

Panuel files suit over legislature status; hearing set for Feb. 26

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

He took his oath of office on Nov. 19 before Mayceleen Anson of the Pohnpei Supreme Court.

February 9, 2026

Pohnpei - A lawsuit filed at the FSM Supreme Court asks judges to decide whether Welson Panuel remains a member of the 11th Pohnpei Legislature after lawmakers voted in November to set aside his oath of office.

The case, Civil Action No. CA 2026-003, was filed by attorney Marstella Jack and seeks declaratory and injunctive relief. A hearing is scheduled for Feb. 26.

Panuel was elected in the Oct. 14, 2025 special election in Kitti. According to the complaint, the Legislature's Credentials Committee later affirmed he was qualified to be seated.



The petition argues that once the oath was administered, Panuel became a sitting senator under the Constitution.

On Nov. 29, however, the Legislature convened in special session and voted to set the oath aside.

Panuel contends that action effectively removed him from office without following constitutional procedures for expulsion. He argues he has since been denied access to sessions, barred from voting and debate, and prevented from carrying out duties on behalf of the voters of Kitti.

The complaint asks the court to declare that the oath remains valid, that Panuel is a lawful member of the Legislature, and that leaders lack authority to disregard the oath without

[Click here for continuation](#)

Ambassador Soram presents Letters of Credence as FSM Ambassador to Canada

FSM Information Services

January 30, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — On January 28, 2026 His Excellency Jackson T. Soram, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to the United States and now cross-accredited to Canada, formally presented his Letters of Credence to Her Excellency the Right Honorable Mary May Simon, Governor General of Canada. The official ceremony was held at the Rideau Hall, the Governor General's official residence and working place in Ottawa on January 22, 2026.

The presentation of credentials officially accredits Ambassador Soram as the first FSM Ambassador to Canada, marking the beginning of his diplomatic duties in

strengthening FSM-Canada relations.

The Federated States of Micronesia and Canada established diplomatic relations in 1993 and have since maintained cooperative ties founded on mutual respect, shared democratic values, and collaboration on regional and global priorities. Ambassador Soram's accreditation underscores President Simina's continued commitment to expanding and deepening engagement with other development partners including Canada.

While extending the special greetings of Kamorale from the government and the people

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United States supports school renovations in Pohnpei, strengthening education infrastructure

Embassy of the United States to the FSM

February 4, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei - On January 29, the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four (NMCB FOUR), more commonly known as the Seabees, completed and handed over major renovation projects at Kolonia and Saladak Elementary Schools, reaffirming the United States' enduring commitment to education, community development, and the well-being of the Micronesian people.



The projects included extensive structural repairs, replacement of termite- and water-damaged trusses, installation of new ceilings and windows, electrical upgrades, interior and exterior painting, and modernization of

kitchen, library, classroom, and sanitation facilities. Working in close partnership with Pohnpei's Department of Education, the Seabees completed the projects using several hundred hours of labor and materials provided

through bilateral cooperation.

Pohnpei State officials and representatives from the Department of Education accepted the renovated facilities on behalf of the government of the Federated States of Micronesia

(FSM). Their participation highlights the importance of these improvements to FSM's ongoing efforts to strengthen educational infrastructure and provide safe, supportive learning environments for students and teachers.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Monday, February 23, 2026

"These renovations will provide students and educators with safer, more functional spaces to learn, teach, and grow," said U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson. "Through our strong partnership and the Compact of Free Association, the United States remains committed to supporting FSM's education sector and investing in the next generation of leaders."

The Compact of Free Association (COFA) underpins the relationship between the United States and FSM by providing economic assistance, access to federal programs, and development support in exchange for strategic and security cooperation. Through initiatives such as these school renovation projects, the COFA continues to promote stability, opportunity, and shared prosperity across the Pacific region.

Pohnpei State advances sustainable development through partnership with Ama Town, Janus Co., Ltd., and Chugoku Electric Co.

Pohnpei Public Information

February 5, 2026

Nakanoshima, Oki Islands, Japan — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph is currently in Japan to lead a strategic mission focused on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model development project. This initiative is hosted by Janus Co., Ltd. and Chugoku Energy, in close collaboration with the local government of Ama Town.

Upon his arrival on the island of Nakanoshima, Governor Joseph was greeted by the Mayor of Ama Town, Kazuhiko Ohe. The visit serves as a primary component of a broader project to integrate Ama Town's proven sustainability successes with the technical capabilities of the private sector to benefit Pohnpei State.

Core Pillars of the Collaborative Project



The mission is centered on observing and adapting economic and environmental models that have allowed Ama Town to flourish. The partnership focuses on several key areas of development:

- **Renewable Energy & Infrastructure:** Working with Chugoku Energy and Janus Co., Ltd. to explore energy solutions that promote self-sufficiency and stabilize Pohnpei's power resources.
- **Fisheries & Value-Added Processing:** Reviewing advanced models for the freezing and preparation of seafood. These systems are designed to maximize the economic yield of local fisheries while maintaining high standards of quality.
- **Waste Management & Composting:** Studying integrated waste-to-resource programs that transform organic waste into compost, a vital step toward sustainable agriculture and environmental protection in Pohnpei.
- **Sustainable Economic Models:** Evaluating the synergy between public administration and private enterprise to foster long-term growth and industry resilience.

Technical Exchange and Site Inspections
During the visit, Governor Joseph was shown successful operations across the Oki Islands that demonstrate the practical application of these technologies. These field inspections included seafood processing facilities, hydroelectric and waste management plants that utilize private-sector innovation to solve public-sector challenges.

The inclusion of Ama Town in this project provides Pohnpei with a unique "island-to-island"

perspective, ensuring that the solutions developed are culturally and geographically appropriate for the people of Pohnpei.

Project Outlook

The insights gained from this mission will assist the Pohnpei State Government in establishing a formal framework for future projects. By leveraging the expertise of Janus Co., Ltd. and Chugoku Electric alongside the community-driven successes of Ama Town, Pohnpei aims to implement a robust model for renewable energy and economic sustainability.

Governor Joseph was accompanied by Mark Kostka, Director of the Department of Resources and Development, Nixon Anson, Chief Executive Officer, PUC, Francisco Celestine, Executive Officer, Pohnpei EPA and Patrick Pedrus, Public Affairs Officer.



PICRC publishes study on longnose emperor spawning aggregation

Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)

Since 2023, the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) has been collaborating with the Koror State Government (KSG) to conduct research and monitoring aimed at providing essential baseline data to guide the Koror Southern Lagoon Coastal Fisheries Management Plan, a new fisheries management initiative for Koror State. The management plan identified several fish spawning aggregation sites for protection, including the longnose emperor (melangmud, *Lethrinus olivaceus*) at Mutiaur.

Spawning aggregations occur when fish gather in large numbers to reproduce at specific times and locations, making them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. Palau has many well-known spawning aggregations which often coincide with specific lunar phases, such as groupers at Ngerumekaol channel (Koror) and Ebiil channel (Ngarchelong). However, many other species have been reported to form spawning aggregations, but have never been studied scientifically, posing challenges for effective management.

PICRC conducted surveys of the longnose emperor spawning aggregation at Mutiaur to confirm spawning and document the lunar and seasonal patterns of the aggregation. Diver-operated stereo video surveys, using GoPro cameras, were conducted every month from February 2023 to February 2024, on the days around the new moon. Divers swam across the corner along the same route at 13 m and 20 m to document the size and density of longnose emperors. In addition, researchers collected gonad (reproductive organs) samples from fish at the aggregation site and the JR5 fish

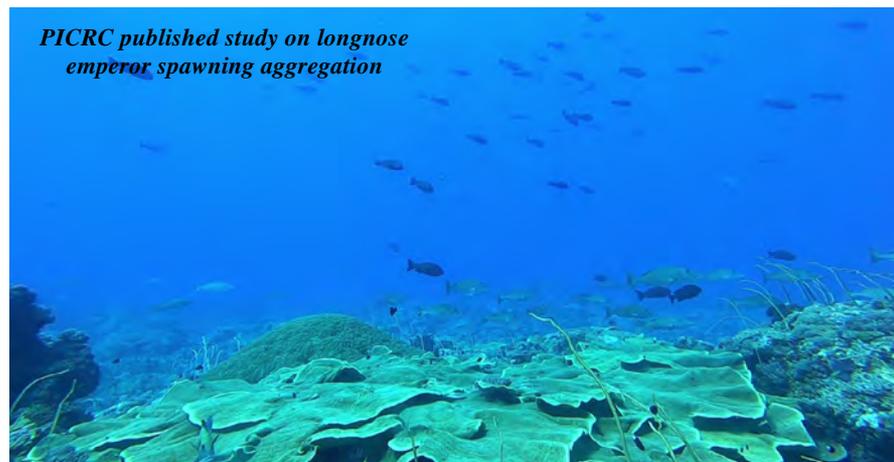
market to confirm spawning and assess patterns in spawning activity.

The results confirmed that longnose emperors are spawning at Mutiaur, with strong evidence that aggregations form on the days around the new moon. Peak aggregation months occurred from February to May, with a smaller peak in September and October. High fish densities were also observed outside of the area proposed for protection. These findings indicate that the protection measures proposed in the Koror Southern Lagoon Coastal Fisheries Management Plan should be modified to protect the days around the new moon instead of the full moon and expanded to include the whole corner at Mutiaur, to more effectively protect the longnose emperor spawning aggregation.

PICRC also conducted an acoustic tagging study on the same species at Mutiaur, which will provide more detailed information on the timing, seasonality, and movement patterns of longnose emperor around this site. Results are expected to be published soon.

This project was supported by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Resilient Reefs Initiative and Irish Aid's Our Shared Ocean Programme. PICRC has presented the report to Koror State Leadership and will continue to work with them to provide the essential technical information on their Management Plan.

The full study "Lunar and seasonal patterns of a Longnose Emperor spawning aggregation in Palau" is published in the journal Scientific Reports and is available open access at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1038/s41598-025-27785-1>.



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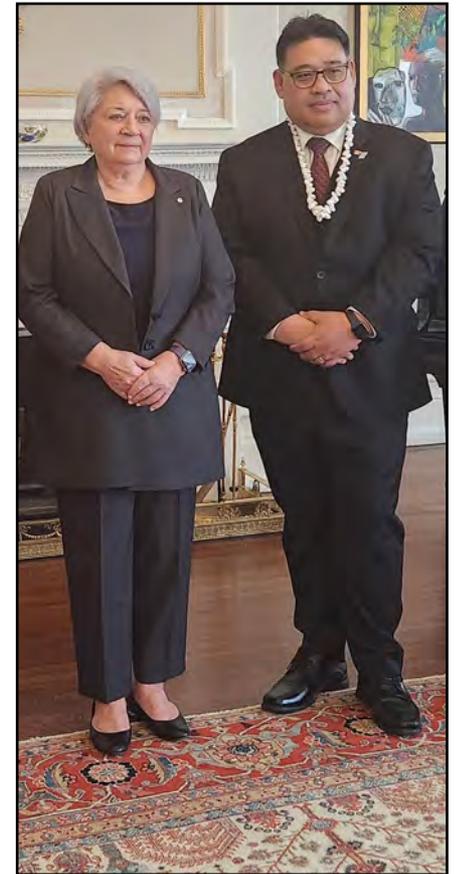
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of the FSM, Ambassador Soram also reaffirmed his dedication to advancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including sustainable development and climate change, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

Specific to the issue of people-to-people exchanges, Ambassador Soram referred to the growing diaspora of FSM citizens in the United States, specifically on the need for citizens to move freely when crossing U.S.-Canada borders to visit places in Canada. Both sides see the merit of an arrangement in place and agreed to continue the dialogue in pursuit of a suitable arrangement that can be mutually beneficial and acceptable to both sides.

In response to the Ambassador's request for educational opportunities, the Government of Canada also shared the launching of its SEED Phase II scholarship opportunity available to Pacific Islands countries including the FSM. (The details of this scholarship opportunity are forthcoming and will be available later).

Ambassador expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome extended by the Government of Canada to him and his delegation during his visit.



...Panuel

Click here to return

using formal expulsion procedures that include due process.

Named as respondents are Marvin Yamaguchi in his official capacity as Speaker, Charles Johnson, and the Legislature itself.

In addition to declaratory relief, Panuel is requesting an order requiring officials to recognize him as a senator while the case is pending.

Questions surrounding the seat are also being examined within the executive branch.

In a Jan. 30 memorandum, the Office

of the Attorney General of Pohnpei reviewed Legislative Resolution 138-26, which maintains the seat remains vacant and refers to the Legislature's authority as the judge of its members' qualifications.

The Attorney General advised that, because litigation is now underway, any vacancy declaration should wait for the court's determination. The memo also cautioned that continued uncertainty could carry financial and legal risks for the state.

The dispute now turns on how the court interprets the effect of the Nov. 19 oath and the extent of the Legislature's authority after that step has taken place.

The Feb. 26 hearing is expected to begin addressing those issues.

Japan provides \$98,500 grant for excavator to support Sokehs road repairs

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 9, 2026
Sokehs, Pohnpei – Japan’s Ambassador to the FSM, Nabuo Kagomiya joined leaders of the Sokehs Municipal Government Monday afternoon for the signing of a grant agreement that will fund the purchase of an excavator to improve road maintenance in the municipality.

The ceremony, held in the council chambers, confirmed Japan’s provision of \$98,500 through its grassroots human security projects program.

The Master of Ceremonies told those gathered that the assistance demonstrated “the strong vision, cooperation, and partnership between Japan and our local government,” an important step toward improving infrastructure and public services.

Sokehs Chief Magistrate Stanley Ernest opened his remarks by thanking Japan and its people for what he called a generous and timely contribution.

“On behalf of this Government, I extend our deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for the generous grant of \$98,500,” Ernest said. “This funding will enable us to procure an excavator that will greatly strengthen our capacity to maintain and improve roads throughout our

municipal areas.”
“Roads are lifelines of our government,” he said. “They protect families, support commerce and ensure access to schools, health services and government offices.”

Maintaining those roads, Ernest added, has been a constant challenge given limited resources and equipment.

“The provision of this excavator will directly address these challenges, allowing us to respond more effectively to road damage, improve safety and security of our roads and our people, and ensure reliable access for our citizens,” he said. “This project is not only about achievement. It is about the dignity and well-being of our people.”

Ernest pledged that Sokehs would use the equipment responsibly and effectively and said the project further strengthened ties between the two nations.

“We look forward to continuing this partnership and building a future of resilience and prosperity together,” he said.

Ambassador Kagomiya said he was pleased to attend the signing on behalf of Japan.

“This project is aimed to provide the Sokehs government with an

excavator which can be used for repairing and maintaining the roads, including secondary corridor roads,” he said.

He said he hoped the project would improve daily life by making travel easier, supporting the transport of goods, and providing better access to essential services such as hospitals and schools.

Japan and the FSM, he said, have cultivated close relations for many years.

“I think much of these strong ties, or ‘kizuna’ in Japanese,” Kagomiya said, adding that Japan’s cooperation extends beyond economic support to areas that touch everyday life, including well-being, quality of life and waste management.

“I sincerely hope this project proceeds smoothly and will help to improve the living conditions, livelihoods and environment in the Sokehs municipality,” he said.

Speaker of the 11th Sokehs Municipal Council Perez Amaraich also offered thanks to the Embassy of Japan for the assistance.

“Your contribution will greatly support our effort to improve road infrastructure and community cleanness, benefiting our daily life

and environment,” Amaraich said.

He said better roads would mean safer access to schools, workplaces and health facilities, while also assisting community cleanup efforts.

“Your investment in our infrastructure and community will strengthen our bond and contribute to a better future for our people,” he said.

Following the signing, Ambassador Kagomiya presented the municipality with a check for \$98,500 for the purchase of the excavator.



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President Simina hands over Chuuk State Biosecurity facility

FSM Information Services

February 4, 2026

Weno, Chuuk—His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), formally handed over the renovated Chuuk Agriculture Station, with a focus on biosecurity and quarantine operations, to the Chuuk State Government during a ceremony held at the Chuuk State Department of Agriculture in Weno.

The facility strengthens national and state efforts to protect FSM from invasive alien species by enhancing biosecurity and quarantine operations in Chuuk State. It will serve the Chuuk State Department of Agriculture while providing dedicated space to support inspection, monitoring, and response activities critical to safeguarding agriculture, the environment, and public well-being.

The ceremony brought together the Lieutenant Governor of Chuuk State, national and state government

officials, traditional leaders, and development partners, reflecting the shared commitment to strengthening biosecurity systems and protecting the nation's natural resources.

In his remarks, President Simina underscored the importance of biosecurity for the nation's long-term resilience. "For an island nation such as ours, biosecurity is a matter of national security. Effective border protection is our first line of defense in safeguarding our agriculture, economy, and environment," President Simina said.

The President expressed appreciation to the National Department of Resources and Development for leading the initiative and coordinating national efforts to strengthen biosecurity systems. He also acknowledged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the implementing partner, thanking the organization for its continued support to the FSM in addressing invasive

species and biosecurity challenges.

Chuuk State Lieutenant Governor Mekioshy William welcomed the handover, describing the facility as a vital asset for the State. "This facility is more than just a building—it is a practical tool in our efforts to protect Chuuk's biodiversity and support the livelihoods of our people," Lieutenant Governor William said.

Ms. Rowena Dimaampao, UNDP Operations Manager, highlighted the importance of biosecurity at the community level. "For Chuuk State, where livelihoods are closely tied to land and sea, effective biosecurity is essential," Ms. Dimaampao said.

The handover reflects the FSM Government's continued commitment, in partnership with state governments and development partners, to strengthening biosecurity capacity and protecting the nation's natural resources.



President Simina administers oath of office to appointees

FSM Information Services

February 2, 2026

Weno, Chuuk — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), administered the oath of office to two appointees during a ceremony held at the Chuuk State Office of the Governor Auditorium.

Mr. Etop Malone was sworn in as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Micronesia Health Insurance Corporation (MiCare), and Mr. Roger Arnold was sworn in as a Member of the Board of Regents of the College of Micronesia-FSM, both representing the State of Chuuk.

The ceremony was attended by the Honorable Mekioshy William, Lieutenant Governor of Chuuk State, along with national and state government officials, as well as family members who joined in support of the appointees.

In administering the oath, President Simina emphasized its significance as a formal and constitutional commitment to faithfully discharge the duties of

office and to serve the people of the Federated States of Micronesia with integrity and accountability. He underscored the responsibility entrusted to board members in supporting effective governance and strengthening national institutions.

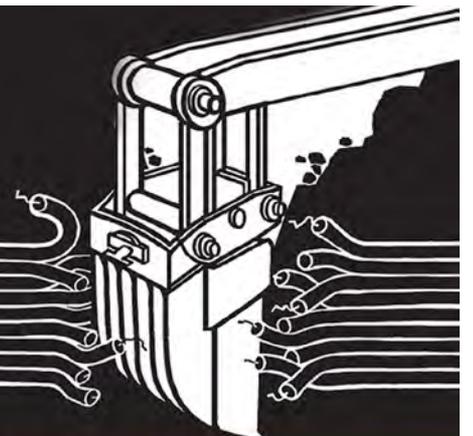
President Simina congratulated the appointees and highlighted the importance of their roles in advancing national priorities, particularly in the areas of health care delivery and higher education. He encouraged them to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and a strong commitment to public service.

The Office of the President extends its best wishes to Mr. Malone and Mr. Arnold as they assume their duties in service to the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Simina-Palik administration extends its appreciation to the 24th FSM Congress for confirming the nominees and reaffirmed the importance of cooperation among the branches of government in promoting good governance.



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Ambassador Kagomiya visits Chuuk State

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

February 9, 2026

Pohnpei - From January 27-30, Ambassador Kagomiya and Mrs. Kagomiya made an official visit to Chuuk State. During their visit on January 28, Ambassador Kagomiya called on T.H. Alexander Narruhn, Governor of Chuuk State, T.H. Arno H. Kony, President of the Chuuk House of Senate, and T.H. Lester D. Mersai, Speaker of the Chuuk House of

Representatives. During the courtesy calls, Ambassador Kagomiya discussed the friendly relations between Japan and Chuuk State looking forward to further collaborations.

On January 28, Ambassador Kagomiya met with Mr. Bradford Mori, Director of Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss the emergency assistance that the Government of Japan will provide to Chuuk in response to the damages caused by the oil leak.

Ambassador Kagomiya also visited the Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) office and received an update from Mr. Tetsuya Uchiyama, Resident Representative, on the project for collecting oil from sunken wartime ships in Chuuk Lagoon for the purpose of environmental protection, as well as observed the collection methods of oil from the ships.

on the project to enhance water security in the FSM, funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by IOM and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Ambassador and Mrs. Kagomiya also visited the monument erected in memory of the war dead to pray for those who perished during the war in Chuuk (Truk island).

Ambassador Kagomiya then visited the Chuuk Women's Council, where he was briefed on the council's activities, including measures against domestic violence and women's empowerment. The council’s building was previously constructed with the support of the Government of Japan.

On January 29, Ambassador Kagomiya visited the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Chuuk Office and exchanged views



9th February 2025

BID INVITATION

for

Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, Design-Build Services for the Maintenance of the Small Business Development Center, Colonia, Yap

NOTICE

The Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I), National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to suitably qualified Contractors for the Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, Design-Build Services for the Maintenance of the Small Business Development Center, Colonia, Yap

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Patrick Drakes, PMO manager at email pdrakes@pmoyapstate.com with Cc to the Project Management Unit pmu@tci.gov.fm with the subject heading:

“ Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, Design-Build Services for the Maintenance of the Small Business Development Center, Colonia, Yap ”

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department’s website: <https://www.tci.gov.fm/>.

The closing date for the submission of bids is Friday March 20th 2025 at 4pm local Yap Time. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Secretary, DTC&I

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community FSM holds their 3rd Annual Convention



By **Faheem Arshad**,
President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community FSM

February 7, 2026

Pohnpei - The world needs peace now more than ever. Every day, we see the impact of conflict and division, and it reminds us how important it is to come together to build understanding and harmony.

On January 18, 2026, our annual Convention brought community members and guests together under the theme "One Purpose, One Humanity: Striving for Global Peace." Attendees engaged in meaningful discussions about how families, communities, and nations can work toward peace and understanding.

We were honored to welcome representatives from the SDA Church, LDS Church, the Australasian Ambassador, U.S. Embassy officials, the UN Human Rights Department, and the Legislative Council of the Congress of FSM. Their participation enriched the dialogue and showed how people from different backgrounds can unite around a shared mission for peace.

The event also included a shared dinner and a Peace Café. It was inspiring to see people of all backgrounds coming together not just to talk about peace, but to experience it in action.

The Jalsa Salana is open to everyone, and we look forward to welcoming the wider community next year to continue these important conversations.



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The Opportunity – Team Leader Peace and Security

The Team Leader Peace and Security will lead the PIFS Peace and Security Team to provide advice on regional peace and security trends and threats, and to coordinate regional peace and security priorities as framed by the Boe and Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declarations, and the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan. The key responsibilities are summarised as:

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How to apply

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

To be eligible for the position, applicants must be nationals of Forum member countries. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The deadline for applications is Friday 27 February, 5pm (Fiji Time).

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

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Class 9: Scientific, research, navigation, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, audiovisual, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, detecting, testing, inspecting, life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for conducting, switching, transforming, accumulating, regulating or controlling the distribution or use of electricity; apparatus and instruments for recording, transmitting, reproducing or processing sound, images or data; recorded and downloadable multimedia files, computer software, blank digital or analogue recording and storage media; mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus; cash registers, calculating devices; computers and computer peripheral devices; diving suits, divers' masks, ear plugs for divers, nose clips for divers, gloves for divers, breathing apparatus for underwater swimming; fire-extinguishing apparatus; smartwatches; tablet computers; mobile telephones; chips [integrated circuits].

Class 42: Scientific and technological services and research and design relating thereto; industrial analysis, industrial research and industrial design services; quality control and authentication services; design and development of computer hardware and software; Design of chips [integrated circuits].

Xiaomi Inc. claims all rights in respect to the above trade mark and will take all necessary legal steps against any person, firm or corporation counterfeiting, imitating, violating or otherwise infringing its rights in the Federated States of Micronesia.

MUNRO LEYS

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

Email: trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj

www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

Parties to the Nauru Agreement trains the trainers

Parties to the Nauru Agreement

February 9, 2026

Majuro, RMI - The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) Office successfully hosted a PNA MSC CoC Trainers' Workshop in Majuro, Marshall Islands, from 2-3 February 2026, bringing together PNA MSC CoC trainers from national observer programmes across PNA member countries. The workshop aimed to strengthen regional training capacity, harmonise the delivery of MSC-related content, and support the continued success of the PNA MSC Programme, which plays a key role in promoting sustainable tuna fisheries and maintaining international certification standards. In her opening remarks, the PNAO CEO reiterated and thanked the members for their excellent and continued work in making the Programme a success.

Building on outcomes from the 2025 MSC Trainers' Workshop, participants reviewed and improved observer forms and training materials, ensured alignment of MSC training standards across programmes, and received updates on the PNA Chain of Custody Group and MSC certification processes. The workshop also promotes peer learning, allowing trainers to share best practices, experiences, and practical solutions to enhance training effectiveness and consistency throughout the region.



By hosting the workshop in the PNA headquarters in Majuro, the PNA reinforces regional collaboration and capacity development, while continuing to invest in strong institutions and people to support sustainable fisheries management and long-term economic benefits for PNA countries.

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INTEL

Which is used in connection with the following:

Class	Goods
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and LED displays; telecommunications apparatus and instruments, namely, computer routers, hubs, servers and switches; cameras; computer hardware and software for the transmission and receipt of facsimiles; computer hardware and software for the development, maintenance, and use of local and wide area computer networks; computer hardware and software for the development, maintenance, and use of interactive audio-video computer conference systems; computer hardware and software for the receipt, display, and use of broadcast video, audio, and digital data signals; set-top boxes, electronic control devices for the interface and control of computers and global computer and telecommunications networks with television and cable broadcasts and equipment; computer peripheral memory apparatus and devices, namely computer peripherals; computer firmware, namely, computer operating systems software; fixed function computer servers; computer networking hardware; semiconductor devices; computer hardware and software for creating, facilitating, and managing remote access to and communication with local area networks (LANs), virtual private networks (VPN), wide area networks (WANs) and global computer networks; computer network interface cards (NIC), routers, and adaptors; computer software and hardware for use in providing multiple user access to a global computer information network for searching, retrieving, transferring, manipulating and disseminating a wide range of information; computer software tools for the facilitation of third party software applications; computer hardware and software for wireless network communications; downloadable electronic publications, namely, newsletters, books, magazines, journals, brochures and white papers in the area of electronics, semiconductors and integrated electronic apparatus and devices, computers, telecommunications, entertainment, telephony, and wired and wireless telecommunications; prerecorded magnetic data carriers, electronic floppy discs and optical discs featuring instructional materials relating to computers; computer hardware and software used to collect, measure, record, process, transmit, receive, reproduce, modify, compress, decompress, broadcast, merge and/or enhance data and information related to the welfare and well being of individual patients; structural parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods; manuals sold as a unit with the aforementioned goods and electronic publications in the nature of manuals for the aforementioned goods downloadable from a global computer network.

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Any inquiry regarding said trademark may be referred to the attorneys for Intel Corporation as follows:

Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.
2102 Business Center Dr, #2003
Irvine, California 92612
United States of America
Telephone: (714) 283-1155
Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com

Joseph-Movick administration welcomes new UN Resident Representative Mamadou Kane for introductory courtesy call

Pohnpei Public Information

January 30, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph recently received a courtesy call from the newly appointed United Nations Resident Representative, Mr. Mamadou Kane, at the Governor’s Office. This introductory meeting marked the first official visit of Mr. Kane to the Joseph-Movick administration since assuming his regional post, signaling a fresh chapter in the collaborative relationship between Pohnpei State and the United Nations.

Accompanied by a delegation of technical experts and agency leads, Mr. Kane’s visit served as a general orientation to the administration’s development landscape.

Building a Strategic Dialogue
The meeting was characterized by an informal and wide-ranging exchange on the shared goals of the Pohnpei State Government and the UN system. Governor Joseph and Mr. Kane engaged

in a general discussion regarding:

- **Financial Sustainability:** Shifting toward models that create internal wealth and transition the state from a grant-dependent framework to one focused on sustainable loans and local ownership.
- **Infrastructure & Resource Security:** Aligning on a financial model to better manage development funds, with a specific focus on enhancing water security and resource management.
- **Public Health Support:** The Governor noted the critical start of assistance from UNDP and UNOPS in streamlining the procurement of essential medicines and large-scale medical equipment.

Administration Priorities and Local Innovation

Governor Joseph shared his administration’s core pillars, emphasizing the need for a more self-reliant Pohnpei. A key point of interest was the potential for a food security pilot project in Madolenihmw, modeled after existing agricultural successes at the Pohnlangas China Farm. The Governor



proposed using land in Pohnlangas for family-farming plots and limited commercial use, aimed at empowering local families and reducing dependence on imported food.

A Unified Future: One UN Micronesia House

The Joseph-Movick administration reaffirmed its steadfast support for the United Nations and its various resident agencies. During the visit, Governor Joseph expressed his anticipation for the establishment of the One UN Micronesia

House in Pohnpei. This centralized hub is expected to harmonize the work of the various agencies present at the meeting, ensuring that UN expertise in education, human rights, and disaster resilience is delivered with maximum efficiency.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to ongoing dialogue, as both the administration and the UN Resident Representative work toward a resilient and self-sufficient future for the people of Pohnpei.

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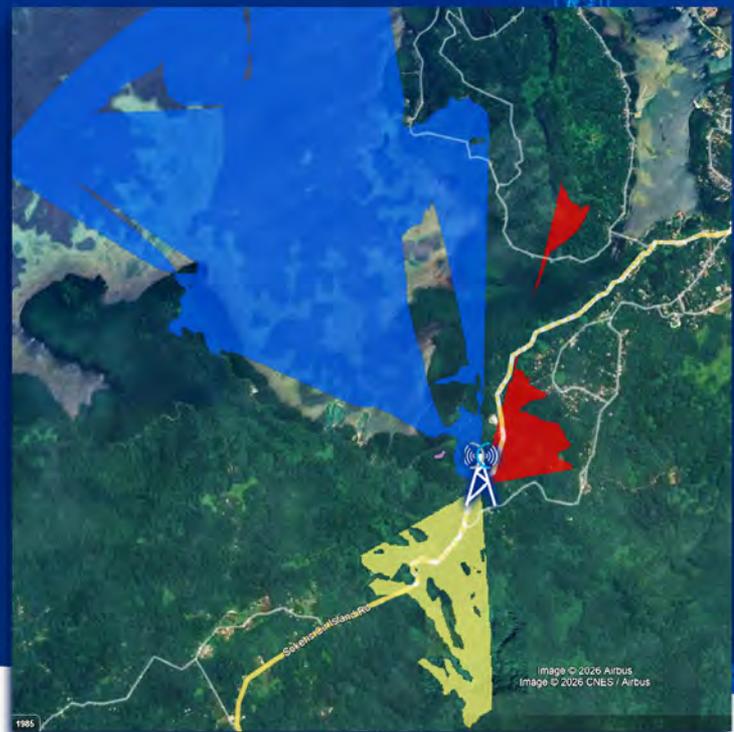


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Image © 2026 CNES / Airbus

Compact Budget Workshop concludes in Palikir

FSM Information Services

February 8, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — More than 80 budget professionals from across the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia and National Governments gathered in Pohnpei on January 16, 2026, for a four-day workshop held at the Central Facilities Building. The workshop, organized by the Office of Compact Management and Overseas Development Assistance (CMODA), focused on ongoing budget preparation and reporting matters related to the Compact of Free Association.

Participants engaged in wide-ranging discussions on Compact implementation, planning, and financial management, with a priority on gathering information and sharing experiences related to the FSM's FY2025 Annual Performance Report



and the development of the FY2027 Annual Implementation Plan. Special Assistant to the President, Mr. Kemsy Sigrah, commended participants for their collaboration and commitment to effective Compact implementation.

“Thank you all for your hard work and collaboration to ensure that the FSM continues to plan for and use

Compact funds in the most effective manner possible,” said Mr. Sigrah. He added, “The new Compact gives us greater deference in planning for the use of Compact funds, but also greater responsibility in the management of these essential resources. I appreciate your contributions to help the FSM meet reporting and oversight requirements under the Compact and to ensure our budgets integrate Compact assistance

in a way that is fully aligned with the goals and objectives of our Strategic Development Plan.”

The workshop received updates from Mr. Sohs John, Deputy Secretary of the FSM Department of Finance and Administration, on the rollout of the FSM's new Financial Management Information System (FMIS). In addition, Ms. Avalon Edward, Strategic Development Plan (SDP), Coordinator of the FSM Department of Resources & Development,

provided updates on the continued development of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) components of the FSM SDP.

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment among national and state budget officials to strengthen coordination, transparency, and accountability in the management of Compact resources.

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FSM delegation advances fisheries resilience and blue food systems through JST Sakura Science Program Exchange in Japan



Ishinomaki Fishing Market: Global Leadership in Food Safety and Sustainability

The Pohnpei State delegation also visited the Ishinomaki Fishing Market, the largest fishing port in Japan and one of the top three fishing markets globally, listed in the Guinness World Records.

Following the 2011 disaster, Mr. Kunio Suno, then Executive President of the Ishinomaki Fishing Market Co. Ltd., led the rebuilding of the port and market into a global model of food safety, sanitation, and sustainability. Innovations include renewable energy (solar power), electric vehicles, water recycling systems, and advanced waste management.

Pohnpei Public Information

February 6, 2026

Miyagi Prefecture, Japan — A delegation from Pohnpei State led by Mr. Jorg Anson, Administrator for the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, is currently participating in a learning exchange in Japan under the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) Sakura Science Program, hosted by the Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute (ISI).

The JST Sakura Science Program promotes international academic exchange and capacity building between Japanese institutions and overseas partners. Pohnpei State's participation in the program supports knowledge exchange in areas of strategic importance to island states, including food security and food sovereignty, blue foods, women in fisheries, community-based and ecosystem-based resource management, technological innovation, and sustainable "ocean-to-plate" value-chain development.

Learning from Japan's Fisheries Leadership and Post-Disaster Recovery As part of the program, the delegation undertook field visits to key fisheries sites in Miyagi Prefecture, including Kesenuma Fishing Port, ABECHO SHOTEN fish processing facilities, and the Ishinomaki Fishing Market. These sites are internationally recognized for their leadership in fisheries innovation, food safety, and post-disaster rebuilding following the 11 March 2011 Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami.

The year 2026 marks the 15th anniversary of the Tōhoku disaster—an

event that resulted in profound human loss and long-term disruption to coastal and island communities. For small island states, where extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and intensity, learning how communities rebuild, adapt, and live with disasters is a critical component of resilience planning. This exchange was dedicated to honoring the lives lost in extreme events and to learning from the stories of recovery that followed.

Kesenuma: Innovation, Inclusivity, and Living with Disasters

At Kesenuma Fishing Port, Japan's number one bonito (katsuo) landing port, the delegation was welcomed by Mr. Tetsuo Saito, Executive President, Kesenuma Fishery Cooperative and Mr. Makoto Kanazaki, Managing Director, Kesenuma Fishery Cooperative.

Kesenuma is on the frontlines of fisheries technological innovation, with systems such as computerized fish auctions, electric vehicle (EV) forklifts, and advanced logistics that improve efficiency, traceability, and food safety.

Delegates observed fish landings firsthand and discussed how community-based fisheries management, technological innovation, and cooperative governance contribute to resilience in the face of disasters. The visit provided important insight into how island communities rebuild fisheries infrastructure while strengthening governance systems and maintaining sustainable use of marine resources.

A key highlight was engagement with

women working across the fisheries sector. The Kesenuma Fishery Cooperative has adopted a "gender-free" policy, promoting inclusivity across roles traditionally dominated by men. Women now work as administrators, auction staff, forklift operators, fish inspectors, and sellers—demonstrating how empowering women in fisheries strengthens both social resilience and economic performance.

ABECHO SHOTEN: Women, Food Safety, and Post-Disaster Transformation

The delegation also visited ABECHO SHOTEN CO., LTD., a leading fisheries business that lost nine processing plants in the March 11 disaster. Rather than retreat, the company rebuilt all facilities and expanded operations to include retail outlets and restaurants, becoming a national and regional model for post-disaster recovery and diversification.

The delegation was hosted by Mr. Yuki Nagoshi, Fisheries Business Company, Kesenuma Block, and Factory Manager at ABECHO SHOTEN. Over 80 percent of employees at ABECHO SHOTEN are women, underscoring the central role women play in fisheries processing and value-chain development.

ABECHO SHOTEN operates under some of the strictest sanitation and food safety standards in Japan, serving as a model not only nationally but across Asia. The company's experience demonstrates how post-disaster rebuilding can catalyze innovation, diversification, and higher value-added production—key lessons for FSM's blue food strategies.

Mr. Suno also pioneered the introduction of HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) systems in Japan's fisheries sector, ensuring food safety across the entire value chain—from raw material handling and processing to distribution and consumption. These practices are directly relevant to FSM's efforts to strengthen food safety standards and export readiness.

Looking Ahead: Continued Island-to-Island Learning

The visit concluded with a shared commitment to continue learning exchanges between Pohnpei State and Miyagi Prefecture, building on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute and the Pohnpei State Government.

To ensure two-way exchange, the Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute will travel to Pohnpei State in late February, accompanied by an aquaculture researcher and a Japanese fisheries government official. The visit will explore collaboration opportunities in blue foods development, small-scale aquaculture, community-based fisheries, and ecosystem-based resource management.

This JST Sakura Science Program exchange underscores the value of island-to-island learning, where shared experiences with disasters, resource constraints, and community resilience generate solutions grounded in local context, cultural knowledge, and scientific innovation.

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Class	Goods	
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computer input and output devices; work stations; data memories; storage devices; security systems for computer hardware and software; set electronic chips; components for computers and printed circuits; voice accelerators; voice, data, image and video accelerators; memory systems for computers; cables and adapters; computer terminals and printers for use therewith; video display units; telecommunications apparatus and instruments; cameras; computer hardware for computing; computer hardware for computing via a global and local network; computer hardware for cloud-computing; computer hardware for low-latency and high bandwidth computing; computer hardware for use in providing a secure computing environment; computer networking hardware; computer communication servers; computer hardware for use in providing a secure cloud computing network; computer software for computing; computer software for cloud computing; computer software for computing via a global and local network; computer software for low-latency and high bandwidth computing; computer memory hardware; computer software for providing a secure computing network; computer software for use in providing a secure cloud computing network; computer operating system software; computer system extensions, tools and utilities in the field of application software for connecting personal computers, networks, telecommunications apparatus and global computer network applications; computer hardware and software for enhancing and providing real-time transfer, transmission, reception, processing and digitizing of data; computer network adapters; computer network controllers; computer network interface devices; computer network hubs, switches, and routers; microcontrollers for internet of things (IoT) enabled devices; downloadable computer software for connecting, operating, and managing internet of things (IoT) enabled devices; downloadable computer software for connecting, operating, and managing mobile internet of things (IoT) enabled mobile devices; computer hardware and software for the development, maintenance, and use of local and wide area computer networks; computer hardware and software for the development, maintenance, and use of interactive audio-video computer conference systems; computer hardware and software for the receipt, display, and use of broadcast video, audio,	and digital data signals; electronic control devices for the interface and control of computers and global computer and telecommunications networks with television and cable broadcasts and equipment; routers; hubs; servers; switches; apparatus for testing and programming integrated circuits; peripheral memory apparatus and devices; semiconductor devices; computer hardware and software for creating, facilitating, and managing remote access to and communication with local area networks (lans), virtual private networks (vpn), wide area networks (wans) and global computer networks; router, switch, hub and server operating software; computer software tools for the facilitation of third party software applications; computer hardware and software for wireless network communications; downloadable electronic publications in the area of electronics, semiconductors and integrated electronic apparatus and devices, computers, telecommunications, entertainment, telephony, and wired and wireless telecommunications; computer hardware for use in machine vision, machine learning, deep learning, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, learning algorithms and data analysis; Computer software for machine learning, data query, and data analysis; computer software for cognitive computing, deep learning, artificial intelligence; computer software platform for cognitive computing; computer software for graphical representation of data; pattern recognition computer software; computer software for data mining; computer vision software for acquiring, processing, analyzing and understanding digital images and extracting visual data; computer software development kits; computer software development kits for computer vision, machine learning, deep learning, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, learning algorithms, and data analysis; downloadable and recorded vision software that uses artificial intelligence to see and interpret data, connect with hardware and store, manage and process data in the cloud; computer hardware and software for recording, processing, receiving, reproducing, transmitting, modifying, compressing, decompressing, broadcasting, merging and enhancing sound, images, graphics, and data; algorithm software programs for the operation and control of computers; computer hardware and software for enhancing and providing real-time transfer, transmission, reception, processing and digitizing of audio and video graphics information; downloadable and recorded computer software for the collection, compilation, processing, transmission and dissemination of Global Positioning System (GPS) data for use in fixed, mobile and handheld devices; electronic database featuring roadway, geographic, map, public transit lines information, public transit line information, public transit route information, public transit timetables and schedules and other public transit information recorded on computer media; navigation software for calculating and displaying routes; public transit navigation system featuring interactive digital map displays, interactive instructions and user generated information; interactive social computer software for the retrieval and display of public transit, navigation, geographic, map and travel information; interactive social computer software to enable the transmission of public transit information, mapping, navigation, traffic, routes and point-of-interest information to

<p>telecommunication networks, cellular phones, navigation devices and other mobile and hand-held devices; interactive social computer software that enables the exchange of information among users; computers and computer operated systems for autonomous driving, driver-assisted, connected vehicles, unmanned aerial devices, and drones; computer hardware and software platforms featuring interactive displays, control systems, and control devices, warning systems, connectivity, onboard computers, and GPS for vehicles, connected vehicles, autonomous, and driverless vehicles; multi camera systems for use in vehicles; GPS navigation and guidance, GPS location tracking, GPS map-displaying and route-calculating device, video-recording, and wireless communication network devices for data or image transmission for vehicles; computer software applications for digital virtual agents, predictive systems, machine learning, cognitive process automation, pattern recognition, character recognition, visual computing applications, knowledge virtualisation, robotics, drones, and unmanned vehicles; computer software and hardware applications for automatic vehicle driving control; computer software and hardware applications for automatic vehicle driving control, autonomous control, navigation, assisted driving of vehicles, and self-driving of vehicles; Vehicle tracking devices comprised of computer software and computer hardware, sensors, transmitters, receivers and global positioning satellite receivers, all for use in connection with vehicle tracking and vehicle monitoring.</p>	<p>applications to be deployed across an online network; services for providing analytics, caching, computation and traffic routing; services for providing a secure and trusted computing network; providing computer hardware and software consulting services in the field developing a cloud based environment with integration of applications across various platforms and connected devices; computer services, namely, creating computer network-based indexes of information, websites, and resources; providing temporary use of non-downloadable computer software for connecting, operating, and managing networked devices in the internet of things (IoT); providing online non-downloadable computer software for connecting, operating, and managing networked devices in the internet of things (IoT); software as a service (SAAS); consulting services in the field of computers and wireless computing; computer network management services, namely, monitoring of network systems for technical purposes; hosting of digital content on the internet; computer network monitoring services, namely, providing information on the operation of computer networks; customization of web software, and computer user interface design for others; Development, design, and consulting services for computers; designing and developing standards for others in the design and implementation of computer software, computer hardware and telecommunications equipment; providing customers and technicians with information relating to computer project management; providing online software as a service for the collection, compilation, processing, transmission and dissemination of Global Positioning System (GPS) data; providing online non-downloadable software featuring roadway, geographic, map, public transit lines information, public transit line information, public transit route information, public transit timetables and schedules and other public transit information; providing online non-downloadable navigation software for calculating and displaying routes and sharing public transit navigation system, map and travel information; Providing online non-downloadable computer software to enable the sharing of public transit information, mapping, navigation, traffic, routes and point-of-interest information; interactive social computer software that enables the exchange of information among users; providing online software as a service for automatic vehicle driving control, autonomous control, navigation, assisted driving of vehicles, and self-driving of vehicles.</p>
<p>42 Providing temporary use of on-line non-downloadable software for machine learning, data mining, data query, and data analysis; providing temporary use of on-line non-downloadable software for cognitive computing, deep learning, artificial intelligence; providing temporary use of non-downloadable software for data query and data analysis; providing temporary use of non-downloadable software for data mining; providing temporary use of non-downloadable software for cognitive computing, deep learning, artificial intelligence; searching and retrieving information on computer networks for others; computer services, namely, providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software, software application programming interface (API), and software widget for machine learning, data mining, data query, and data analysis; providing online non-downloadable computer vision software for acquiring, processing, analyzing and understanding digital images and extracting visual data; providing online non-downloadable computer software development kits; providing online non-downloadable computer software development kits for computer vision, machine learning, deep learning, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, learning algorithms, and data analysis; providing online non-downloadable vision software that uses artificial intelligence to see and interpret data, connect with hardware and store, manage and process data in the cloud; software as a service (SAAS) services featuring software for use in providing cloud-computing capabilities and information technology (IT) services, computing, and cloud computing; software as a service (SAAS) services featuring software for use in computing via a global and local network; software as a services (SAAS) services feature software development platform for use in connecting applications to enterprise systems and devices; software consulting and providing information on software as service; software as a service (SAAS) services featuring software for use in providing low-latency and high bandwidth computing; computer software services for providing computing capabilities for application developers and content providers; cloud computing featuring software for use in providing low-latency and high bandwidth computing, information technology (IT) services, and computing via a global and local network; computer software services for providing cloud computing capabilities for application developers and content providers; services for enabling</p>	<p>Please take notice that Intel Corporation, a company organized and existing under the laws of United States of America and with a principal place of business at 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052-8119, United States of America, attaches singular importance to its above referenced trademark and will immediately take the strongest legal actions to protect its intellectual property rights against any person(s) or business(es) found to be infringing those rights in Micronesia. Note that any infringing or unauthorized use of this mark will be met with civil and criminal action including injunctions, orders to seize, audits, full damages and costs.</p> <p>Any inquiry regarding said trademark may be referred to the attorneys for Intel Corporation as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hilborne, Hawkin & Co. 2102 Business Center Dr, #2003 Irvine, California 92612 United States of America Telephone: (714) 283-1155 Facsimile: (714) 283-1555 Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com</p>

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Country: FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
Project: Sustainable and Resilient Road Improvement Project
Grant No.: Grant 0967-FSM: SRRIP
Assignment Title: Financial Management Officer

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is assisting the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (the government) under the Sustainable and Resilient Road Improvement Project (SRRIP) Grant Number: 0967. The overall project objectives are to upgrade about 16 kilometers of roads in the four states, and a bridge, with measures to increase climate resilience and road safety, design features that are gender responsive and disability-inclusive. The Government received this grant and intends to apply part of the proceed for consulting services.

The Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DTC&I) intends to hire a Financial Management Officer to provide project accounting support to the executing and implementing agencies, consultants and other PMU staff for SRRIP. The Financial Management Officer will support the Project Manager to establish and administer the financial management of the projects in accordance with ADB guidelines.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) is attached to this request for expressions of interest.

The assignment is expected over a period of 24 months (intermittent over 4 years).

The Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DTCI) now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Service needed. Interested individuals should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (attach curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc.). It is expected that the successful candidate will meet the following selection criteria:

- Professional qualification in accounting.
- Minimum of 10 years of experience in accounting and at least 5 years of experience in accounting or contract management.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 0800 to 1700 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **4:00 p.m. (1600 hrs) Pohnpei Time on Monday, February 23rd, 2026:**

Shankarah Lessey
Interim Project Manager
Sustainable and Resilient Road Improvement Project
Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DTC&I)
Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
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President Simina presents Exequatur to Japan’s newly appointed Honorary Consul in Chuuk, Mr. Kasio “Kembo” Mida, Jr.



FSM Information Services

January 30, 2026

Chuuk, FSM — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, formally presented the Exequatur to Mr. Kasio “Kembo” Mida, Jr., officially recognizing his appointment as Honorary Consul of Japan in the State of Chuuk, during a ceremony held at the Office of the Governor of Chuuk State on January 28, 2026.

The Presentation of Exequatur Ceremony was attended by His Excellency Nobuo Kagomiya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the FSM, TH Alexander Narruhn, Governor of Chuuk State, invited guests and family. Brief remarks were delivered by President Simina, Ambassador Kagomiya, and Honorary Consul Mida.

In his remarks, Ambassador Kagomiya highlighted President Simina’s two official working visits to Japan last year, noting their importance in further strengthening FSM–Japan relations. He recalled the President’s meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan in Tokyo, where both leaders reaffirmed cooperation in areas including development partnership, regional stability, and people-to-people exchanges. The Ambassador also referenced President Simina’s subsequent visit to Japan, during which the President was received by

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, reflecting the deep mutual respect and enduring friendship between the two nations.

President Simina emphasized the historic significance of Mr. Mida’s appointment, noting that he is the first Honorary Consul of Japan to be based in Chuuk, and the first such appointment outside the national capital. “This appointment brings our diplomatic partnership closer to the people and strengthens engagement at the community level,” the President said.

President Simina described the occasion as “a celebration of friendship, history, family, and the Kizuna—the bonds of trust, friendship, and mutual respect—that have grown between the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan over generations.”

President Simina also noted that as a Micnesian of Japanese descent, Mr. Mida personally reflects the deep historical and people-to-people ties that continue to define the FSM–Japan partnership.

The FSM and Japan share a longstanding relationship grounded in mutual respect, close cooperation, and enduring cultural and historical connections, which continue to be strengthened through diplomatic engagement at both the national and community levels.

President Simina receives credentials of the Ambassador of Türkiye to the FSM

FSM Information Services

February 7, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, received the Letters of Credence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the FSM, H.E. Oğuzhan Ertuğrul, during a formal ceremony held on February 6, 2026, at the President's Office in Palikir.

The ceremony was attended by Vice President the Honorable Aren B. Palik, members of the President's Cabinet, and representatives of the diplomatic corps.



During the ceremony, Ambassador Ertuğrul formally presented his Letters of Credence to President Simina. Following the presentation, President Simina welcomed the Ambassador and delivered remarks reaffirming the FSM's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Türkiye. Ambassador Ertuğrul also delivered a statement conveying warm greetings from the President of Türkiye and highlighting four key areas of shared interest: climate change, environmental protection, energy security, and food security.

Following the presentation of credentials, President Simina held a courtesy meeting with Ambassador Ertuğrul, during which both sides reaffirmed the friendly and steadily growing relations between the FSM and Türkiye. The Ambassador emphasized Türkiye's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations with FSM since the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Discussions during the courtesy meeting focused on shared priorities and areas of cooperation, particularly in addressing global challenges such as climate change, environmental protection, energy security, and food security, which require strong international cooperation. Ambassador Ertuğrul highlighted Türkiye's preparations to host COP31, underscoring the importance of achieving practical and results-oriented outcomes to accelerate global climate action.

The meeting also addressed cooperation in trade, tourism, and infrastructure development, including the exchange of best practices to support tourism growth and the importance of aviation

cooperation as a foundational element for expanding tourism. Ambassador Ertuğrul indicated that Türkiye is prepared to consider priority infrastructure proposals from FSM for possible engagement by Turkish companies and referenced previously proposed instruments on civil aviation cooperation, expressing Türkiye's readiness to continue discussions.

On multilateral cooperation, both sides discussed continued engagement within the United Nations system. President Simina also sought Türkiye's support for the FSM's ONE UN House initiative, which aims to strengthen the United Nations presence and coordination in the North Pacific. President Simina reaffirmed FSM's commitment to the UN system and expressed appreciation for the support and cooperation of international partners. Both sides further expressed their shared commitment to continued cooperation in the lead-up to COP31, with President Simina noting the FSM's interest in engaging closely at the Pre-COP meeting to be held in the Pacific region, hosted by Australia.

The possibility of establishing Honorary Consuls of Türkiye in the FSM and the FSM in Türkiye was also discussed as a means to further facilitate bilateral engagement.

President Simina expressed appreciation for the Ambassador's visit and reiterated the FSM's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Türkiye through continued dialogue and cooperation, both bilaterally and within regional and multilateral forums.

Pacific Sub-Regional Office



Title: Programme Analyst, NOB, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia [31667]

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Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Primary Healthcare Facility renovation

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

February 5, 2026

Pohnpei - On January 26, 2026, Ambassador Kagomiya attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of The Project for the Renovation of a Public Health Building of the Department of Health Services in Pohnpei State.

This facility has been providing tuberculosis program, immunization program, maternal and child health program, family planning programs, along with other essential programs for the communities in Pohnpei State. The renovation of the roof and the ceiling of the building will ensure effective healthcare delivery to the patients, protect vital medical equipment, and create a safer work environment for the health workers.

Ambassador Kagomiya extended his sincere gratitude to the warm welcome by the staff from the Primary Healthcare Division. In his remarks, he stated that Japan has cultivated friendly relations with the Federated States

of Micronesia (FSM) and willing to continue support and promote economic and social development, health, and human security.

The Honorable Stevenson Joseph, Governor of Pohnpei State, also attended the ceremony and emphasized the importance of the shared responsibility for the maintenance of the facility.



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GENERAL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT No. 26-01 (January 2026)

Section 215 of Title 37 Code of the Federated States of Micronesia requires the FSM Insurance Board (“Board”) to publish a list, amended from time to time, of: (1) all applications filed for a license and all applications for registration as a foreign insurer proposing to transact business through an agent, (2) all approved licenses, (3) all foreign insurers registered to transact business through an agent, (4) all denials of licenses and registrations, (5) all cancellations and suspensions of licenses and registrations, (6) information relevant to the winding up of any insurance business, and (7) any other information in the public interest and not in violation of laws or regulations on confidentiality or privacy. Hence, the publication required under §215 of 37 FSMC is for the benefit of the general public.

Furthermore, the general public should take note of §301 of 37 FSMC which requires no ‘insurance business’ be carried on in the FSM unless the person or company engaging in insurance business is registered or licensed by the Board. Any person or company not in compliance with the provisions of Title 37 FSMC may be subject to the applicable violation and penalty.

No Application Filed or Pending for Licensure and Registration

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	<i>Foreign Insurers</i>	<i>Licensed General Agents</i>
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5	Pacific Indemnity Insurance Company	Actouka Executive Insurance Underwriters and Moses Insurance Executives
6	Plateau Insurance Company	Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia and Bank of Guam FSM Branches
7	Century Insurance Company, Limited	OIC Insurance Agency Corporation
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No registration or license has been cancelled, suspended or revoked. The Board is also not aware of any winding-up or liquidation in progress of a registered, licensed insurer or intermediary.

FSM Insurance Board
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Exequatur ceremony for Honorary Consul-General Kembo Mida

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

February 6, 2026

Chuuk - On January 28, Ambassador Kagomiya and Mrs. Kagomiya attended the Presentation of Exequatur Ceremony for Honorary Consul-General (HCG) Kembo Mida held at Chuuk State Governor's Office. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Wesley Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Mrs. Ancelly Simina, First Lady of the FSM, T.H. Alexander Narruhn, Governor of Chuuk State, and T.H. Marcus Samo, Secretary of Health and Social Affairs of the FSM. Honorary Consul-General Mida was appointed by the Government of Japan on December 1, 2025, with jurisdiction over Chuuk State.

President Simina, in his remarks, stated that this appointment is shared commitment between Japan and the FSM, demonstrating the strong "Kizuna (bond)" between the two nations.

In the evening, Ambassador Kagomiya hosted a networking reception to promote mutual exchange with the people of Chuuk. Ambassador Kagomiya, in his remarks, expressed his appreciation towards President Simina and Governor Narruhn in accepting Japan's nomination of HCG Mida and reflected on the recent events surrounding the bilateral relations between Japan and the FSM. HCG Mida, in his remarks, shared his relations with



Japan and shared his commitment to further strengthen the relations between Japan and the FSM. Governor Narruhn, in his special remarks, expressed his hopes towards HCG Mida in advancing the relations between Japan and Chuuk State. Ambassador Kagomiya looks forward to charting new paths to further strengthen the close friendship between Japan and the FSM, and relies on HCG Mida to strengthen Japan's collaboration with Chuuk State.



Joseph-Movick administration advances energy resilience at global city-to-city collaboration seminar in Matsuyama

Pohnpei Public Information

February 9, 2026

Matsuyama, Japan — Demonstrating the unified vision of the Joseph-Movick Administration, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and a senior Pohnpei State delegation joined an assembly of global leaders this week at the "Seminar on



City-to-City Collaboration for Zero Carbon Society 2026" in Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture.

The high-level summit convened a powerful coalition of 120 participants representing 33 cities across 9 countries. This diverse group of municipal leaders and technical experts gathered to accelerate the global transition toward a sustainable, decarbonized future through the City-to-City Collaboration Program (C3P).

Linking COP30 Advocacy to Practical Mitigation

During the seminar, Governor Joseph pointedly referenced his recent address at COP30, where he declared that Pohnpei stands on the absolute frontlines of the global climate crisis. He noted that the state is currently battling the dual threats of man-made environmental degradation and escalating climate-related issues.

The Governor emphasized that the Joseph-Movick Administration views this seminar not as a separate engagement, but as the direct implementation phase of his COP30 remarks. By focusing on decarbonization and aggressive mitigation strategies, the administration is seeking to translate high-level climate warnings into localized defense mechanisms that protect Pohnpei's coastlines, water security, and ecosystem.

Strategic Partnerships and Technical Support

The Governor highlighted the delegation's recent visit to Ama Town, expressing high regard for the innovative sustainable technologies witnessed there. He noted that the "Ama-cho Model" of self-sufficiency serves as a practical blueprint for Pohnpei's own resilience efforts.

A cornerstone of this strategy involves deep technical cooperation with Chugoku Electric Power Company officials. Chugoku Electric is currently playing a vital role in the development of Pohnpei's Master Energy Plan, working with Pohnpei Utilities Corporation CEO Nixon Anson providing the expertise necessary to modernize the state's power grid and integrate renewable energy sources to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Support from IGES Japan

The delegation's participation in this mission was made possible through the generous support of the Institute

for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Japan, which fully funded the trip for Governor Joseph.

About IGES: Established in 1998, IGES is a premier strategic research institute that facilitates international cooperation and provides practical logistical solutions for sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific region. Their support underscores the international recognition of Pohnpei's critical role in the climate fight.

Key Highlights of the Joseph-Movick Delegation's Engagement:

Global Networking: By engaging with 33 cities from 9 countries, the administration is ensuring Pohnpei is a key player in a global network of "Zero Carbon" pioneers.

Infrastructure Excellence: Discussions with local leaders focused on adapting Ama Town and Matsuyama's environmental successes to meet the specific infrastructure needs of Pohnpei.

Unified Leadership: The delegation's activities reflect the Joseph-Movick Administration's priority of securing Pohnpei's future through technical exchange and international solidarity.

The seminar concluded with a reinforced commitment by the Joseph-Movick Administration to secure the technical pathways required to protect Pohnpei's natural resources. By merging the insights from Ama Town with the ongoing collaboration with Chugoku Electric and the support of IGES and JANUS the administration is moving decisively toward a more resilient and energy-independent future.

Governor Joseph's delegation included, Nixon Anson, CEO PUC; Mark Kostka, Director of the Department of Resources and Development; Francisco Celestine, Executive Officer of Pohnpei EPA, and Patrick Pedrus, Public Affairs Officer.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph receives FSM National Agriculture Division for strategic briefing on food security and biosecurity

Pohnpei Public Information

January 30, 2026

Pohnpei – On January 23, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, on behalf of the Joseph-Movick Administration, received a courtesy visit from a delegation of the FSM National Department of Resources and Development’s Division of Agriculture. Led by Assistant Secretary Menoleen Jacob-Oswalt, the team visited Peilapalap to respectfully inform the Governor of the ongoing collaborative work between national programs and their Pohnpei State counterparts.

The meeting emphasized the spirit of cooperation, focusing on reintroducing key projects and ensuring that the Governor is fully briefed on the impact of these initiatives within Pohnpei.

Advancing Biosecurity and Integrated Data

A major highlight of the discussion centered on the modernization of FSM Quarantine Services. Represented by Quarantine Specialist John P. Wichep, the team discussed internal data collection of commodities and the intent to extract specific data to revive and link Pohnpei’s state records with the national database.

The delegation also addressed the handling of Import Permits. Currently, Pohnpei manages import licenses and fee collections at the National level, whereas other states operate under different local arrangements. Discussions included the potential for Quarantine field offices to process and surrender fees locally to improve administrative efficiency.

Strengthening the Agricultural Landscape

Assistant Secretary Jacob-Oswalt and Program Manager Marlyter Silbanuz introduced the specialized leads managing the FSM’s robust agricultural and environmental portfolio:

- GEF-6 FSM Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Project: Managed by Beverlyn Danis Fred (Project Manager) and Jeffrey Allen Yamada (National Technical Coordinator), focusing on protecting local ecosystems from harmful pests.
- Small Islands Food and Water Project (SIFWaP): Led by Luan Gilmete (Program Manager) and Trisden Elias (Community Outreach Officer), aimed at bolstering community-level resilience.
- GCF Food Security Project: Managed by Gienah Narruhn, focusing on climate-resilient farming for local households.
- FSM Forestry Programs: Coordinated by Lillyann Rose Oswald (U&CF Program Coordinator), emphasizing the health of Pohnpei’s vital forest resources.
- FAO Funded Projects: Ongoing initiatives supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization to modernize agricultural techniques.

Exit Report and Future Cooperation

The visit concluded with a commitment from the Division to provide an exit report following their state-level activities. This report will ensure the Governor’s Office has a clear record of data findings and project milestones, facilitating a stronger partnership between the Pohnpei State Government and the National Division of Agriculture.



JENESYS2025 participants meet with Ambassador Kagomiya

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

February 5, 2026

Pohnpei - On January 26, 2026, Ambassador Kagomiya received a courtesy visit from students of the Federated States of Micronesia who had participated in JENESYS2025, the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths program. From the Federated States of Micronesia, two students from the College of Micronesia-FSM visited Japan from January 13 to 21.

At the reporting session, the students presented what they had learned during the program’s theme of “Climate Change and Disaster Prevention.” They also shared their experiences of Japan’s towns, history and culture, as well as their interactions with Japanese students and host families, engaging in an exchange of views with the Ambassador. The students expressed their intention to share the knowledge and experiences they gained with their families, college, and more broadly through social media.

Ambassador Kagomiya emphasized the importance of passing on the knowledge and experiences related to climate change and disaster prevention acquired through the program, and expressed his expectations for further mutual understanding between the two countries through people-to-people exchanges. He also conveyed his heartfelt wishes for the future growth and success of the program participants.



GFA, Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club plan collaborations

Guam Football Association

January 27, 2026

Harmon, Guam - From what started as a group of mothers whose young children wanted to play football, to the beginnings of a growing movement that expanded to about 300 children on eight teams competing in a school tournament, the Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club was realized for the greater community.

With the growth, there still is the potential to do even more, said Giulio Biddau, Vice President of the PSA Kids Club during a visit to the Guam Football Association and meeting with GFA President Valentino San Gil.

“Reaching out to organizations like Guam Football Association and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is fundamental to our program,” Biddau said. “With both organizations with experience on the ground and building successful grassroots programs, we aim to learn and expand what we can provide for our community, not only in Pohnpei, but also the other islands in the Federated States of Micronesia.

“We are in discussion to possibly send some of our grassroots coaches to coaching courses abroad to Guam or the NMI and have them learn about the basics of coaching and administration. We can also increase the number of coaches with the growing number of children wanting to play football,” Biddau added.

In the early stages of the program’s inception, Elizabeth Terk and Adele Robinson were two of the pioneers who helped create opportunities for their children to enjoy football, albeit simply with a ball and makeshift goals. At the peak of the program’s initial year, the organization saw as many as 91 children ages five years old to 14 years old interested in playing football in Pohnpei. A few years later, a school tournament was devised with eight competing teams. On average, each school team featured rosters of 30 or more players, Biddau said.



“The popularity of football continues to grow in our region and we are fully committed in assisting organizations, like the Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club in the FSM build their programs to afford their communities the opportunity to enjoy the sport,” said Valentino San Gil, GFA President. “As we have seen what the sport can do for our local community over the years, football truly is not just a sport on the pitch, but a vehicle for social change. These benefits are paramount to the tireless effort we have committed in building the sport in our community beginning at the grassroots level and now with the ability to help others.”

Biddau, originally from Italy, was inspired to help build a football program for children in Pohnpei after arriving in the island. He had grown up with football his whole life and saw the potential.

“Football is one of the few sports that doesn’t require much resources to start – all you need is a ball and anything to act as goal posts,” Biddau said. “Eventually, you’ll need better infrastructure and equipment as the game develops. With the local interest by the kids, the support of football associations in Guam and the NMI, and hopefully with increasing support from the government and others, we aim to create a better environment to grow the sport. From what I’ve seen, Micronesians would be successful in team sports like football, as familial support and knowing how to stand together to achieve a goal is already ingrained in their daily life.

“Also, it’s not just football we want to teach the children, but also other life skills, like better personal hygiene, better diet, and long-term thinking, among others. Football is a fun and perfect way for this,” Biddau added.

Opinion Editorial

A turning point for our ocean – why the High Seas Treaty matters for the Blue Pacific

By: **Mohseen Riaz-Ud-Dean (PhD), Environmental Finance Specialist for the Pacific Region and Ashna Kumar, Communications Associate**

The global ratification of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty marks a decisive moment in international cooperation and ocean governance. Referred to as the High Seas Treaty, the agreement establishes a legally binding framework to protect marine biodiversity in areas of the ocean that lie beyond national jurisdiction.

Covering nearly two-thirds of our planet’s ocean space, the high seas have long remained vulnerable to fragmented governance, overexploitation, and accelerating climate pressures.

For the Pacific, this treaty is more than a milestone in multilateral diplomacy – it is a profound opportunity. Our region has consistently championed stronger, more equitable rules for the ocean, recognising that the health of the Blue Pacific drives our economies, shapes our identities, and sustains our people.

As the treaty moves from negotiation to implementation, the Pacific stands ready to guide a new era of stewardship rooted in science, solidarity, and the principles of custodianship that Pacific peoples have upheld for generations.

Why It Matters for the Blue Pacific

Pacific Island Countries are among the most ocean-reliant nations in the world. The BBNJ Treaty aligns closely with the region’s immediate priorities and long-term aspirations. The treaty fills longstanding gaps in the governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction that are ecologically connected to Pacific exclusive economic zones. By enabling countries to help shape rules for high-seas marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and benefit-sharing, the treaty strengthens the Pacific’s voice in decisions that directly affect the health and productivity of its ocean ecosystems.

Pacific fisheries, coral reefs, migratory species, and deep sea ecosystems face increasing threats from climate change, pollution, and unsustainable exploitation. The BBNJ framework offers practical tools to safeguard biodiversity that transcends borders. For Pacific communities that depend on the ocean for food security, cultural continuity, and economic development, this protection is essential.

Many Pacific Island developing states face limited access to marine technology, deep sea research platforms, genomic analysis expertise, and consistent financing for ocean science. The treaty’s emphasis on capacity building and technology transfer could significantly reduce this inequity. It creates pathways for Pacific scientists, institutions, and youth to engage more fully in global marine research and innovation.

Connecting the BBNJ Treaty with UNDP’s BIOFIN Initiative

UNDP’s Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) is already supporting Pacific countries to close the financing gaps that hinder biodiversity protection. As nations begin implementing BBNJ commitments, such as establishing new conservation areas or conducting high seas environmental assessments, reliable, long-term financing becomes even more critical.

By pairing BIOFIN’s financial strategies with the BBNJ’s governance framework, Pacific countries can unlock innovative investments to safeguard marine biodiversity, ensuring that conservation efforts are not only ambitious, but durable, adequately funded, and nationally owned.

It will strengthen the rationale, urgency, and strategic importance of biodiversity finance planning in the Pacific Island Countries helping protect the ocean that supports the economies, cultures, and climate resilience.

The Next Decade: A Vision for the Next 5-10 Years

Over the next five to 10 years, the world will witness the true test of the High Seas Treaty. For the Pacific, this period may bring unprecedented opportunities.

Countries will move from legal ratification to practical implementation shaping guidelines for high seas protected areas, harmonising environmental impact assessment processes, and participating in global benefit-sharing arrangements for marine genetic resources. Regional cooperation, a hallmark of Pacific leadership, will be vital in ensuring that the treaty reflects the priorities and values of the Blue Pacific.

The treaty’s implementation could reinforce climate resilience by protecting biodiversity corridors, safeguarding blue carbon ecosystems, and ensuring the sustainability of vital fisheries.

The coming years will determine whether the High Seas Treaty delivers meaningful change. Success will not be defined solely by global milestones, but by how effectively countries translate commitments into action, finance into impact, and governance into protection.

For the Pacific, this is both a test and an opportunity to ensure that implementation reflects the values, priorities, and leadership of the Blue Pacific.

In our next Op-Ed, we examine how the High Seas (BBNJ) Treaty can become more than a legal instrument and agreement- emerging as a powerful catalyst for unlocking innovative marine finance for the Blue Pacific. For Pacific BIOFIN countries, the treaty presents a timely opportunity to harness global momentum and mobilize the scale of investment needed to secure ocean conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods in the years ahead.

Opinion Editorial

In 2026, together we can rise to the challenge to protect our environment, communities, people

Sefanaia Nawadra
SPREP Director General

Ni sa bula vinaka! The Festive season gave us a chance to catch our breath, spend quality time with our families and loved ones so that we are re-energised and re-vitalised.

We, at SPREP, decided to close office for a bit of an extended period to not only to allow many to go home but also contractors to do some outstanding maintenance and improvements to our existing facilities.

We are back at all our SPREP locations across the Pacific knowing 2026 is going to be another full-on year, and we will need to fire on all cylinders to meet our calling to support our Members' needs and aspirations towards a safer Pacific environment.

Our work to cushion our Pacific communities against the impacts of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and waste and pollution remains at the forefront of everything we do. As Pacific people, we fully understand the severity of the challenges and SPREP is actively engaged on several fronts to ensure a resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

The announcement by the United States (US) of its withdrawal from SPREP, being one of 66 international bodies deemed to be "contrary to US national interests" is an early challenge for the year. A lot of questions were asked about the implications, especially in the face of a fiercely contested region, geopolitically. The biggest potential loss for us, apart from the political presence of the US as valued member, are the many strong working relationships we have built with US technical agencies and organisations

We respect the sovereignty of the United States in making this decision, but I am comforted that

all our actions have been within the mandate given to us by our Members. Our Pacific leaders have repeatedly stated that climate change represents the single greatest threat to our people, threatening livelihoods, security, and our very existence, we as a region remain in a state of climate emergency.

SPREP will continue to advocate strongly and unceasingly for all countries to rally together and deepen their commitments under the Paris Agreement to ensure we are at the forefront of critical efforts to keep 1.5 to stay alive.

The climate change priorities of our member countries in the Pacific will continue to be a central focus of SPREP's work. We applaud Australia and the Pacific Small Island Developing States together with New Zealand for our strong bid to host COP 31. In a perfect world and with fair governance we would have had the privilege of hosting here in the Pacific for the first time, but COP 30 decided otherwise and we will support the journey to Turkiye. We are excited by the opportunities provided to the Pacific for hosting the pre-COP and the role of Australia as "President of Negotiations." We will be doing all we can to ensure that COP 31 is the "Pacific COP" hosted in Turkiye.

A victory is the entry into force of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea following years of negotiations, it is a welcome positive outcome for Pacific 's continued global leadership on ocean and marine conservation. The BBNJ Agreement is an opportunity to extend our wise stewardship beyond our EEZs, in particular within the International water pockets between Pacific EEZs and into the areas surrounding our collective EEZs. It is also an opportunity to link our large marine protected areas and fisheries management areas into corridors that can better conserve and manage migratory species and meet our 30X30 commitments.

As part of our ongoing work, I was in the Kingdom of Tonga in January at the invitation of the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment and Climate Change (MEIDECC) and privileged to meet with Tonga's Honourable Prime Minister, Lord Fakafanua who is also Minister for MEIDECC and His Royal Highness, The Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala as the Foreign Minister. It was an opportunity to offer our congratulations for a new government in Tonga, learn their strategic aspirations and reassure of SPREP's ongoing support to the Kingdom as a valued member country.

Tonga, like all Pacific countries, face an uphill battle to overcome the impacts of the triple planetary crises but despite the uncertainties and ongoing challenges, it is also an exciting time. We must never stop striving and we must always hold on to hope that things will become better. Our Pacific people are communities of faith. We do not just operate based on what we see, rather we walk using our eyes of faith through our belief in the God Almighty enabling us to look beyond the challenges



SPREP's Senior Leadership Team



Mulinuu, Samoa. Photo Lagi Reupena



Tonga Prime Minister with SPREP DaG

and the obstacles; to see the Pacific we all want and need.

I am certain that our workload in the next 11 months will continue to get busier and heavier. SPREP's support for the Pacific's engagement in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements as well as ongoing negotiations on a global treaty on the whole lifecycle of plastics form a big part of our work this year, but together with our valued Members, development partners, donors, our CROP family, and all stakeholders, I am positive we can rise to the challenge to make a tangible difference in the protection of the environment, our people and the Pacific communities we exist to serve.

International workshop on mitigation of FAD loss and abandonment in the Pacific

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

February 9, 2026

Papeete, French Polynesia - The Pacific Community (SPC) will host an international workshop on 9–11 February 2026 in Papeete, French Polynesia, focused on reducing the loss and abandonment of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and their impacts in the Pacific Ocean.

The event will bring together approximately 100 participants from 30 countries, including representatives from governments, regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), the fishing industry, scientists, NGOs, and coastal communities. Members of SPC and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) will also take part. The workshop will be officially opened by the President of French Polynesia.

Held at the crossroads of the mandates of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the IATTC, the workshop provides a unique regional platform to address the environmental and socio-economic impacts of drifting FADs loss and abandonment, particularly in coastal and reef ecosystems.

Over three days, participants will exchange on practical strategies to reduce FAD loss and abandonment, improve data collection and monitoring, strengthen recovery programmes, and promote collaborative mitigation practices. Experiences from the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans will be shared, enabling comparative learning and identification of best practices.

The workshop is organised by SPC, with support from the Directorate of Marine Resources of French Polynesia (DRM), the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the IATTC, the American Tunaboat Association (ATA), Bolton food and Tri Marine, Satlink, Zunibal, Marine Instruments and Tunacons.

This event is part of the SPC regional project “Assessment of the impacts of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices on the marine environment in Pacific Island Countries: recommendations for mitigation strategies” (2024–2026), funded by the World Bank through the Pacific Ocean Advisory Program (POAP) and the PROBLUE Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

Professional ethics a continued focus for Pacific Island government auditors

PASAI

February 5, 2026

Auckland, New Zealand - The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is collaborating with Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) to deliver professional ethics training to government auditors, starting yesterday.

This activity seeks to ensure those responsible for carrying out the mandates of Pacific Island government audit offices receive specialised professional ethics and integrity training.

Ninety-two staff (61 female, 31 male) from the government audit offices of American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National, FSM Chuuk, FSM Kosrae, FSM Pohnpei, FSM Yap, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu registered to participate in the training that covers the fundamental ethical principles governing the work of accountants and auditors working in the public sector.

PASAI Program Director and course facilitator, Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo, said, “This year’s training builds on the course we ran last year on the ‘Essentials of the Code’.

“It highlights the significance of trust, the expectations of those working in the public sector, the importance of setting the right culture to support ethical behaviour and the need for senior leadership to ensure they have the right systems in place to manage risk effectively.

“It will promote and encourage SAIs to establish processes and practices to ensure government audit staff adhere to ethical obligations and call out breaches to enhance integrity in government systems.”

After yesterday’s introductory workshop, participants will have until 13 February to complete a self-paced micro-course on PASAI’s online Learning Platform.

The micro-course includes videos of the Auditor-General of Australia, Dr Caralee McLiesh, and the former Controller and Auditor-General of New Zealand, John Ryan, sharing insights on the importance of ethics in the public sector.

Small cohort interactive workshops will follow allowing participants to discuss how to apply ethical principles to their working environments, share experiences and learn from expert facilitators and peers.

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

Opinion Editorial

Public roads in Pohnpei in severe condition

By: Ringleen Wolphagen

In recent years, the Pohnpei State Administration increased vehicle registration fees for both public and private owners with the stated purpose of funding road maintenance. Yet today, as anyone traveling around the island can see—even during Christmas and New Year—the public roads remain in a dilapidated state, riddled with potholes. The public is rightly asking: where are the funds that were supposed to maintain our roads?

It should not fall to ordinary citizens

to raise their voices about this issue. Road maintenance is a fundamental responsibility of the Pohnpei government, safeguarding one of the most critical public assets. Families already struggle with high expenses and low incomes, and they deserve accountability for the taxes and fees they pay when registering their vehicles.

Leaders travel these same roads daily. How can they not recognize the severe disrepair of the circumferential roads and those in Kolonia Town? Which government agency is responsible and

why has it failed to act? If the former PTA Commissioner was removed and an Acting Commissioner appointed, why have conditions worsened instead of improved?

In the past, limited funds may have prevented the construction of standard roadways with proper drainage, like those in Guam or Saipan. But today, with increased revenues from registration fees, there should be sufficient resources to undertake proper infrastructure projects. Roads are the most utilized public system—essential for commerce, education and daily life.

The public is beginning to see the weakness of this administration in carrying out its mandate. Tax dollars collected for road maintenance must not be diverted or “pork-barreled.” As the saying goes, “everything starts from home and extends beyond.” Leaders must first fix Pohnpei’s problems before turning attention elsewhere. In our local vernacular “ien kesemwpalikinie mahs mwoahn ei pahn kesemwpwaliki emen aramas tohrohr”.....

It is time for the leadership of Pohnpei to “focus and fix” our messed up roadways.

Forum Troika leaders meet in Brisbane

Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum

January 28, 2026

Brisbane, Australia - Pacific Islands Forum Troika Leaders convened their first in-person meeting of 2026 in Brisbane, Australia, reaffirming their shared commitment to Forum unity, regional solidarity, and collective leadership at a time of heightened global uncertainty.

The meeting was attended by the Honourable Jeremiah Manele, Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum and Prime Minister of Solomon Islands; His Excellency. Surangel Whipps, incoming Forum Chair and President of the Republic of Palau; and the Honourable Lord Fakafanua, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, attending his first Troika meeting following his recent appointment.

Through open and constructive Talanoa, Troika Leaders discussed follow-up actions arising from decisions of the 54th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting, including ongoing work under the Review of the Regional Architecture, the strategic outlook for 2026, and upcoming regional and international engagements. Discussions underscored the enduring relevance of the Forum

as the principal political platform for Pacific Leaders to advance shared priorities, accommodate varying perspectives, and strengthen regional cohesion.

Forum Chair, Prime Minister Manele, welcomed the participation of Prime Minister Fakafanua, noting that his first Troika meeting reflected the continuity,



global attention, the Pacific Islands Forum remains the trusted space for Pacific leaders to engage openly, resolve differences, and advance shared priorities in the spirit of 'Iumi Tugeda'".

Troika Leaders were also joined by Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Honourable Chris Bowen MP, for discussions on preparations for COP31 and arrangements for the hosting of the Pre-COP 31 Meeting and related Pacific-based engagements.

inclusivity and collective leadership that underpin the Forum family.

Secretary General Baron Waqa highlighted the significance of the meeting, noting that the Troika continues to play a vital stewardship role in supporting unity and confidence in Forum processes.

"At a time of heightened regional and

Outcomes and recommendations arising from the Troika discussions will be conveyed by the Forum Chair to all Forum Leaders, consistent with established Forum processes, for their consideration and guidance.

Shanty Sigrah Asher: Building stronger partnerships for nature and communities

The Nature Conservancy

February 2, 2026

FSM - Shanty Sigrah Asher, from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), has recently joined The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Micronesia and Polynesia as FSM Government Relations and Partnership Manager. In this role, she works with national and state governments to strengthen collaboration, build trust, and help turn shared conservation priorities into lasting policies.

Before joining TNC, Shanty built a career in law, public service, and community leadership in Hawai'i. She holds advanced degrees in law and criminal justice and has worked in government programs focused on community development and public participation. She has also served in leadership roles across education, legal services, and Pacific community organizations. These experiences shaped her commitment to inclusive decision-making and equitable development.

After several years in Hawai'i, Shanty decided to return home to FSM. She saw joining TNC as an opportunity to reconnect with her roots, learn more about natural resource management, and

apply her experience to support island communities. She now helps connect TNC's technical and scientific teams with government partners, supporting transparent decision-making and long-term stewardship of natural resources. Her work focuses on ensuring conservation efforts are locally led and aligned with communities' priorities.

"Coming home and doing work that supports our islands and our people feels deeply meaningful," said Shanty. "As a mother, I often think about the world we leave our children, and I want to help protect our natural resources so future generations can thrive."



Matson Champions League nears first-leg finish

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club

February 9, 2026

Pohnpei - The Matson Champions League is one match away from completing its first leg, with Ohmine and SDA scheduled to play Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Spanish Wall Park.

The second leg will open the following day, Thursday, Feb. 12, when Kolonia faces PCS at 3:30 p.m. at the Track and Field.

Earlier, on Thursday, Feb. 5, three teams — Sekere, Ohmine and PCS — met for a round-robin mini tournament at Spanish Wall Park. Each game lasted 15 minutes.

Results were:

- Ohmine vs. PCS — 0-0
- Sekere vs. Ohmine — 1-0
- PCS vs. Sekere — 1-0

PCS finished on top with four points, followed by Sekere with three and Ohmine with one.

The event was played in favorable weather with the field in excellent condition. Organizers expressed appreciation to Simon Mix for bringing students from Sekere Elementary School, noting the ongoing support from school principals and coaches.



After the Sekere side departed, PCS and Ohmine agreed to continue. Though both teams were tired from the earlier matches, they played an additional game that Ohmine won 4-0, demonstrating the role endurance can play late in competition.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, Ohmine players and coaches returned to Spanish Wall Park for a friendly against a group of Danish tourists.

Heavy rain left the pitch soaked, and players spent nearly as much time sliding through puddles as contesting the ball. No official score was kept, but organizers described the match as a positive experience. The young players encountered a different style of play, enjoyed the opportunity, and eagerly asked questions about Denmark and the visitors' travels in the Pacific.

PASAI Chief Executive in Chuuk State advocating for good governance

PASAI

February 2, 2026

Weno, Chuuk - Chief Executive for the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), Esther Lameko-Poutoa, visited Chuuk State of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from 29 January to 2 February 2026 to advocate for the Office of the Chuuk State Public Auditor, coinciding with the 2026 FSM Auditors' Conference.

Public auditors from FSM's national and 4 state audit offices convene annually for in-person capability development, knowledge sharing and stakeholder meetings.

PASAI Program Director, Sophia H Pretrick, who is based in Pohnpei State, accompanied Ms Lameko-Poutoa on her mission, arriving before the stakeholder meetings with Chuuk State leaders.

"Chuuk State has been without an officially appointed Public Auditor for nearly two years, so it was important for me to advocate with the audit offices at their stakeholder meetings," Ms Lameko-Poutoa explained.

The Governor's representatives and leaders from Chuuk State's House of Representatives and House of Senate attended the meetings.

Of the meetings, Ms Lameko-Poutoa said, "The advocacy was mainly to foster mutual respect, enhance partnerships with the Legislature, lift their understanding of the role of public auditors and the importance of audit independence, support oversight functions and ensure the Chuuk State Office of the Public Auditor receives sufficient support.

"The Legislature is one of the most important stakeholders of public audit offices.

"The advocacy with the leaders highlighted the common challenges facing all audit offices in the FSM."

National Public Auditor, Haser Hainrick, emphasized the need to enhance partnerships between the audit offices and the legislatures, saying, "They must work together to exercise the oversight function.

"Success for one audit office is success for all," he added.

Vice President of the Senate, Wisney Nakayama, explained that he supports the Office of the Chuuk State Public Auditor's development.

Recruitment of the Chuuk State Public Auditor is currently in progress.

Ms Lameko-Poutoa explained functional public financial management systems are underpinned by good working relationships between public

auditors and the legislative and executive branches of government.

"When audit offices are sufficiently resourced, can operate independently and are given information they need, their audits and investigations have the best chance to result in positive impacts for the people governments serve," she said.

The targeted support provided to the staff of the Chuuk audit office included guidance on the next steps in the review of its audit legislation following the meetings, continuous engagement with the Legislature, audit follow-up and internal governance matters.

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

Chuuk ECE Centers receive clean energy and digital technology

UNICEF

February 9, 2026

Chuuk - Kukku, Sapore, and Udot ECE centres in Southern Namoneas region of Chuuk now benefit from newly installed solar power systems which enable classroom lighting, and access to digital teaching and learning opportunities for both children and teachers,

Made possible by funding support to the Education Sector Program Implementation Grant (ESPIG) from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and implemented through a partnership between NDOE, CDOE, and UNICEF, these centres will also be receiving laptops and tablets soon.

These installations of these solar power systems mark an important step toward improving learning conditions and reducing reliance on costly, fuel powered generators. While the installations are newly in place, the benefits are expected to grow steadily in the months ahead as schools fully integrate reliable, renewable electricity into their daily operations.

The new systems provide each school with consistent lighting and a safer, more functional learning environment. These facilities will enable classrooms to operate more smoothly and teachers to plan lessons with greater confidence, while also powering the laptops and tablets which will be delivered soon to these schools as well.

The combination of solar power with digital technology and connectivity provided by the government will ultimately help bridge the digital gap and bring resources and support systems closer to the school, be it teaching learning resources, educational tools, or remote support for teacher and student well-being.

The solar installations will also strengthen community confidence in local schools, through reduced operational costs and improved infrastructure which will allow school leaders and communities to focus more attention on student wellbeing, attendance, and learning outcomes, rather than ongoing energy constraints.

Further these installations not only improve daily school operations but also contribute to broader national objectives related to education quality, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

This initiative is a part of the Education Sector Program Implementation Grant (ESPIG) which supported the government's efforts towards providing compulsory ECE for all 5-year-old children in FSM. The overall activities included the repair and renovation of ECE facilities like classrooms, kitchens and toilets, ECE curriculum framework development, ECE in-service teacher training, provision of ECE classroom

teaching learning materials and equipment, kitchen equipment etc.

