

Dead fish, discolored waters reported across several Yap Outer Islands as officials seek answers

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 16, 2026

Yap State — Yap State officials are continuing efforts to determine how to respond to reports of dead fish and discolored coastal waters affecting Lamotrek and other outer islands, as residents raise concerns about potential impacts on food security and public health.

Government officials were first alerted to the situation on June 13 after residents observed unusual water discoloration and fish deaths around Lamotrek Atoll. Reports and photographs began circulating widely on social media the following day, drawing attention to what residents described as a sudden and alarming change in local marine conditions.



At press time, the cause of the phenomenon remained unknown.

Officials from the FSM Department of Environment, Climate and Emergency Management (DECEM) told The

Kaselehlie Press that the Yap State Government was meeting again Tuesday afternoon to determine an action plan. As of earlier in the day, no final response strategy had been adopted.

DECEM officials said state authorities are attempting to identify a qualified individual in Yap who can conduct the testing needed to determine the cause of

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Yap Weightlifter earns two silver medals at Samoa International Competition

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 16, 2026

Samoa — Sixteen-year-old Yap athlete Aiden Gimed earned two silver medals for the Federated States of Micronesia after competing at the IBFC Universal Cup weightlifting competition in Apia, Samoa last month.

The competition, held alongside major international weightlifting events hosted in Samoa, attracted athletes from across the Pacific and around the world.

Gimed captured second place in both the Youth and Junior categories based on his combined total from the snatch and clean and jerk events.

Competing against international athletes, Gimed successfully lifted

112 kilograms in the snatch and 133 kilograms in the clean and jerk for a combined total of 245 kilograms.

The Samoa performance represented a significant improvement over his showing at the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau, where he recorded a 105-kilogram snatch and a 125-kilogram clean and jerk for a total of 230 kilograms.

The comparison shows an improvement of seven kilograms in the snatch, eight kilograms in the clean and jerk, and 15

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Vital FSMPC says fuel prices to remain unchanged through July

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 9, 2026

FSM—Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation announced Tuesday that there will be no additional fuel price increases during June and July despite continued volatility in international fuel markets.

The announcement follows a fuel price adjustment implemented in May that the corporation said reflected only a portion of the increases being experienced globally. According to Vital FSMPC, the corporation absorbed a substantial share of rising fuel costs through its reserves and working capital in an effort to lessen the impact on customers while maintaining continuity of fuel supply throughout the Federated States of Micronesia.

The corporation said recent increases in international fuel prices have been unusually large and are expected to remain elevated for an extended period. It stated that the scale of those increases exceeded its ability to absorb the full impact through normal financial resources.

Vital FSMPC credited a strengthened

national fuel price stabilization mechanism for allowing wholesale fuel prices to remain at current levels through July. The mechanism was reinforced through cooperation between the FSM National Government, the FSM Congress, the Government of Japan, and Vital FSMPC.

The corporation said the recent enactment of Public Law 24-65, which provides a sovereign guarantee supporting a US\$5 million financing facility, combined with a grant contribution from the Government of Japan of approximately US\$3.1 million, has strengthened the financial capacity of the stabilization mechanism.

According to Vital FSMPC, the arrangement demonstrates coordinated action among government agencies, Congress, development partners, and state-owned enterprises in responding to emerging national challenges.

Following a review of market conditions, inventory positions, forward supply commitments, and the enhanced stabilization mechanism, the corporation determined that existing wholesale fuel prices will remain unchanged until at least its next board meeting, scheduled

for July 21, 2026. Vital FSMPC stated that prevailing international market conditions likely would have required additional fuel price increases during June and July without the strengthened stabilization mechanism.

Chief Executive Officer Jared Morris said international fuel markets remain volatile and continue to present significant uncertainty.

“While the underlying market conditions that led to recent fuel price increases have not completely subsided, the strengthened fuel price stabilization mechanism provides additional resilience and flexibility in managing these challenges,” Morris said.

He credited support from President Wesley W. Simina, the FSM Congress, and the Government of Japan with strengthening the nation's ability to manage market volatility while maintaining reliable fuel supplies and avoiding additional fuel price increases during June and July.

Morris said the situation demonstrates the benefits of coordinated planning and action. He said the stabilization

mechanism was established to reduce the impact of extraordinary international fuel price shocks on communities, businesses, and essential services while maintaining the financial sustainability necessary to ensure continued fuel supply.

Despite recent international market pressures, Vital FSMPC said fuel prices in the FSM remain among the most competitive in the North Pacific and compare favorably with neighboring Pacific Island markets facing similar fuel importation and supply chain challenges.

The corporation emphasized that the stabilization mechanism is not intended as a permanent subsidy and does not eliminate the possibility of future fuel price adjustments if market conditions warrant them. Instead, it described the mechanism as a risk-management tool intended to reduce the impact of exceptional market disruptions while supporting national energy security and economic stability.

Vital FSMPC also said operation of the mechanism will be subject to governance arrangements, board oversight, financial controls, independent audits, and reporting requirements designed to ensure resources are managed prudently and in the national interest.

Looking beyond current market conditions, the corporation said long-term energy resilience will require both management of fuel market risks and continued development of future energy solutions. Vital FSMPC cited the enactment of Public Law 22-171, known as the Transformation Act 2022, as providing a foundation for pursuing broader energy security, resilience, and sustainability objectives.

The corporation said it will continue evaluating opportunities to diversify energy solutions, improve energy efficiency, and reduce long-term exposure to imported fuel price volatility.

Vital FSMPC said it will continue working with government agencies, development partners, customers, and communities to support a secure, resilient, and sustainable energy future for the Federated States of Micronesia. The corporation also thanked customers and stakeholders for their continued support and understanding during the period of ongoing international market uncertainty.



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Managing Editor**

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Monday, June 29, 2026

Man charged following window-smashing break-in at Ace Office Supplies

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 12, 2026

Pohnpei — Pohnpei State Police officers arrested and preliminarily charged June Kattil of Kolonia in connection with the early morning burglary and vandalism reported June 8 at Ace Office Supplies.

The incident, which was captured on the store's surveillance cameras, was widely shared on social media. Police say the video is among the strongest pieces of evidence in the case.

According to Ace Office Supplies management, the incident occurred at approximately 5:56 a.m. The surveillance footage shows a man using a piece of wood to smash two plate-glass windows and one glass door before entering the store. Police say the individual seen in the video took one large bottle of root beer and five chocolate bars.

Although the incident occurred shortly before 6 a.m., police were not notified until 7:49 a.m. when the first Ace Office Supplies employee arrived for work. The delay occurred despite the presence of a night security guard at the nearby Ace Commercial building. According to police, the security guard reported that he had been asleep and did not hear the disturbance.

At approximately 2:18 p.m. the same day, employees at the Pohnpei Botanical Garden reported to police that Kattil was on the grounds. Officers responded and arrested him.

Police Major Marvin Heine of the Department of Public Safety said officers reported smelling alcohol on Kattil but determined that he was not intoxicated. He was initially charged with burglary and held for 24 hours.

According to Heine, officers were informed that Kattil is originally

from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and had lived in Pohnpei for approximately 10 years. Police said that because this was the first time Kattil had been charged with a crime in Pohnpei, he was held for 24 hours and then released pending further action by prosecutors.

Police said that if he had previously been charged with a crime in Pohnpei, a bail hearing would have been required. Heine said that during questioning Kattil allegedly admitted involvement in the incident and described it as "a mistake." Regardless of any statements made to police, Kattil is presumed innocent unless and until guilt is established in a court of law.

The case has been forwarded to prosecutors, who will determine what final charges, if any, will be filed.

The arrest has generated significant discussion on social media, including debate over deportees from the United

States who have returned to Micronesia and other Pacific island nations.

Heine said police had been told that Kattil was previously deported from the United States, although The Kaselehlie Press has not independently verified that information.

Speaking more broadly, Heine said Pohnpei receives an average of approximately 10 deportees from the United States each month as a result of increased deportation activity by U.S. authorities. He said the Department of Public Safety has faced growing challenges associated with some deportees returning to the state and that police have expanded officer training programs, including handgun certification and firearms training.

Heine said the Police and Security Division maintains awareness of deportees residing in the state and monitors situations that may require law-enforcement intervention.

Chuuk DOE employee charged with sexual abuse of minor

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 15, 2026

Weno, Chuuk — A Chuuk State Department of Education employee has been charged in Chuuk State Supreme Court with sexual abuse of a minor and providing alcohol to a minor following allegations involving a 15-year-old girl on Weno Island.

BJ Joseph of Nepukos Village, Weno, was charged by the Chuuk State Attorney General's Office in a criminal information filed with the Chuuk State Supreme Court. Court records indicate that Joseph has been released on bail and is scheduled to be arraigned on Friday, June 19.

According to the charging document, Joseph faces one count of sexual abuse and one count involving the distribution and consumption of alcoholic beverages by a person under the age of 18.

Prosecutors allege that the offenses occurred in the Nefo, Nantaku area of Weno Island and involved a 15-year-old

female. The charging document alleges that Joseph engaged in prohibited sexual contact with the minor in violation of Chuuk State law. Prosecutors further allege that he caused or induced the girl to consume alcoholic beverages despite her initial refusal.

An affidavit of probable cause filed by the Chuuk State Department of Public Safety states that investigators interviewed the alleged victim and a witness after a report was made to police on February 26. According to the affidavit, the alleged victim reported that she encountered Joseph on February 15 and later accompanied him, allegedly under false pretenses, to the Nantaku area. The affidavit further alleges that she was pressured to consume alcohol and that sexual activity subsequently occurred after Joseph allegedly threatened to leave her stranded a considerable distance from her home.

The affidavit also includes a statement from the girl's father, who told investigators that his daughter returned home during the early morning hours appearing intoxicated and later disclosed

the alleged incident.

Under the statute cited in the charging document, a conviction for sexual abuse of a minor may carry a penalty of imprisonment, a fine, or both.

No response from the defendant or

defense counsel was included in the court records reviewed by Kaselehlie Press.

The allegations contained in the criminal information and supporting affidavit represent the State's claims and have not been proven in court. Joseph is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



Vice President Palik hands over renovated Biosecurity Facility in Pohnpei

FSM Information Services

June 3, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei — The Honorable Vice President, Aren B. Palik officially handed over a newly renovated biosecurity facility to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and the Pohnpei State Government, marking another important milestone in strengthening biosecurity capacity in Pohnpei and protecting its environment, agriculture, and communities from invasive species and other biosecurity threats.

Located at the Pohnpei State Forestry Site, the facility was renovated through the Global Environment Facility (GEF-6) FSM Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Project, implemented by the FSM Department of Resources and Development through its Agriculture Division. The renovation was carried out with technical oversight and support from the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure (DTC&I).

The renovated facility is one of two dedicated biosecurity facilities in Pohnpei, providing personnel with space to conduct inspections, coordinate operations, and support efforts to prevent invasive species and other biosecurity threats from entering the State.

The handover further strengthens the FSM's biosecurity infrastructure with all four FSM states having dedicated biosecurity facilities to support efforts to prevent and respond to invasive alien species and other biosecurity threats.

"This facility represents our collective commitment

to protecting our islands, our biodiversity, our agriculture and our communities from the growing threats posed by invasive alien species," Vice President Palik said.

Vice President Palik expressed appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), state governments, project partners, the GEF-6 FSM IAS Project team, and DTC&I for their support in completing the project.

The handover reflects the shared commitment and continued partnership between the National and State Governments in strengthening biosecurity capacity and safeguarding the nation from invasive species and other biosecurity threats.



...Yap water

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the event. Scientific analysis has not yet been carried out.

According to DECEM, one of the response options discussed during meetings held Monday was the issuance of a public advisory recommending that residents avoid consuming fish found dead and refrain from fishing in affected waters until the cause of the phenomenon can be determined. However, as of Tuesday afternoon, no such advisory had yet been formally issued.

DECEM officials also confirmed that reports of similar conditions are now being received from other outer islands in Yap State, suggesting the problem may be affecting a wider geographic area than initially believed.

The department said it is awaiting further direction from the Yap State

Government regarding what assistance may be requested from the national government and how DECEM should participate in response efforts.

For residents of Lamotrek and other outer island communities, the situation has generated significant concern because marine resources serve as a primary source of food and livelihood. Any prolonged disruption to local fisheries could have serious consequences for communities that depend heavily on the ocean for daily sustenance.

Speculation regarding the cause of the phenomenon has spread rapidly across social media. Some residents have suggested the event may be linked to environmental conditions associated with El Niño, while others have raised concerns about possible pollution or illegal dumping. No evidence has been presented to support any particular explanation, however, and officials emphasize that the cause remains undetermined.

Another theory being discussed by residents is the possibility of a harmful algal bloom, sometimes known as a "red tide." Harmful algal blooms occur when microscopic aquatic organisms multiply rapidly and, in some cases, produce toxins capable of killing fish and other marine life. Such blooms can also pose health risks to humans through contact with contaminated water or consumption of affected seafood.

Environmental experts caution that harmful algal blooms cannot be identified through visual observation alone and require scientific testing before a determination can be made.

The incident has prompted calls for government intervention. In a widely shared social media post, one individual with family ties to Lamotrek described the situation as both an ecological and humanitarian concern, calling for emergency food assistance, environmental assessment, and long-term support if the island's marine resources have been significantly

affected.

As officials continue to gather information, residents across Yap's outer islands are awaiting answers about the cause of the fish deaths and whether the phenomenon poses an ongoing threat to marine life, food supplies, and public health.



FSM announces and welcomes approval of Compact Disaster Declaration following Joint FSM-US damage assessment

FSM Information Services

June 12, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) welcomes the approval of a Compact Disaster Declaration by the United States Government in response to the impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku on affected communities across the Federated States of Micronesia.

The declaration follows a collaborative Joint Damage Assessment (JDA) conducted by the FSM National Government, State Governments, and representatives of the United States Government. The assessment documented the extent of damages and recovery needs resulting from the impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku and provided the basis for the FSM's request for a Compact Disaster Declaration.

The Government of the FSM extends its sincere appreciation to the Joint Damage Assessment teams, state and municipal governments, community leaders, and residents who supported the assessment process and contributed valuable information to ensure a comprehensive understanding of disaster impacts and recovery needs.

The approval of the Compact Disaster Declaration represents an important milestone in the FSM's recovery efforts and reflects the strong and enduring partnership between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States under the Compact of Free Association.

Unlike domestic disaster declarations within the United States, assistance provided under a Compact Disaster Declaration is implemented through established interagency coordination mechanisms. Consistent with these procedures, recovery assistance will be coordinated by the U.S. Department of State in partnership with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and implementing organizations, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

As announced by FEMA, an initial \$8 million has been made available to the U.S. Department of State to coordinate immediate relief and recovery assistance under the Compact Disaster Declaration. Working in partnership with the FSM National Government, State Governments, and implementing organizations, these resources will support priority recovery activities identified through the Joint Damage Assessment process and subsequent recovery planning efforts. While immediate relief are underway, 86 pallets of relief items, including shelter repair kits, tarpaulins and essential supplies have recently arrived to support families as they repair and recover from Typhoon Sinlaku.

The Government of the FSM recognizes that the declaration itself marks the beginning of the recovery implementation phase. Recovery priorities and projects will continue to



be refined through coordination among national and state authorities, community stakeholders, the U.S. Department of State, IOM, and other partners to ensure that assistance reaches the communities most affected by Typhoon Sinlaku. The FSM National Government remains committed to working closely with state governments, community organizations, and international partners to ensure a coordinated, transparent, and effective recovery process.

For additional information regarding ongoing recovery coordination efforts, please contact the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEN) through Abigail Kim-Lambert, DECEN Assistant Secretary, at kim.lambert@decem.gov.fm or by telephone at +691 320 8814.

...Yap weightlifter

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kilograms in his overall total.

Competition records show Gimed successfully completed all three of his snatch attempts at 103 kilograms, 108 kilograms, and 112 kilograms. In the clean and jerk, he successfully lifted 125 kilograms, narrowly missed an attempt at 133 kilograms, and then returned to successfully complete the same weight on his final attempt.

The successful 133-kilogram lift secured his final total of 245 kilograms and helped earn silver-medal finishes in both age-group divisions.

The result marks another step forward for the young Yap athlete, who has continued to improve since

representing the FSM at the Pacific Mini Games less than a year earlier.

Supporters credited several donors whose assistance helped make Gimed's participation in the Samoa competition possible. Financial support was provided by FSM Congressman for Yap Andy Choor, P4 Corporation through Einstein Perman, and Ray & Dor Store through Dorian Peter.

The support enabled Gimed to represent both Yap and the Federated States of Micronesia at one of the region's largest international weightlifting competitions.

With two silver medals and a 15-kilogram improvement over his Pacific Mini Games performance, Gimed returned home from Samoa with one of the strongest international results of his young weightlifting career.

Australian Ambassador highlights partnership and resilience at RISE-FSM launch

Pohnpei Public Information

June 8, 2026

Pohnpei — The Australian Government's enduring commitment to sustainable development and regional security took center stage during the official launch of the UNICEF RISE-FSM project in Pohnpei.

In her remarks, Her Excellency Jenny Grant, Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, emphasized the vital partnership between Australia, UNICEF, and the Pohnpei State Government. The RISE-FSM project, generously funded by the Australian Government, focuses on building resilient infrastructure and strengthening essential services to support the growth, health, and well-

being of children and communities across the state.

Ambassador Grant highlighted that investments in community resilience form the bedrock of a secure and prosperous future for the region. Pohnpei State extends its profound appreciation to Ambassador Grant and the people of Australia for their continued leadership and vital financial support for this initiative.

The Ambassador's full speech is now available on our official platforms, concluding our three-part video coverage of the event, which also features preceding remarks from Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and UNICEF Chief of Field Office Cromwell Bacarezza.

ADB provides grant for Typhoon Sinlaku relief in the Federated States of Micronesia

Asian Development Bank

June 4, 2026

Manila, Philippines — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a \$500,000 grant to the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to help expedite recovery from Typhoon Sinlaku, which struck the country during 9–12 April this year.

“ADB extends its deepest condolences to the Federated States of Micronesia for the loss of life, damage, and upheaval caused by Typhoon Sinlaku,” said ADB North Pacific Advisor Aziz Haydarov. “This grant will support the Government of the FSM to respond to the urgent needs of people in Chuuk and Yap states, and we stand ready to provide additional support as needed to

help the country rebuild and recover.”

The grant will support emergency and humanitarian efforts and will come from ADB’s Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund, which provides fast tracked grants to developing member countries for life-saving purposes in the aftermath of major disasters triggered by natural hazards.

Typhoon Sinlaku affected approximately 34,000 people across 42 municipalities in Chuuk and Yap states. The typhoon’s destructive winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surge caused at least nine deaths and destroyed around 7,000 homes.

ADB is a leading multilateral development bank supporting sustainable, inclusive, and resilient



growth across Asia and the Pacific. Working with its members and partners to solve complex challenges together, ADB harnesses innovative financial tools and strategic

partnerships to transform lives, build quality infrastructure, and safeguard our planet. Founded in 1966, ADB is owned by 69 members—50 from the region.

FSM calls for accountability and climate focus in UN Reform Discussions

By Bill Jaynes

The Kaselehlie Press

June 5, 2026

New York — The Federated States of Micronesia has called for greater accountability, transparency, and attention to the needs of small island developing states as the United Nations considers reforms under its UN80 initiative.

Speaking during a Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of several UN agencies on June 5, FSM Deputy Permanent Representative Universe Y. Lawrence said Micronesia supports efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the UN development and humanitarian system but cautioned that reforms must remain responsive to the realities facing vulnerable island nations.

The meeting brought together representatives of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN Women, and the World Food Programme to discuss the future direction of the UN system as it approaches its 80th anniversary.

Lawrence said Micronesia recognizes the United Nations’ essential role in humanitarian diplomacy, including negotiating access to affected

populations, securing humanitarian corridors, and advocating for civilian protection during crises. She pointed to the UN’s response following Typhoon Sinlaku, which affected Micronesia in April, as an example of the value of maintaining a strong presence in the region.

According to Lawrence, the rapid response coordinated through the UN Resident Coordinator and the North Pacific Multi-Country Office demonstrated how on-the-ground UN personnel can mobilize quickly when disasters strike. She added that for small island developing states such as the FSM, humanitarian diplomacy must increasingly address climate-related emergencies, which are becoming a defining feature of the region’s humanitarian landscape.

Lawrence also emphasized the importance of disaster-risk financing and anticipatory action measures that allow governments and aid organizations to prepare for emergencies before they occur.

On the issue of UN reform, Micronesia expressed support for stronger coordination among UN agencies but stressed that coordination should not

come at the expense of the specialized roles and expertise of individual organizations.

“Coherence should enhance effectiveness, not enforce uniformity,” Lawrence said, noting that duplication of efforts can place additional burdens on countries with limited administrative capacity.

The FSM also called for governance bodies representing member states to remain central in decisions involving UN mandates, operational structures, and accountability mechanisms. Lawrence highlighted the importance of maintaining clear lines of accountability between the Executive Boards and Resident Coordinators responsible for overseeing country-level coordination.

She warned that without strong coordination and accountability, there is a risk that priorities established by member states could become disconnected from implementation at the country level, particularly in multi-country office arrangements where resources and attention are often stretched across several nations. Early and structured

engagement between governing boards and Resident Coordinators, she said, could help prevent such gaps.

Lawrence further urged that any significant proposals arising from the UN80 process be accompanied by detailed analysis, cost estimates, and assessments of potential risks. Transparent consultation with member states, she said, will be necessary to ensure reforms are equitable, evidence-based, and aligned with national priorities.

Concluding her remarks, Lawrence reaffirmed Micronesia’s support for a United Nations system that is “coherent, accountable, and fit for purpose,” capable of addressing both humanitarian and development challenges in the years ahead, particularly for countries facing growing climate-related threats.



United States delivers additional relief supplies to Chuuk in response to Typhoon Sinlaku

Embassy of the United States to the FSM

June 16, 2026

FSM - The United States continues to stand with the people of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) who have been affected by Super Typhoon Sinlaku. From June 6-7, the United States delivered its second shipment of live-saving relief supplies, which included shelter kits, kitchen sets, and other essential emergency supplies. This delivery followed an initial shipment in April and brought 86 pallets of essential supplies to support affected communities across Chuuk State.

“The United States stands firmly with the people of Chuuk as they recover from the destruction caused by Super

Typhoon Sinlaku. This second delivery of relief supplies reflects our enduring commitment to the Federated States of Micronesia and our shared determination to ensure that those most affected receive the support they need as quickly as possible,” said former Ambassador Jennifer Johnson, who has departed Embassy Kolonia but was on hand for the recent delivery of relief supplies.

The U.S. Government is coordinating



its disaster response with the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and implementer, the International Organization for Migration, to ensure timely and effective relief reaches those most in need.



Vice President Palik administers oath of office to FSMPC and NORMA Boards

FSM Information Services

June 11, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, administered the oath of office to two reappointed members of national boards during a ceremony held in Palikir.

Mrs. Maria Laaw, representing the private sector, was sworn in for a second term on the Board of Directors of the Federated States of Micronesia Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC), while Mr. Peter Garamfel, representing Yap State, was sworn in for another term on the Board of

Directors of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA).

The oath-taking ceremony marked the continuation of their service and commitment to supporting the important work of their respective organizations. Their reappointments reflect the confidence placed in their leadership, experience, and dedication to advancing the interests of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Expressing her appreciation for the opportunity to continue serving, Mrs. Laaw thanked the President, Vice President, Congress, and her fellow board members, as well as

FSMPC management and staff, for their trust and support. “I trust that, with the guidance of our principles and the support and coordination of the leaders of the FSM, we will all work together to get our nation through these difficult times,” she said.

Mr. Garamfel also

reaffirmed his commitment to public service, stating, “As I assume this renewed responsibility, I remain committed to supporting NORMA in fulfilling its mandate to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of our tuna resources.”

During the ceremony, Vice President Palik congratulated both board members and thanked them for their willingness to continue serving the nation. He emphasized the critical roles that FSMPC and NORMA play in supporting national development through the effective management of the nation's fuel supply and marine resources.

“The fact that both individuals are being reappointed speaks to the confidence placed in them and the valuable contributions they have made over the years,” Vice President Palik said. “The work carried out by FSMPC and NORMA is vital to the continued development and prosperity of our nation.”

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia extends its appreciation to Mrs.

Laaw and Mr. Garamfel for their continued commitment to public service and looks forward to their contributions in the years ahead.

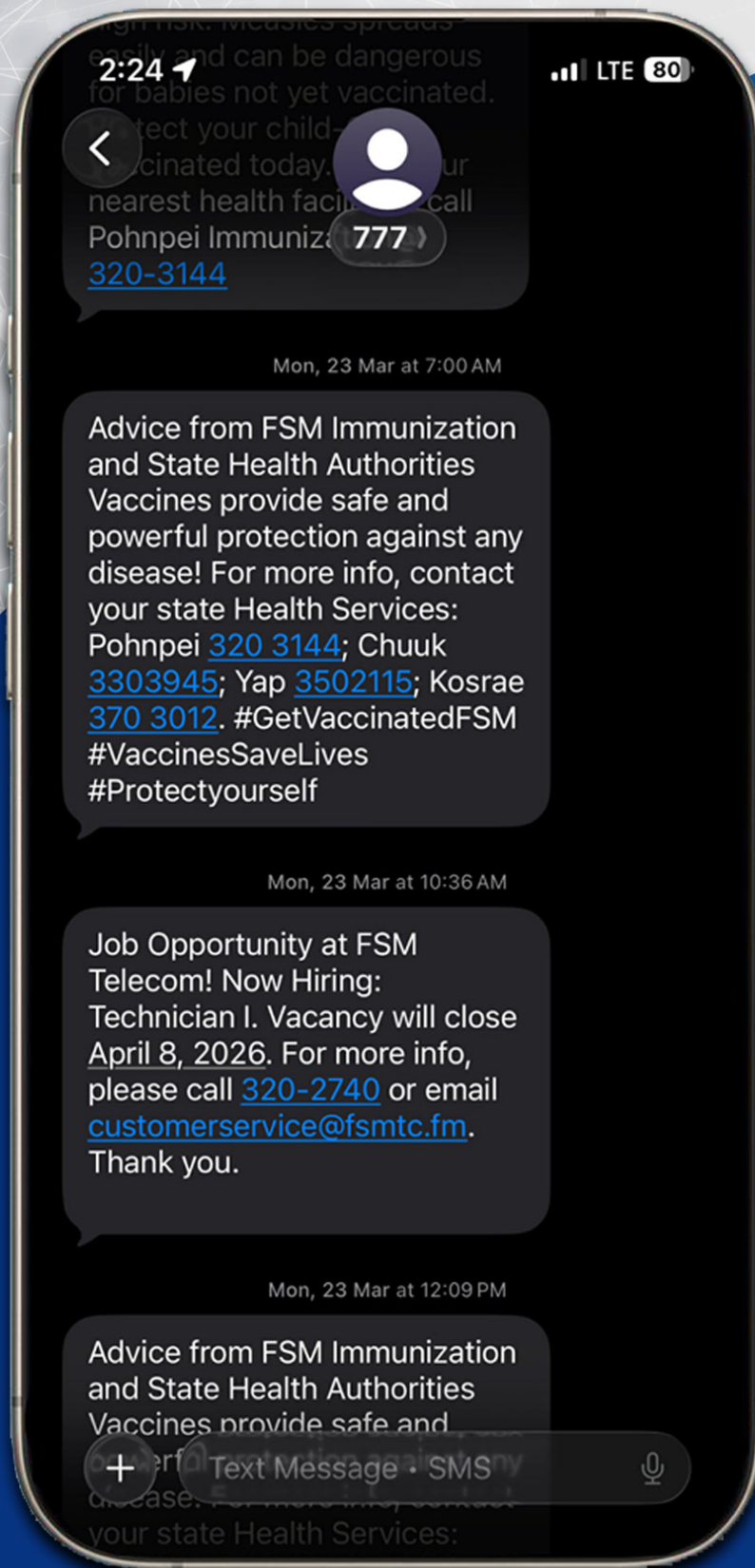
The Simina-Palik Administration also extends its gratitude to the 24th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia for its continued support of the nominations and confirmation process.



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3. Completed FFA Application Form

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted further to proceed to the next stage of selection.



College of Micronesia-FSM

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Ms. Rudelyn Dacanay
DDFT Program Coordinator
rdacanay@comfsm.edu.fm

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Phone: (691)350-2296/5149
Fax: (691)350-5150
E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm

Participants of the Children Exchange Program visit Japanese Ambassador before departure

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

June 12, 2026

Pohnpei — On June 10, Ambassador Kagomiya and his spouse received a courtesy visit from a group of 12 elementary and junior high school students from Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), together with their chaperones, who will visit Japan under the Children Exchange Program with Micronesian Islands organized by the National Institution for Youth Education (NIYE), Japan.

The Ambassador expressed his hope that the children's experiences in Japan would provide meaningful opportunities for learning and exchange, thereby deepening mutual understanding between Japan and the FSM. He also wishes the students a safe journey. The students presented a performance they had practiced for their visit, which the Ambassador and the accompanying parents looked on warmly. They then introduced themselves individually, sharing their favorite Japanese foods in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere with the Ambassador. To mark the occasion, the Embassy served Japanese sweets, which the children enjoyed as part of their cultural experience.

The program aims to foster youth development and encourage consideration of global challenges such as environmental issues through exchanges between Japan and the Micronesian islands (the FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), which share deep historical bonds with Japan. This year, 48 students from the FSM (12 from each of the four states) will visit Japan for 14 days from June 12 to 25, and 16 Japanese students will visit Pohnpei State in July.



PASAI training investigators to tackle misuse of public funds in the Pacific Islands

PASAI

June 8, 2026

Hagåtña, Guam — The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is training staff from its member audit offices to conduct thorough and effective investigations in a workshop from today until 11 June 2026.

Seventeen staff (8 female and 9 male) from the government audit offices of American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National, FSM Kosrae, FSM Pohnpei, FSM Yap, Guam and the Marshall Islands have gathered for the 4-day in-person workshop.

PASAI Program Director and Certified Fraud Examiner, Sophia H Pretrick, is co-facilitating the workshop with senior staff from the US Department

of the Interior, Office of Inspector General, Dave House (Special Agent in Charge for Infrastructure Coordination) and Katharine Kovacek (Special Agent).

The theme for the workshop is, Advancing investigative effectiveness through practical techniques and island-style approaches.

Ms Pretrick explained many of PASAI's member audit offices are mandated to investigate allegations of fraud, waste and abuse of public funds.

"PASAI developed this training so that participants will understand and be able to apply the principles and processes to conduct effective investigations in line with recognized standards.

"There is a range of investigative experience among participants, so I expect staff will benefit from hearing about each other's successes and

challenges.

"All participants will present an investigation action plan having gained the practical understanding needed to conduct ethical and structured investigations from initial allegations through to final case disposition," she

said.

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).



Pohnpei State Government pays final respects to the Late Honorable Alpino Kerman

Pohnpei Public Information

June 10, 2026

Rohi Kitti, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, accompanied by members of his cabinet, joined Speaker Marvin T. Yamaguchi and Senators of the 11th Pohnpei State Legislature to pay their final respects at the burial of the late Honorable Alpino Kerman.

An Honor Guard stood in tribute during the solemn ceremony, which brought together leaders from both the executive and legislative branches to honor the life, dedicated service, and legacy of the late Honorable Kerman.

As a symbol of the state's gratitude and deep respect, Governor Joseph presented the Pohnpei State flag to the widow of the late Honorable Kerman.

The Pohnpei State Government extends its deepest condolences and prayers to the family, friends, and loved ones during this time of profound loss.



Supporting preparedness and resilience: Australia and WHO support Chuuk

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

June 11, 2026

Chuuk — Australia, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), has handed over a generator and emergency health kits to the Chuuk Disaster Coordination Office, reinforcing efforts to strengthen emergency response capacity.

This support will help ensure reliable

power during emergencies and improve access to essential health services when communities need them most, particularly during disasters and disruptions. It also reflects Australia's solidarity with Chuuk in supporting responsive and reconstruction efforts following Typhoon Sinlaku.

"Reliable health services during emergencies are essential, and partnerships like this make a real

difference," said Ambassador Grant.

In partnership with UNICEF and the Chuuk State Government, we also proudly launched our RISE-FSM: Resilient and Inclusive School Environments through Climate Resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and menstrual Hygiene Management Management project for schools in Chuuk - an important step towards improving

health, safety, and learning outcomes for students across the state of FSM. This support will assist Chuuk with the reconstruction of safe and clean WASH facilities, particularly on the outer island and lagoon island, where key infrastructure was severely damaged.

Australia remains committed to working closely with partners across the region to build resilient, responsive and sustainable health.



Australia strengthens partnership with Chuuk Women’s Council through a AUD 1.55 million multi-year program

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

June 15, 2026

Chuuk — Australia is proud to announce a 5-year commitment of AUD 1.5 million to support the Chuuk Women’s Council through Australia’s Pacific Women Lead, deliver its programs to women and children. This partnership will empower

women and girls, strengthen community leadership, and promote gender equality across Chuuk. Australia aims to support inclusive development and ensure women’s voices remain central in shaping resilient communities.

Ambassador Grant and the Australian Embassy team were saddened to hear about the extensive damage to Chuuk

Women's Council following Typhoon Sinlaku and pledged AUD 50,000 to support the reconstruction efforts for the roof of their building.

"The Council is a pioneering organization that provides safety, education and ongoing support to Chuukese mothers and their children. Australia remains committed to continuing our 37-year partnership

with you to ensure that women and girls have a safe space to access in times of need, and that includes supporting the reconstruction of your building," said Ambassador Grant.

Australia values its long-term collaboration with the Chuuk Women’s Council and is committed to advancing opportunities for women and girls across the region.



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President Simina signs into Law P.L No. 24-65 to support fuel price stability and energy security

FSM Information Services

June 2, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei – His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina today signed Public Law No. 24-65, authorizing a sovereign guarantee in support of a US\$5 million financing facility for Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC) and strengthening the Federated States of Micronesia's fuel price stabilization mechanism.

The legislation was submitted by the Simina-Palik Administration during the most recent regular session of Congress as part of the National Government's response to global fuel market disruptions and ongoing efforts to strengthen fuel price stability and energy security.

The enactment of Public Law No. 24-65 represents an important milestone in the nation's response to unprecedented volatility in international fuel markets and demonstrates the collective commitment of the Executive Branch, Congress, development partners, and FSMPC to safeguarding national energy security and economic stability.

The occasion marked the first presidential signing ceremony of its kind held to recognize legislation supporting national fuel price stabilization, underscoring the importance of the measure and the partnership behind its enactment. Present for the signing were Speaker

of Congress the Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Chief Executive Officer of Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation Jared C. Moris, members of FSMPC's Board of Directors, and key staff from both FSMPC and the National Government.

The sovereign guarantee authorized under the legislation will support financing arrangements established to strengthen FSMPC's capacity to manage extraordinary fuel market disruptions while maintaining affordable and reliable fuel supply throughout the nation.

The fuel price stabilization mechanism is further supported by a non-project fund grant of approximately US\$3.1 million from the Government of Japan, reflecting the longstanding strong and enduring cooperative between the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan.

President Simina stated, "Today marks an important example of effective national cooperation in the interests of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia. This legislation demonstrates the ability of Government, Congress, our development partners, and our state-owned enterprises to work together quickly and decisively in response to emerging national challenges."

"The global fuel market disruptions experienced over recent months have highlighted the vulnerability of small island nations to external economic

shocks. Through collaboration, foresight, and responsible action, we have strengthened our ability to protect our communities, support our economy, and maintain the continuity of essential services."

President Simina expressed his appreciation to the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia for its support and timely consideration of the legislation.

"I thank the Speaker for his leadership, and all Members of Congress for their commitment to advancing this important national initiative. The passage of this legislation reflects a shared understanding of the importance of energy security to the people and economy of our nation."

The President also extended the gratitude of the Government and people of the FSM to the Government and people of Japan for their generous support.

"Japan has long been one of the Federated States of Micronesia's closest development partners. This contribution further strengthens the bonds of friendship between our nations and demonstrates a shared commitment to resilience, stability, and sustainable development."

The legislation follows a series of engagements between the Office of the President and FSMPC to address the challenges posed by global fuel market

disruptions.

President Simina further acknowledged the Board of Directors, management, and staff of Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation for their professionalism and collaboration in developing the stabilization mechanism and supporting its implementation.

Reliable fuel supply remains essential to electricity generation, transportation, healthcare services, telecommunications, food security, public safety, and economic activity throughout the FSM. The stabilization mechanism forms part of the Government's broader efforts to strengthen national resilience against external economic shocks while ensuring continued access to essential energy supplies.

"This outcome demonstrates the value of partnership, coordination, and proactive leadership. It reflects what can be achieved when national institutions and international partners work together with a common purpose to serve the people of the Federated States of Micronesia" said Jared C. Moris.

The Simina-Palik Administration remains committed to working closely with Congress, State Governments, development partners, and FSMPC to strengthen the nation's long-term energy security, economic resilience, and sustainable development.



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The Role – Supply Chain Development Manager (GCF Regional Tuna Project) Package: Band 12 – SDR45,787 @ US\$85,951
Base salary with Basic Allowances
Location: **FFA Office at Honiara Solomon Islands**

- **Make a real difference by helping Pacific Island governments adapt to the impacts of climate change on fisheries.**
- **Subject to exchange rates, you will receive an excellent salary package of between USD \$62,545.00 and USD\$88,299.00 (tax-free for citizens in most countries) commensurate with your skills and experience plus repatriation allowances & retention incentive.**
- **Enjoy relocation & accommodation assistance, 6 weeks annual leave, return airfares & more!**

Overview – GCF Regional Tuna Project

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Tuna Project, *adapting tuna-dependent Pacific Island communities and economies to climate change*, is a regional initiative running from 2025 to 2031. It is executed by the Pacific Community (SPC) as Executing Entity, with Conservation International as the Accredited Entity, and is implemented in partnership with FFA, CSIRO, and other technical partners.

The project has two components that address key climate challenges for Pacific Island Countries (PICs):

- **Component A** – addressing declining reef fisheries by increasing access to tuna and bycatch for coastal and urban communities through anchored FADs, improved unloading and transshipment, and strengthened distribution and processing.
- **Component B** – responding to the redistribution of tuna stocks by establishing a Climate Intelligence System to improve forecasting, provide higher-resolution projections, and support adaptation planning.

FFA's Role

FFA's role is to ensure these outputs

translate into practical benefits for its Members through technical analysis, economic modelling, investment and legal advisory work, capacity building, and strong coordination with regional partners. FFA leads or co-delivers five activities under the project, covering economic, legal, management, and investment dimensions needed to strengthen resilience and safeguard fisheries-dependent economies.

- Activity 2.1 – Implement strategies to deliver more transhipped and unloaded bycatch and tuna to urban and peri-urban communities.
- Activity 2.2 – Strengthen and develop post-harvest practices and market opportunities to distribute bycatch and tuna from transshipping and unloading operations.
- Activity 3.1 – Develop and deliver an Advanced Warning System (AWS) for climate-driven tuna redistribution.
- Activity 3.2 – Conduct bio-economic and fleet dynamics modelling to estimate changes in tuna catch and socio-economic benefits.
- Activity 3.3 – Provide AWS-related training to national institutions to strengthen negotiation capacity in regional and international forums.

The Supply Chain Development Manager (GCF Regional Tuna Project) within FFA will be responsible for ensuring FFA contributions are well-integrated, aligned with Member priorities, and delivered to the standards required by the GCF.

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) is an intergovernmental organisation working to strengthen national capacity and regional solidarity so Pacific nations can manage, control, and develop their fisheries now and into the future.

We are located in Honiara, Solomon Islands, working with our 17-member nations Australia, the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Since our inception in 1979, we have facilitated regional cooperation that is

in line with our vision – “our people enjoying the greatest possible social and economic benefits from the sustainable use of offshore fisheries and resources”. Through our work and presence in the region, Pacific countries benefit from the sustainable fishing and consumption of tuna – worth over \$3 billion US dollars a year and an essential resource to many people.

Your unique opportunity

Our Fisheries Development Division is now looking for a full-time **Supply Chain Development Manager (GCF Regional Tuna Project)** to join our team working out of Honiara, Solomon Islands. The objective of this role is ensuring that FFA-led and supported components of the GCF Regional Tuna Project are effectively managed and delivered to enable Pacific Island governments to adapt to the profound impacts of climate change on fisheries.

Key purposes of the role:

- Design and develop detailed plans for fish market infrastructure to facilitate the distribution of bycatch from transshipment operations.
- Lead on the development of post-harvest practices and improvement of market opportunities to distribute bycatch and tuna from transshipping and unloading operations to urban and peri-urban communities
- Ensure the provision of high-quality advice on fisheries investments in infrastructure and supply chains to facilitate distribution of bycatch;
- Coordinate related communication and awareness activities to support post-harvest, market development, and fish market interventions.

Make a real impact by ensuring the outputs of this project translates to real benefits for people of Pacific Island countries.

To be successful in this role the successful candidate must possess a minimum qualification of a Bachelor's Degree in a relevant area (Supply Chain Management, Finance, Business Management, Economics, Law, Banking or related discipline). You will also need to have at least a minimum of 7 years of progressive experience in supply chain development, fish market infrastructure, post-harvest fisheries or commercial development of fisheries value chains.



Benefits on offer

If you want to work in a challenging and stimulating environment while pursuing better outcomes and a fairer return on our tuna fisheries resources across the region, this is the opportunity for you!

You will receive a competitive salary circa **USD62,545 and USD\$88,299** (tax-free, for citizens of most countries), commensurate with your skills and experience. This is inclusive of COLDA and Location Allowance plus Superannuation. Superannuation at 7.5% of base salary is paid on a six-monthly basis.

We **reimburse all reasonable medical, dental, and optical expenses for yourself and your dependents. Insurance coverage is also available for personal accidents, life, medical & repatriation. Education for dependent children is reimbursed at 75% of tuition fees (conditions apply).** If your dependent child is studying overseas, paid school travel may be available for you or your child to visit each other once a year.

Relocation expenses will be paid, with an establishment grant paid on arrival in Honiara and accommodation assistance also available.

Moreover, you will have **access to 6 weeks of annual leave each year.**

Make the ultimate sea change! You will be working out of Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, with opportunities to travel to all FFA 17-member nations and make a real difference in the Pacific.

How to apply:

Candidates wishing to apply must submit the following documents via the recruitment email at recruitment@ffa.int

1. Cover Letter
2. Completed Application Form and
3. Curriculum Vitae

Applications close 4.30pm Solomon Islands Time, Monday 6th July 2026.

Governor Joseph welcomes new SBDC Executive Director; Emphasizes food security and support for local producers

Pohnpei Public Information

June 16, 2026

Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph received a courtesy visit from John Tyrone Celestine, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Pohnpei Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

The new Executive Director was introduced to Governor Joseph by Mark Kostka, Director of the Department of Resources and Development, and Michaela Saimon, Chief of the Division of Commerce and Industries. Mr. Celestine joins the SBDC following

his tenure with the Federated States of Micronesia Insurance Board, and is himself a small business owner.

The visit marks a critical transition for the SBDC, which has been non-operational for some time. Acknowledging the pause, Executive Director Celestine noted that reviving the center is a welcome challenge and said he's committed to getting operations fully up and running to serve the local business community.

The meeting focused on aligning support for local small businesses with the state administration's key economic

priorities. Governor Joseph provided explicit guidance on integrating SBDC initiatives with the state's food security policy and the Pohnpei Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

Governor Joseph emphasized that future economic growth must be focused, strategic, and purposeful. He directed the SBDC to prioritize local production, processing, and value-added commercial opportunities, specifically urging closer collaboration with local farmers' and fishermen's associations to strengthen the local supply chain.



Governor Joseph receives FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky Cantero for a courtesy visit

June 9, 2026

Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph received a courtesy visit from the newly confirmed Secretary of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Honorable Ricky Cantero, accompanied by a senior delegation from the department. The meeting focused on aligning state and national diplomatic priorities, regional infrastructure projects, and preparations for upcoming regional forums.

Secretary Cantero's delegation included Assistant Secretary Kehlen Halbert, America Desk; Assistant Secretary Herman Semes, Jr., Multilateral & European Affairs; and Assistant Secretary Kenmore Salvador, Asia-Pacific Desk.

Governor Joseph extended his congratulations to Secretary Cantero on his recent confirmation and reiterated

the Pohnpei State Government's full support for the National Government's direction on foreign policy.

Key Discussions and Regional Updates Joint Committee Management (JCM) and Protocol: Deputy Assistant Secretary Kehlen Albert provided an update on the recent JCM meeting. Draft minutes will be shared with the State Government for review. The delegation also discussed diplomatic protocol and pledged the DFA's continued support to Pohnpei State.

Maritime Infrastructure and Shipping: The meeting addressed regional shipping updates, noting the Governor's Chief of Staff's trip to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to attend the inaugural Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership working group and subsequently to staff and support FSM TC&I Secretary Carl Apis on the PBSP Council inaugural meeting.

Pohnpei State also sent Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) staff with specialized knowledge to assess the practicality and operational efficiency of any proposed renewable energy vessels. Discussions also covered the current status of a replacement vessel for the Voyager, and Governor Joseph shared plans to construct a domestic dock. A formal advisory letter on these maritime developments will be sent to the FSM President.

Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) and Pacific Islands Forum (PIF): In preparation for the 28th MIF in Pohnpei, Governor Joseph advised that all committees will be permitted to present their findings. The Governor also noted the venue for the event will be the Governor's conference room at the Executive Administration Building. The DFA offered logistical assistance, and Governor Joseph requested the

department's support in securing high-quality chairs and tables for the principals. A formal request letter will be transmitted to the FSM National Government. Additionally, it was noted that Palau will host the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) later this year.

International Developments and State Funding: The expansion of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) office into a regional hub was highlighted, bringing new residential home loan programs. Updates were also provided on the United Nations Human Rights SDG Task Force, which requires a Pohnpei State appointment. Funding updates included a \$5 million allocation secured for the One UN House project, with fundraising ongoing for the remaining amount. The project design will be bid out in coordination with the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure (TC&I), targeting a November 2027 start date.

Bilateral Relations: General discussions were held regarding development projects. Governor Joseph reiterated that Pohnpei's position on Foreign Affairs is to support the National Government.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from both the Pohnpei State Government and the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs to maintain close coordination on pending matters.



SPC strengthens climate action capacity in FSM through facilitating agents' training

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

by Dr Iain Hall, Dr Victoria Syddall, and members of the EDA Programme Coordination Unit.

June 7, 2026

FSM - The Pacific Community (SPC) Micronesia Regional Office has successfully delivered a targeted capacity-building workshop for State-based Facilitating Agents to strengthen readiness for the grant implementation phase of the FSM Enhancing Direct Access (EDA) Programme.

Funded by the Green Climate Fund, the workshop underscores SPC's commitment to equipping Facilitating Agents with the knowledge and practical tools needed to effectively support Municipal and State governments as they begin implementing priority climate adaptation initiatives across the Federated States of Micronesia.

Director of the Micronesia Regional Office, William Kostka, commended the Facilitating Agents for their dedication in guiding local governments through the proposal development process. "As the EDA Programme moves into the implementation phase, it is important to continually reflect on efforts and apply lessons learned. Through your support, the adaptive management capacity of grantees will continue to grow," he said.

Seven Facilitating Agents representing Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae participated in the training held in Pohnpei. The workshop was delivered

Participants gained practical insights into implementation processes, monitoring and evaluation tools, and approaches to strengthening community engagement in climate projects.

One participant, Isao Mike from Kosrae State, highlighted the value of the tools introduced during the workshop, "The monitoring and evaluation format developed through the EDA Programme is user-friendly, something that community members can easily understand and use to provide regular progress updates," he said.

Under the EDA Programme, Municipal and State Governments are eligible to apply competitively for grants in the thematic areas of food security, water security, disaster risk reduction and coastal protection. This Programme focusses on capacity-building, aiming to enhance project management skills of local communities and their ability to implement priority adaptation interventions.

The training marks another important step in advancing locally led climate action in FSM, ensuring that communities are better supported to deliver sustainable and effective adaptation solutions on the ground.

Under the FSM EDA Programme, at least two Facilitating Agents are stationed in each of the four States of Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap. The FSM EDA Programme is executed by the Pacific Community Micronesia Regional Office in partnership with the national government, through the National Designated Authority for Green Climate Fund, the Department of Finance and Administration.



Building Bridges: Ambassador Grant engages with Chuuk Legislature Leadership

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

June 10, 2026

Chuuk — Ambassador Grant and her team engaged in productive discussions with Chuuk Speaker of the House, The Honorable Danny Mersai and Vice President of the Senate, The Honorable Wisney Nakayama underscoring the importance of strong and enduring partnerships, particularly through the humanitarian response to Typhoon Sinlaku.

The discussion focused on deepening collaboration, strengthening ties across leadership, and advancing shared priorities through continued

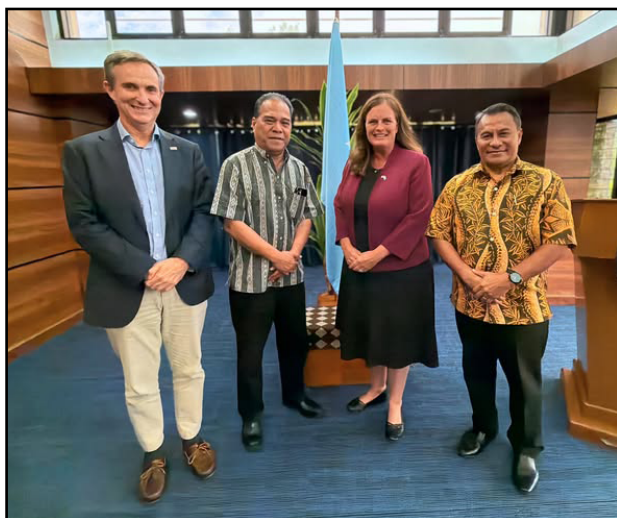
engagement and mutual respect. Australia also reaffirmed its solidarity with Chuuk, supporting ongoing reconstruction efforts following the damage caused by Typhoon Sinlaku.

"We are committed to working side by side with Chuuk's leaders to advance our shared priorities and strengthen our cooperation for the future, especially during time of need," said Ambassador Grant.

Australia remains committed to working in close partnership with Chuuk and the FSM, supporting long-term collaboration and a shared vision for the future.



President Simina and Vice President Palik bid farewell to US Ambassador



FSM Information Services

June 3, 2026

palikir, pohnpei — The Office of the President received a courtesy and farewell call from Her Excellency Jennifer S. Johnson, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Federated States of Micronesia, marking the conclusion of her tenure in the FSM.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to reflect on the strong and enduring partnership between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States, founded on mutual respect, shared values, and longstanding cooperation.

Both President Simina and Vice

President Palik expressed appreciation for the Ambassador's service and leadership during her tenure, noting the important role she played in strengthening bilateral relations and advancing cooperation between the two nations.

"The Federated States of Micronesia values its close relationship with its partner of choice, the United States, and we are grateful for your dedication and commitment to deepening our partnership," the President stated. "Your efforts have contributed meaningfully to our shared goals and to the wellbeing of our people, and for that we thank you."

The Ambassador, in turn, expressed sincere gratitude to the Government

and people of the Federated States of Micronesia for their warm hospitality and cooperation throughout her assignment. She reaffirmed the United States' continued commitment to supporting the FSM and strengthening bilateral engagement in the years ahead.

The farewell meeting concluded with the exchange of best wishes, as both sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining strong diplomatic relations and continued collaboration for the benefit of both nations.

Australia conveys solidarity with the people of Chuuk

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

June 9, 2026

Chuuk — Ambassador Grant met with Chuuk Governor Naruhn where she conveyed Australia's solidarity with the people of Chuuk following the devastating damage caused by Typhoon Sinlaku.

The meeting highlighted Australia's support for the response and recovery efforts in Chuuk following Typhoon Sinlaku covered key priorities including procurement of a back-up generator for the Chuuk Disaster Emergency Operations Center; emergency health

kits and reconstruction of the Chuuk Women's Councils roof.

"Australia conveys our heartfelt solidarity with the people at this very difficult time following the destructive damage of Typhoon Sinlaku and we were pleased that the patrol boats Australia provided the FSM government could be part of initial response to the disaster," said Ambassador Grant.

Australia values its strong partnership with Chuuk and remains committed to working closely with local leaders to support recovery efforts and sustainable development outcomes.



BID INVITATION

for
Construction of One (1) Dispensary at
Sapota, Uman (Chuuk Lagoon)
Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia

NOTICE

The Project Management Office (PMO) of the Chuuk State Government is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to interested contractors for the *Construction of one Dispensary at Sapota, Uman (Chuuk Lagoon), Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia*.

The Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled on **Friday, July 03, 2026 at 10 AM** at PMO in the Chuuk State Government Complex, Weno, Chuuk. For out of State contractors who wish to participate, a zoom conference will be arranged, for which they are advised to send their names and email addresses to Sanjata Basu, Project Manager, PMO at chuukpmo@gmail.com no later than **June 29, 2026**.

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Chuuk Project Management Office, P.O. Box 1659, Weno, Chuuk, FM 96942 at email address cited above, with the heading:

"Construction of one (1) Dispensary at Sapota, Uman, Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia"

The bidding documents, which include the instructions to Bidders, Scope of Works, Specifications, Bill of Quantities and Drawings with Location Map can be obtained from the DTCL's website: <https://www/tci.gov.fm> or collected from the PMO.

The closing date for the submission of bid is **Friday July 24, 2026 at 4.00 PM**.

Alexander R. Naruhn AIF®
Governor, Chuuk State and
Contracting Officer

June 12, 2026
Date

FSM participates in 2026 Island States Ocean Summit

FSM Information Services

June 9, 2026

Tokyo, Japan – The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) participated in the 2026 Island States Ocean Summit (ISOS) on June 3, 2026, highlighting the country's ongoing efforts to protect

and sustainably manage its largest natural resource—the ocean.

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

The 2026 Island States Ocean Summit focused on advancing sustainable ocean management and strengthening collective action toward a climate-resilient ocean future. The Summit brought together over 30 island nations and international partners to discuss key challenges and opportunities for enhancing ocean governance, marine conservation, and the protection of livelihoods that are increasingly becoming more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

In her statement, Secretary Akinaga reaffirmed the FSM's bold commitment to sustainable development and responsible management of ocean resources, emphasizing the Nation's pledge to safeguard 30 percent of its

marine ecosystem by 2030. She further urged the international community to move beyond dialogue and take decisive, proactive action to address the growing threats facing the world's oceans.

"The well-being of our communities, which is fundamentally dependent on these critical resources, is of paramount importance and cannot be compromised," Secretary Akinaga stated.

The Summit acknowledged that the ocean is facing a significant crisis brought about by climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and the unsustainable exploitation of resources. These challenges are affecting SIDS and other island States whose economies, food security, and cultures depend on healthy and

productive ocean ecosystems.

Consequently, the Summit urged island States to establish national frameworks for Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM) to harmonize conservation efforts with sustainable economic use. SOPM serves as a framework designed to align policies, mitigate sectoral and institutional fragmentation, and guide equitable and sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of ocean resources.

It culminated with an announcement from the Nippon Foundation of a USD \$100 million fund to be deployed over the next 10 years to support these islands with capacity development and technical support.

The mission concluded with a bilateral meeting involving Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, where Secretary Akinaga extended her congratulations on the successful completion of the Summit. She further conveyed her gratitude for the ongoing assistance provided by the Foundation in relation to global health initiatives and sustainable ocean governance in the FSM. The meeting reaffirmed the Kizuna that exists between the two nations, particularly through the contributions of the Nippon Foundation.



New WASH project delivers safe water and sanitation for Pohnpei students

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

June 9, 2026

Pohnpei — Australia, in partnership with UNICEF and the Pohnpei State Government, proudly launched the RISE-FSM: Resilient and Inclusive School Environments through Climate-Resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Menstrual Hygiene Management project for schools in Pohnpei—an important step towards improving health, safety, and learning outcomes for students across the state and the FSM.

Australian Ambassador Grant, together with Second Secretary Josh Critchley-Evans, attended the launch.

"Australia is proud to partner with UNICEF and the Government of Pohnpei on this important initiative. Investing in WASH in schools means investing in the health, dignity, and future of children," said Ambassador

Grant.

Ambassador Grant reaffirmed Australia's commitment to supporting education and the community's health

and wellbeing, reflecting a shared commitment to building resilient communities and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn in a safe and healthy environment.



President Simina calls special session of the 24th Congress

FSM Information Services

June 5, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — President Wesley W. Simina has formally called a special session of the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), scheduled to convene on July 1, 2026, pursuant to Article IX, Section 16 of the FSM Constitution.

The call follows discussions between the Executive and Legislative branches

on several matters requiring timely congressional consideration. In a letter addressed to T.H. Speaker Esmond B. Moses, President Simina underscored the importance of convening a special session to address key fiscal, legislative, and administrative priorities and to ensure the continued effective operation of government.

Speaker Moses has since responded in writing, confirming that Congress will convene its Third Special Session

on July 1, 2026, for a period of ten (10) consecutive days. He expressed his appreciation to President Simina for the continued coordination and acknowledged the significance of the matters set forth in the letter.

The Simina-Palik Administration reaffirms its commitment to working closely with Congress to advance national priorities and to ensure the well-being of the Federated States of Micronesia and its people.

Letter to the Editor

POHNPEI SOCCER ASSOCIATION KIDS CLUB (PSAKC)

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

8 June 2026

Congratulations, Kiribati!

PSAKC Celebrates Kiribati as Host of the 2030 Micronesian Games

The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) is delighted to extend its warmest congratulations to the people and football community of Kiribati on being awarded hosting rights for the 2030 Micronesian Games. This is a proud and well-deserved recognition for a nation that has long demonstrated its passion for sport, community, and Micronesian solidarity. We celebrate this milestone with you with the greatest joy.

PSAKC would like to express particular admiration and support for the Kiribati Islands Football Federation (KIFF), which will carry the responsibility of organising and leading the football programme within the Games. We have no doubt that KIFF will approach this mission with the same professionalism, dedication, and generosity that has already distinguished it as one of the most admirable football bodies in our region. We wish KIFF every success in delivering a football tournament worthy of the Micronesian Games.

A Friendship That Goes Beyond Football

Our connection with Kiribati is not merely one of institutional courtesy — it is a friendship built on shared values and a mutual desire to grow together through sport. We had made plans, on two occasions, to visit your

islands: first during Easter Week 2026, and later in July to join in the celebrations of your national week. In both instances, your kindness and openness were nothing short of extraordinary. You offered to find accommodations for our delegation and had already arranged six teams of U14 players ready and eager to take the field alongside us. That generosity speaks volumes about the character of Kiribati football and of the I-Kiribati people.

Regrettably, despite our best efforts, we were unable to secure the financial contributions needed to make either visit a reality. The purpose of these trips was far greater than friendly matches alone — we sought to learn from KIFF's experience in building and running a national football federation, to study your coaching methodologies, and above all to bring our U14 youth players to meet and train with their Micronesian brothers and sisters, an experience that no classroom or training session in Pohnpei can replicate.

We Will Not Stop Trying

A closed door is not a closed chapter. PSAKC remains firmly committed to finding the resources that will allow us to make this visit happen. We will continue to seek funding through grants, partnerships, and the support of the broader sporting community, because we firmly believe that exchanges like these — between young footballers across our ocean region — are essential to building the next generation of Micronesian athletes and leaders.

We hope with all our hearts to see you long before 2030. Until then, please know that PSAKC stands behind KIFF and the people of Kiribati — cheering you on as you prepare to welcome Micronesia to your shores and to your fields.

With respect, solidarity, and warmth,

The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC)
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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FFA Director - Fisheries Development Division



Employer: World renowned Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

Position location: Honiara, Solomon Islands

- Retirement of long-term incumbent has led to a director-level leadership opportunity
- Competitive salary range from SDR1 72,523 to SDR 102,385 negotiable based on experience (note: currently equivalent to US\$99,066 to US\$139,858) (Plus Allowances).
- Salary is not taxed in the Solomon Islands for international staff
- 3-year, full-time contract position based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, with a 3-year extension available based on satisfactory performance and ongoing funding
- Additional entitlements include limited life insurance, medical, education and rental allowances.

About the Organisation

The FFA is an intergovernmental organisation established by international treaty and working to strengthen national capacity and regional solidarity so Pacific Island countries and territories can manage, control, and develop their valuable tuna fisheries now and into the future. Based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, FFA's 17 member nations are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Since 1979, FFA facilitates regional cooperation so that all Pacific countries benefit from the sustainable use of tuna – which currently contributes around USD \$1 billion per annum to Pacific economies through access revenue and contribution to GDP, and is important for many people's livelihoods in the Pacific.

About the Opportunity

FFA now has a rare opportunity

for a **director to head the Fisheries Development Division**. This appointment is made on a three-year term and may be renewable for a further three years subject to performance, the availability of funds, and an ongoing need for the position.

Reporting to the Director-General through the Deputy Director-General, this is an executive leadership position which exists to:

- Lead and supervise the work of the Fisheries Development Division in delivering on the FFA Strategic Plan and the Annual Work Programme and Budget;
- Provide advice and support to FFA members in the development of their offshore fisheries, including in relation to:
 - fishery development planning;
 - economic analysis and intelligence;
 - market access and trade; and
- investment evaluation and facilitation.
- Has responsibility for leadership and oversight of the implementation and management of donor funded projects, including from the EU, World Bank, New Zealand and Australia, often in collaboration with other Divisions and organisations.
- Provide advice and reports to Executive, the Forum Fisheries Committee (governing body) and, where appropriate, to other regional and international organisations on tuna fisheries development issues.

¹ SDR – Special Drawing Rights are an international reserve asset created by the IMF, valued against a basket of five major currencies: the US dollar, euro, Chinese yuan, Japanese yen, and UK pound, to avoid the effect of large fluctuations in salary rates from a single currency base.

About You

To be considered for this position you will be a dynamic, highly motivated and self-driven independent leader. You will have:

- Tertiary qualifications in Fisheries, Economics, Resource Management or related field with a minimum of 7 years of senior executive leadership and management experience at the national level in public service, regional or international organisations, or equivalent private sector.
- At least 10 years operational experience in fisheries development, economics, investment, commercial fishery related operational management, or related field.
- Experience working with oceanic fisheries with a regional context.
- The proven ability to develop high-level economic policies and provide quality analysis.
- Experience reporting to a broad range of stakeholders
- Proven to be an innovative and influential leader who can provide high-level strategic direction to the organisation; promote positive change and reform within the region; and advocate for and negotiate effectively with donors, FFC and member delegations.
- Relevant post graduate qualifications and previous experience living and/or working within a remote or international location will be highly regarded.

About the Benefits

Salary is not taxed in the Solomon Islands international staff, and is tax free for most countries but based on national taxation residency rules and laws.

An appointment offer is normally made at 85% of the salary grade for the position. Where justified the Director-General has the discretion to appoint at a higher level within the salary grades and ranges.

In addition to base salary you will also have superannuation paid at 7.5% into either a nominated

fund or as an additional cash supplement. FFA reimburses reasonable medical, dental, and optical expenses for yourself and dependents in accordance with the Medical insurance scheme in place. Insurance coverage is also provided for personal accident, life, medical and repatriation.

Education for dependent children will be reimbursed at 75% of tuition fees (Conditions apply). If your dependent child is educated overseas, paid school travel may be available for you or your child to visit each contract year and in accordance with the education policy.

Substantial accommodation rental assistance is also provided.

Additionally, relocation expenses will be paid, with an establishment grant paid on arrival in Honiara. Annual airfares back to your country of domicile will be provided

There is also a retention incentive of 21% of your base salary which will be paid on the completion of your 3-year contract.

To be considered for the role interested candidates must submit the following documents:-

1. Cover Letter
2. Completed FFA Application Form addressing each position criterion, and
3. Curriculum Vitae

All applications must be sent via email to recruitment@ffa.int.

Applicants who have previously applied, need to reapply.

Applications close 4.30pm Solomon Islands Time, Friday 26th June 2026.

The Federated States of Micronesia and a historic tennis club in Yokohama join forces — launching a tennis support project in Pohnpei State

Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia to Japan

June 8, 2026

Tokyo - The Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in Tokyo has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Yokohama International Tennis Community (YITC) under the "FSM-YITC Goodwill and Sport Exchange Program."

YITC, established in the 19th century, is one of the oldest and most prestigious tennis communities in Japan and has played a significant role in promoting international exchange and sports culture. The MOU aims to strengthen goodwill and cultural ties through tennis while supporting the development of the sport in the FSM.

Under this program, tennis equipment—including rackets and balls—will be

provided, along with the potential for future on-site coaching initiatives. The first phase of the program will be implemented in Pohnpei State, where local coordination will be led by Mr. Kazuhiro Fujita, President of the Pohnpei Tennis Association.

This initiative is expected to enhance international exchange through sports and contribute to youth development and people-to-people connections. The

program also aims to expand beyond tennis into broader sports collaboration in the future.

H.E. John Fritz, Ambassador of the FSM to Japan, commented, "We are honored to partner with such a historic and respected institution. Through this initiative, we hope to further strengthen the friendship between our nations and create meaningful opportunities, especially for younger generations."

Micronesia and Qatar establish diplomatic relations

FSM UN Mission

June 9, 2026

New York - Today, Micronesia established diplomatic relations with the State of Qatar in a ceremony held in New York. H.E. Mr. Jeem S. Lippwe, Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia and H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar signed the document,

formalizing relations.

During the meeting, the Ambassadors briefly discussed the importance of multilateralism to both countries. They agreed to continue working together on issues of mutual interest. The Ambassadors mentioned both climate change and social development.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries

reaffirmed the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and was done in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961. It was attended by various members of the two respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. Qatar is the one-hundred and fourth (104) country which with FSM has established diplomatic relations.



Pacific leaders issue global appeal for peace, reaffirm Ocean of Peace Vision

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

June 13, 2026

Pacific — Pacific Islands Forum leaders have issued a joint appeal for global peace, calling on world leaders to uphold international law, reduce tensions, and resolve disputes through dialogue rather than conflict.

The statement, released by leaders of 18 Pacific nations and territories, is grounded in the Forum's 2025 Ocean of Peace Declaration, which designated the Blue Pacific Continent as an "Ocean of Peace" and reaffirmed the region's commitment to peaceful cooperation and the rules-based international order.

The appeal was signed by leaders from Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

In the statement, Forum leaders said they

share the conviction that all nations aspire to a world free from the threat of war and the destruction caused by armed conflict. They called for tolerance and respect for the rights and dignity of all peoples and nations, emphasizing that peace and security remain fundamental aspirations for the international community.

The leaders urged countries around the world to stand together in support of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereign equality among states and the right of all peoples to exist in peace and security. They said these principles are consistent with the Pacific Way, a regional approach that emphasizes dialogue, mutual respect, consensus-building, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The statement comes at a time of growing geopolitical tensions in several regions of the world. While not naming any specific conflicts, the leaders warned that insecurity and instability can have serious consequences for Pacific Island countries, many of which remain vulnerable to external shocks and disruptions beyond their control.

Forum leaders noted that Pacific nations are already grappling with increasing pressures from climate-related impacts affecting economies, infrastructure, and long-term resilience. As small island states located at the far end of global supply chains, they said Pacific countries are particularly exposed to disruptions that can have profound consequences for their populations. The leaders renewed their call for understanding and support from larger economies and development partners, stating that the survival of many Pacific communities is influenced by decisions made far beyond the region.

The statement also reaffirmed the region's commitment to resolving differences peacefully and reducing tensions through dialogue. Leaders said the principles embodied in the Ocean of Peace Declaration can create space for cooperation and help facilitate the peaceful resolution of even the most serious international crises. They argued that such an approach can contribute to lasting peace, stronger partnerships, and greater security for all nations.

Pacific leaders further highlighted the region's unique historical experience with nuclear testing. Describing themselves as custodians of a region still affected by that legacy, they reiterated their vision of a Pacific free of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing. The statement also reaffirmed the Forum's long-standing objective of the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

Concluding their appeal, the leaders invited governments around the world to join the Pacific in standing together for peace, saying their call is guided by shared values and a collective commitment to a more secure future.



World Bank provides additional support to help Marshall Islands respond to energy crisis

The World Bank

June 9, 2026

Majuro, RMI — The World Bank has approved an additional US\$9 million in financing to help the Republic of the Marshall Islands respond to sharply higher energy costs that are placing pressure on families, businesses, public services, and the national budget.

The assistance provides immediate budget support through an existing Marshall Islands Development Policy Operation. The original US\$21 million operation was approved in July 2024 to support stronger fiscal management and disaster and climate resilience. This additional financing brings total World Bank support under the operation to US\$30 million, of which US\$12 million in contingent financing remains available in the event of an eligible catastrophe.

“This support comes at an important time for Marshall Islands as we work to protect our people from rising costs and maintain essential services,” said Marshall Islands Minister of Finance, David Paul. “We are committed to managing this crisis responsibly while continuing our work toward stronger public finances, greater energy security, and long-term resilience.”

Marshall Islands is one of the world’s most fuel-import-dependent economies. With a heavy reliance on imported energy, food, and essential goods, the country has been hit by disruptions in global energy markets. Fuel costs have tripled, the fuel import bill has increased by around US\$40 million, equivalent to 11.5 percent of GDP, and growth in FY26 is now expected to slow from a pre-crisis baseline of 4.1 percent to 2.0 percent. Inflation is projected to reach 8.6 percent this fiscal year.

Higher fuel costs are being felt across the economy. Fishing activity, the country’s largest source of export earnings and government revenue, is expected to decline. Families are facing higher prices for electricity, food, and transport, with outer-island communities particularly exposed because they depend on sea freight for essential supplies.

“This crisis is placing real pressure on families, services, and the national budget,” said Omar Lyasse, World Bank Resident Representative for the North Pacific. “This support gives the Government critical breathing room while continuing the reforms needed to build a stronger, more resilient economy.”

The Government declared a State of Economic Emergency on March 26, 2026, and has taken steps to cushion

households, stabilize essential services, and contain fiscal pressures. The World Bank’s additional financing will help support this response while preserving progress on reforms to strengthen public financial management, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience.

The World Bank is also supporting Marshall Islands’ longer-term energy transition through the Renewable Energy Generation and Access Increase Project, which aims to reduce the country’s dependence on imported diesel.

Preparation of the World Bank’s supplemental financing was supported by the Africa Caribbean Pacific-European Union Disaster Risk Management Programme, managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

Pacific Forum pushes for more inclusive trade across the region

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 3, 2026

Suva, Fiji — Pacific Islands Forum Deputy Secretary General Desna Solofa has called for greater integration of gender equality and social inclusion into regional trade initiatives, saying that trade must benefit all Pacific people if it is to contribute meaningfully to the region’s long-term development goals.

Speaking at the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Day held June 3 at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Solofa welcomed senior trade officials, representatives of the Pacific Women Leaders Meeting, development partners, regional organizations, and other stakeholders participating in the event.

The meeting focused on the theme, “Inclusive and Sustainable Trade in the Blue Pacific: Integrating a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Lens Across Aid-for-Trade Initiatives.” Solofa said the theme reflects a core principle of the region’s development agenda—that trade should serve as a driver of prosperity for all Pacific peoples rather than only a measure of economic growth.

She noted that trade is becoming increasingly important as Pacific nations

pursue the goals outlined in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. However, she emphasized that the success of trade initiatives should not be judged solely by increases in trade volumes or investment flows, but also by whether they improve livelihoods and expand opportunities for groups that have historically faced barriers to participation in economic activity.

Solofa said the joint participation of trade officials and representatives from the Pacific Women Leaders Meeting reflects growing recognition that economic and social policy objectives are closely linked. She described the gathering as an opportunity to examine how gender equality and social inclusion considerations can be better incorporated into regional trade programs and to ensure that trade benefits reach underrepresented groups.

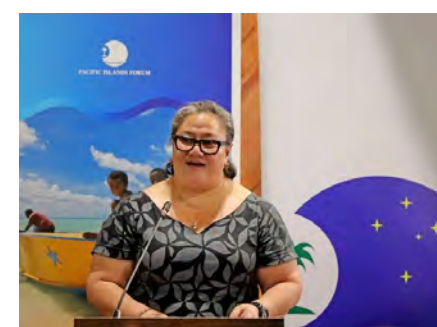
The Deputy Secretary General also pointed to a range of external pressures affecting Pacific economies, including geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, disruptions to global supply chains, and the increasing impacts of climate change. These challenges, she said, make it even more important for Pacific countries to strengthen their ability to participate in and benefit from international trade.

Central to that effort is the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2026–2030, which was endorsed by Forum Trade Ministers in 2025. Solofa said the strategy builds on earlier achievements and reaffirms the region’s commitment to improving trade competitiveness, strengthening economic resilience, and deepening regional integration.

A key feature of the strategy is its incorporation of gender equality and social inclusion as a cross-cutting principle. According to Solofa, sustainable development outcomes cannot be achieved without addressing barriers that prevent full participation in economic opportunities and ensuring those opportunities are available to all members of society.

While acknowledging progress in integrating gender equality and social inclusion considerations into policy frameworks, Solofa said significant challenges remain in translating those commitments into measurable results on the ground. She described the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Day as an important forum for reviewing progress, sharing experiences, and identifying practical ways to strengthen the impact of trade-related assistance across the region.

Discussions during the event were



expected to cover a number of major regional initiatives, including the Pacific E-commerce Initiative, the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative, and programs focused on trade policy and trade agreements. Participants were also scheduled to review progress in priority value chains such as apiculture and kava, while exploring emerging work in trade facilitation, trade in services, and the relationship between trade and environmental sustainability.

Forum member countries were also expected to share their experiences implementing trade initiatives at the national level and discuss lessons learned that could help improve future programs.

Solofa encouraged participants to actively contribute to discussions and work collectively toward strengthening the role of Aid-for-Trade programs in promoting inclusive and sustainable development throughout the Blue Pacific region.

New study examines biology of longnose emperor in Palau

PICRC

June 5, 2026

Palau - The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) has published a new study on the biology of the longnose emperor (*Lethrinus olivaceus*; melangmud) in the scientific journal PeerJ. The full paper can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.21247>.

The study helps scientists better understand how this important reef fish grows, ages, and reproduces in Palau's waters. Information like this can be used together with length data to help determine whether fish populations are healthy and being harvested sustainably, which is important for informing fisheries management.

To carry out the study, researchers collected samples from 399 longnose emperors between 2022 and 2025, along with data from another 129 fish collected by the Coral Reef Research Foundation (CRRF) between 2017 and 2019. Scientists examined otoliths, or "ear bones," which can be used like tree rings to estimate the age and growth of fish. Researchers also studied gonads, which are the reproductive organs that produce eggs or sperm, to determine when fish reach maturity and how they reproduce.

The results showed that longnose emperors in Palau grow faster, do not live as long, and reach smaller maximum sizes than populations found in cooler waters at higher latitudes such as

Japan, Australia, and French Polynesia. Researchers also found that males were generally larger and older than females, with evidence suggesting that some fish may change sex as they age.

Although this study does not directly assess the current health or sustainability of the species, it provides updated life-history information — including growth, age, and reproductive characteristics — that can improve future stock assessments and fisheries management decisions. A previous assessment using available life-history data from multiple sources found this species to be vulnerable; however, the updated parameters from this study have not yet been incorporated into a new assessment.

PICRC is also expanding this research to other important reef fish species in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and CRRF. By building a broader understanding of reef fish biology in Palau, these efforts will help fill important knowledge gaps and provide valuable information for future fisheries research and management.



United States, Australia, Pacific Island partners complete Operation Irensia 2026 in Guam

by Lt. Sara Muir

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia / Sector Guam

June 12, 2026

Santa Rita, Guam — Partners from the Freely Associated States of Micronesia, the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, and Australian Maritime Security Advisers under the Pacific Maritime Security Program, concluded Operation Irensia 2026 June 7, completing a 13-day multilateral maritime security exercise and law enforcement training program that brought together patrol boat crews from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands at Apra Harbor.

"Operation Irensia reflects what genuine partnership looks like in the Pacific. The crews who trained alongside us this week returned home with sharper skills and stronger relationships with their counterparts across the region. That is a direct investment in the security of Pacific waters — led jointly by Pacific maritime forces," said Capt. Jessica Worst, commander, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

Four Pacific Island patrol boat crews participated in the second annual operation:

The Maritime Wing aboard FSS Bethwel Henry and FSS Tosiwo Nakayama from FSM, The Division of Marine Law aboard PSS President H.I. Remeliik II from Palau, The Sea Patrol aboard RMIS Jelmae from



the Marshall Islands.

Across 13 days of shoreside instruction and underway exercises, crews advanced their maritime law enforcement capability, practiced counter-narcotics boarding procedures, competed in damage control events, and conducted formation operations in Guam's coastal waters.

The operation's law enforcement college formed the core of the curriculum, taking crews through pre-patrol planning, intelligence and maritime domain awareness, vessel identification, boarding procedures, evidence documentation, and case package preparation. Crews practiced drug testing and narcotics identification, trained on the various bilateral maritime law enforcement agreement frameworks, and completed mock counterdrug boardings at sea in Apra Harbor. Training rotated across ship pairs to maximize repetitions and ensure every crew completed the full sequence.

The damage control olympics, held at Victor Wharf, tested crew readiness in a competitive format. All four partner vessels and U.S. Coast Guard members competed through five timed events before a formal awards ceremony — a format designed

to build the muscle memory and crew cohesion that emergency response demands at sea.

"Operations such as Irensia, conducted with the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the United States Coast Guard, demonstrate our shared commitment to detecting illicit activity at sea. We are proud to partner with the United States Coast Guard to strengthen regional maritime law enforcement cooperation across Micronesia through the Pacific Maritime Security Program" said Ms. Lisa Chadderton, Assistant Secretary of Australian Defence's Pacific Maritime Branch.

The operation is named for the Chamorro word for heritage — a deliberate framing that situates the exercise within the shared maritime identity of Pacific Island peoples. Drug trafficking, illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, and maritime domain awareness gaps across Micronesia's vast ocean spaces are threats that no single nation addresses effectively alone. Operation Irensia builds the interoperability, shared procedures, and personal relationships between crews that make coordinated

responses possible.

The 2026 operation marks the second consecutive iteration for the exercise, which launched in June 2024 with 72 personnel from five nations. The 2026 iteration expanded to include more than 120 personnel from five nations, and the law enforcement curriculum was significantly expanded, adding the framework module, structured counterdrug boarding sequences, and rotational practical exercises that gave every participating crew underway experience.

"Every time we come together, these crews arrive better than the last time," said Lt. Cmdr. Derek Wallin, U.S. Coast Guard maritime advisor. "That's not accidental; it's the compounding effect of sustained partnership. What we built this week doesn't stay in Apra Harbor. It goes home with every crew and shows up in their patrols, their boardings, their responses, and our future shared operations. That's the whole point."

Operation Irensia is conducted with the support of the Australian Pacific Maritime Security Program and in alignment with U.S. commitments under the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The operation is expected to continue biannually, with plans to deepen the law enforcement curriculum, introduce more enforcement training, expand the use of underway exercises in future iterations, and build on the ongoing year-round Operation Rematau.