the importance of strengthening primary health care and ensuring services reach even the most isolated communities.

Later, the team journeyed by boat to the historic and mysterious UNESCO World Heritage Site of Nan Madol, a striking reminder of FSM's unique geography and the long, challenging routes many residents from outer islands take to access essential services. The experience underscored the need for resilient health systems that leave no island behind.

Chuuk: Health and education in

action Dr Piukala and his delegation continued their mission in Chuuk State, focusing on health systems and youth empowerment.

Chuuk State Hospital

Key discussions with the Director of Health Dr Bosco Buliche and team addressed follow-up on leprosy training and support for lymphatic filariasis elimination, demonstrating FSM's determination to tackle longstanding neglected tropical diseases. Other priorities include strengthening school health programmes in light of alarming data on tobacco and alcohol use among adolescents, along with improving primary health care data systems, as well as formulating and implementing legal frameworks for anti-vaping laws and hospital renovation.

Meeting with Governor Alexander Naruho

The Governor, a longtime advocate for integrating health across government sectors, commended WHO's support for NCD prevention and youth health, reiterating the state government's emphasis on a life-cycle approach to health incorporating physical activity at all stages.

Visit to High School Nursing Program A highlight was getting to know the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program, re-launched under the FSM Skills and Employability Enhancement Project, and implemented at Chuuk High School. It equips promising students with health care skills and hands-on experience, paving the way for careers in nursing, thereby strengthening the local health workforce.

Looking ahead

Dr Piukala's visit reinforced a shared vision held by leaders across FSM, and indeed across the Pacific: stronger primary health care, integrated climate resilience, and empowered communities. "Our vision is clear: weaving resilient health systems that ultimately leave no island behind," he reiterated, vowing to return to FSM at the earliest possible opportunity to visit its other two states – Yap and Kosrae – as well, and review progress being made on multiple fronts.

