

Expo 2026 kicks off in Pohnpei

FSM Information Services

July 22, 2026

Pohnpei, FSM - His Excellency Wesley, W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) officially opened the Kamorale Expo, marking the commencement of four days of cultural celebration, national exchange, and economic opportunity.

The event brings together communities from across the Federated States of Micronesia through vibrant cultural displays, traditional performances, local cuisine, and broad public participation.

Joining President Simina at the opening ceremony were the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia; His Excellency Bishop Julio Angkel; Lieutenant Governor Mekioshy William of Chuuk State; Lieutenant Governor Arthy G. Nena of Kosrae State; Lieutenant Governor Herolyn S. Movick of Pohnpei State; and Mr. Martin Runiyol representing Yap State.

Esteemed traditional leaders, including the Wasahi of Sokehs Mr. Valentine Martin and the Isonahnken of Madolenihmw Mr. John Adolph, were also in attendance. The state representatives delivered remarks highlighting the importance of the Kamorale Expo in promoting culture, unity, tourism, and economic opportunity across the nation.

Held under the theme “Kamorale Soarentu FSM — Our Culture, Our Story:

Thriving in the Digital Era,” the Expo brings together youth groups, local businesses, artisans, entrepreneurs, cultural practitioners, and international partners to celebrate the rich heritage and enduring spirit of the Federated States of Micronesia.

In his opening remarks, the President described the Expo as a proud expression of the nation’s identity and an important platform for tourism, trade, innovation, and sustainable development.

“The Kamorale Expo is both a celebration of our identity and a platform for collaboration, stewardship, and resilience. It strengthens tourism and trade, empowers small enterprises, and connects our communities to national growth,” the President said.

This year’s Expo places particular emphasis on the nation’s youth, whose creativity, leadership, and confidence continue to shape Micronesia’s future. Through art, music, technology, digital platforms, and climate advocacy, young people are carrying the nation’s traditions forward while embracing new opportunities in the digital era.

The participation of the international community further adds to the spirit of the Expo and strengthens partnerships in culture, tourism, commerce, and sustainable development.

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Photo FSM Information Service



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Photo Bill Jaynes



Photo Pohnpei Public Information

Audit finds SBGFC financial statements sound but cites two compliance deficiencies

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 24, 2026

Pohnpei — The Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor has issued an unmodified, or "clean," audit opinion on the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC) for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2025, concluding that the corporation's financial statements fairly present its financial position in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

While the audit found the corporation's financial reporting to be reliable, auditors also identified two compliance issues, including a change to the corporation's loan charge-off policy that auditors said lacked adequate justification and the corporation's failure to withhold and remit income taxes on employee cost-of-living allowances (COLA).

The audit, released by State Public Auditor Erick Paul, examined SBGFC's financial statements as well as its compliance with applicable laws and its internal controls

over financial reporting.

Operating loss increases

Financially, SBGFC reported an operating loss of \$74,169 during fiscal year 2025, more than triple the \$22,133 operating loss recorded the previous year. Operating expenses increased 36 percent to \$387,359, while operating revenues rose 19 percent to \$313,190.

Despite the larger operating loss, the corporation's overall net assets increased by \$125,278 during the year to \$3.38 million, primarily because of non-operating revenue, including a \$193,090 subsidy appropriated by the Pohnpei State Legislature. The corporation's loan portfolio also grew, with notes receivable increasing to approximately \$2.57 million.

The audit noted that approximately 38 percent of SBGFC's operations during the fiscal year were subsidized by the Pohnpei State Government, while the remaining 62 percent was supported by project income and other revenues.

Charge-off policy questioned

One of the audit's principal findings concerns the corporation's decision to amend its loan charge-off policy.

Auditors noted that a prior audit had found SBGFC failed to charge off delinquent loan accounts that were more than 120 days overdue. Rather than resolving that finding, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution in September 2025 extending the charge-off period from 120 days to 365 days.

The Public Auditor concluded the policy change was implemented without adequate justification and that management and the board failed to consider the potential impact of the revision before approving it. As a result, the prior audit finding remains unresolved.

COLA tax issue

Auditors also found that SBGFC did not deduct or pay income tax on employee cost-of-living allowances, placing the

corporation out of compliance with FSM income tax laws. The issue was reported as a separate finding requiring corrective action.

The audit's report on compliance and internal controls states that the COLA tax issue constituted an instance of non-compliance under Government Auditing Standards, while the charge-off policy issue was identified as a reportable condition and material weakness in the corporation's internal control over financial reporting.

Corporation disputes findings

The audit includes a written response from SBGFC management disputing aspects of the findings. Management defended the board's decision to revise the charge-off policy, arguing the change was intended to give borrowers more time to recover from economic hardship and that extending the charge-off period does not forgive delinquent loans or prevent collection efforts.

Management also disagreed with the Public Auditor's interpretation of the COLA tax issue, maintaining that the corporation has followed its long-standing payroll practices and questioning whether the cited tax treatment applies.

In a reply included with the report, the Public Auditor maintained that neither response adequately addressed the underlying issues and reaffirmed both findings.

Established under Pohnpei law, the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation promotes financing opportunities for small businesses through direct lending, loan guarantees and other financial assistance programs. The corporation administers several lending programs, including micro loans, consumer loans and Economic Development Administration loans, and operates under the oversight of a seven-member board of directors.

Under Pohnpei law, SBGFC is required to submit monthly progress reports to the Office of the Public Auditor describing corrective actions taken to resolve the audit findings. According to the audit, the corporation's first progress report is due in early August 2026.



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Managing Editor

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Monday, August 10, 2026

New Zealand Ambassador and Pohnpei State dedicate new Public Health Sanitation Facility

UNICEF

July 24, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei - The Government of Pohnpei State, in partnership with the Government of New Zealand and UNICEF, officially dedicated a new sanitation facility at the Pohnpei State Public Health Division, marking another milestone in improving healthcare services and environmental health for the people of Pohnpei.

The ceremony began with a welcome by Chief of Staff Patterson K. Shed, followed by an opening prayer. Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick officially welcomed guests and acknowledged the strong partnership between Pohnpei State, New Zealand, and UNICEF in delivering practical investments that improve the health and well-being of communities. In her remarks, she emphasized that access to safe sanitation, clean water, and proper hygiene is fundamental to human

dignity and quality healthcare, while highlighting that the project represents the shared commitment of all partners to building healthier and more resilient communities.

His Excellency Stuart Horne, Ambassador of New Zealand to the Federated States of Micronesia, reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to supporting sustainable development across the North Pacific. The sanitation facility was funded through New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) under UNICEF's Investing in Early Childhood Development and WASH for the Future of the North Pacific Programme, which is being implemented across the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau to improve children's access to safe, healthy, and hygienic environments.

During the ceremony, Chief of Public

Health Semenson Ehpel expressed appreciation to the Government of New Zealand and UNICEF for responding to the state's priority needs. He noted that the new facility will provide patients, visitors, and healthcare workers with improved sanitation, accessible handwashing facilities, and a cleaner environment that supports infection prevention and better public health services.

The highlight of the event was the official unveiling of the commemorative plaque by Ambassador Stuart Horne and Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick, symbolizing the successful collaboration between Pohnpei State, New Zealand, and UNICEF. Guests then toured the newly completed facility to observe its upgraded sanitation and handwashing facilities, designed to improve hygiene, accessibility, and the overall experience for patients and visitors.

The new sanitation facility will serve thousands of people who access services at the Public Health Division each year. Beyond providing modern and accessible sanitation infrastructure, the project demonstrates the importance of investing in preventive public health measures that reduce the spread of disease, improve healthcare quality, and create safer, healthier environments for families and communities.

The event also marked one of Ambassador Stuart Horne's first official visits to Pohnpei following the presentation of his Letters of Credence, underscoring the longstanding friendship and development partnership between New Zealand and the Federated States of Micronesia. The ceremony reflected the shared commitment of the Government of Pohnpei State, the Government of New Zealand, and UNICEF to continue working together to improve public health and build a healthier future for the people of Pohnpei.



Service members and veterans partner to inspire Yap's next generation

Yap Government

July 16, 2026

Yap - Saturday, July 11, 2026, the U.S. Army Oceania Engagement Team (OET-FSM), the U.S. Navy Seabees, and the Yap Veterans Association hosted a community hike. Yapese residents gathered alongside service members and veterans to promote healthy living and strengthen community connections.

The hike is part of a monthly initiative designed to encourage active lifestyles while providing a welcoming environment where participants

can build relationships with current U.S. service members and experienced local veterans. The events also offer those interested in military service an opportunity to ask questions, hear firsthand experiences, and learn more about military career opportunities.

This month's hike included participation from a local future soldier. To respect their request to keep their enlistment private at this time, they have been omitted from the accompanying photographs. As a result, the available photo selection is more limited than usual, but organizers plan to capture more wide-angle group photos during future hikes.

Organizers hope these hikes will continue to grow into a well-supported monthly tradition that promotes wellness, strengthens community partnerships, and inspires the next generation of leaders in Yap.



...KAMORALE Expo

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Throughout the four-day event, visitors will experience live entertainment, cultural dances, traditional attire, culinary demonstrations, local food, youth talent showcases, and exhibits representing the four states and international participants. The Expo will also serve as a marketplace where small and medium-sized enterprises can showcase, promote, and sell their products and services.

Calling on all participants to embrace the spirit of Kamorale, “One Destination, Four Unique Experiences,” the President said the Expo proudly presents to the world what the FSM holds most dear: its culture, resilience, environment, youth, and people.

“May this Expo inspire us to thrive together, honoring our culture while soaring into the digital era, and building a sustainable future for generations to come,” the President said.



Photo Bill Jaynes



Photo Bill Jaynes



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Pohnpei Healthcare Plan Board of Directors hold its first meeting

Pohnpei Department of Health and Social Affairs

July 16, 2026

Pohnpei - Today marks a significant step forward as the Pohnpei Healthcare Plan Board of Directors convened its very first meeting, moving the Pohnpei Healthcare Plan Act of 1993 from legislation into implementation after many years.

During the meeting, the Board elected its officers:

- Chairman: Mr. Perdus Ehsa
- Vice Chairman: Mr. Paulino Rosario
- Secretary: Mr. Ieske Iehsi

The Board's primary mission is to develop a healthcare plan that expands access to quality healthcare for those who are not currently covered by MiCare, particularly our hardworking farmers, fishermen, and other uninsured residents.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, Lt. Governor Herolyn S. Movick, and the Pohnpei State Legislature for their unwavering leadership and support in advancing this important initiative.

Together, we are building a healthier and more inclusive future for all Pohnpeians.



FSM promotes trade-led development, calls for greater investment in solar energy

By Bill Jaynes

The Kaselehlie Press

July 14, 2026

New York - The Federated States of Micronesia has called for greater international investment in renewable energy and private sector development, arguing that expanding solar energy across the country can simultaneously strengthen electricity access, water security and food production while creating new opportunities for trade and economic growth.

Deputy Permanent Representative Universe Yamase Lawrence delivered the statement during the East Asia and Pacific Session of the United States Trade Over Aid Forum, where she outlined the FSM's priorities for achieving sustainable development through increased trade, investment and economic cooperation.

Speaking on behalf of the FSM, Lawrence said the national government is pursuing universal access to electricity and views solar power as an essential component of reaching its goal of 100 percent electrification throughout the country. She said rising fuel costs and the nation's continued reliance on imported fossil fuels make the transition to renewable energy both an economic and strategic necessity, particularly for the country's remote outer islands.

Lawrence said expanding solar infrastructure would improve energy security, reduce dependence on imported fuels and contribute to long-term sustainable development while improving quality of life for communities across the nation.

She also linked renewable energy to one of the country's most pressing concerns—access to safe drinking water. The statement noted that the FSM faces increasing challenges from drought, changing rainfall patterns and limited freshwater resources. Solar-powered water pumps, rainwater harvesting systems, treatment facilities and desalination plants could help ensure reliable access to clean water, particularly in isolated communities and during periods of prolonged drought.

Food security formed the third major pillar of the FSM's presentation.

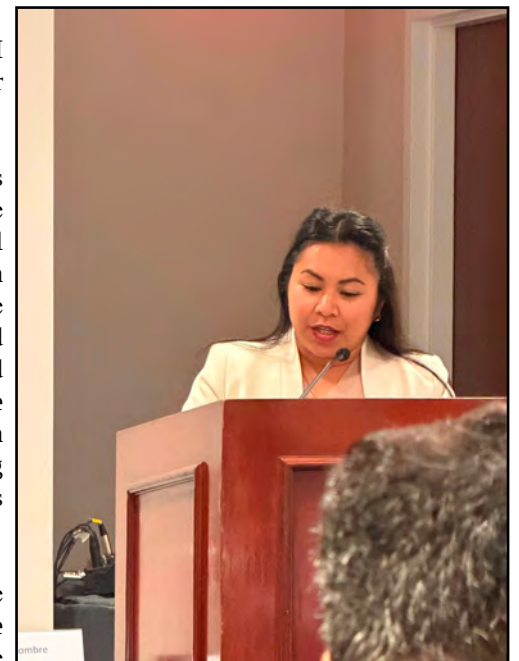
Lawrence said the country's heavy reliance on imported food leaves it vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, rising transportation costs, economic shocks and climate-related impacts. She said solar energy can support local agriculture by powering irrigation systems, cold storage facilities and food processing equipment, helping increase domestic food production while reducing post-harvest losses.

Beyond renewable energy, the FSM used the forum to encourage greater private sector investment.

Lawrence said the country is working to create a more predictable business environment that will enable both domestic and foreign companies to invest, innovate and expand. She emphasized improving access to financing and building economic infrastructure that connects FSM businesses with overseas markets while creating mutually beneficial opportunities with international partners.

The statement said those efforts are being guided by the FSM Trade Policy Implementation Plan and the FSM Strategic Development Plan 2024-2043. Lawrence also pointed to the adoption of the FSM National Energy Policy 2024-2050 as a framework for delivering reliable and affordable energy services throughout the country. She said the government recognizes the need to review and update existing laws and regulations to encourage business development while protecting consumers.

Concluding her remarks, Lawrence said solar energy offers an integrated solution to three of the nation's principal development priorities—food



production, universal electrification and sustainable water resources. She encouraged development partners and stakeholders to continue supporting renewable energy projects and other initiatives that strengthen food, energy and water security across the FSM.

She also reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to working through multilateral forums to develop cross-border partnerships that promote trade, investment and long-term economic development.

FSM calls for stronger global cybersecurity cooperation, rights protections at United Nations

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 22, 2026

New York - The Federated States of Micronesia has called for stronger international cooperation to combat cybercrime while urging the United Nations to adopt a rights-based approach to addressing disinformation and strengthening cybersecurity for small island developing states.



consequences for countries with limited technical capacity.

Speaking before the United Nations Global Mechanism on developments in information and communications technologies (ICTs) in the context of international security on July 20, FSM Permanent Mission representative Kenneth Welles said the country depends heavily on digital technologies for economic development, disaster preparedness, healthcare, education and cultural preservation, but warned that the same technologies have created growing security threats.

Welles told delegates that malicious cyber activity and the rapid spread of disinformation pose particular challenges for small island nations with limited technical resources, geographically dispersed populations and high vulnerability to climate-related disasters and humanitarian emergencies.

The FSM aligned itself with a statement delivered earlier by Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum before presenting its own national position. Welles also reaffirmed Micronesia's commitment to international law enforcement cooperation, saying the country places priority on its participation in INTERPOL and collaboration with international cybersecurity and law enforcement partners through information sharing and joint efforts to combat cybercrime.

Welles said a secure, open, stable and accessible digital environment is essential for governance, national development and societal resilience. At the same time, he cautioned that cyberattacks against critical infrastructure and public institutions can have disproportionately severe

The FSM voiced support for ongoing United Nations efforts to promote responsible state behavior in cyberspace through adherence to existing international law, voluntary norms of responsible conduct, confidence-building measures and capacity-building programs tailored to the needs of developing countries.

Welles said that all nations, regardless of their size or level of development, should be able to participate meaningfully in shaping international cyber norms and benefit from a secure digital environment. He reaffirmed the FSM's position that established principles of international law—including respect for sovereignty, the prohibition on the threat or use of force and the protection of human rights—apply equally in cyberspace.

A significant portion of Micronesia's statement focused on disinformation and the need to safeguard human rights while responding to online misinformation.

Welles cautioned against governments adopting vague or undefined interpretations of disinformation, arguing that poorly defined policies can lead to suppression of independent media, arbitrary enforcement against journalists and civil society, restrictions on freedom of expression and access to information, discrimination against marginalized communities and declining public trust in government institutions. He also warned that such approaches could hamper international cooperation during public health emergencies and natural disasters while creating disproportionate impacts on remote communities through artificial

intelligence-driven content moderation systems.

To address those concerns, the FSM called on governments to adopt precise, time-limited and rights-based definitions of disinformation, establish independent oversight and judicial review mechanisms, require transparency from digital platforms and invest in media literacy, digital literacy and rapid-response systems designed for the unique circumstances of small island states.

The statement also emphasized the need to narrow the technological capacity gap between developed and developing countries.

Welles called for sustained international partnerships providing technical training, resilient and affordable internet connectivity, support for locally led media and civil society organizations and greater resources for cyber incident response and forensic cooperation.

Looking ahead, the FSM urged the international community to establish multilateral frameworks to assess the risks posed by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and automation. Welles said those frameworks should preserve human oversight, ensure accountability and maintain compliance with international law while promoting collaborative approaches to attributing cyber incidents and responding in lawful and proportionate ways.

Concluding the statement, Welles said the United Nations should remain the primary forum for inclusive dialogue on international cybersecurity. He said the proposed Global Mechanism can help coordinate capacity-building efforts for small island developing states, promote the sharing of best practices and strengthen international cooperation on cybersecurity and disinformation while respecting human rights.

"Micronesia stands ready to work with all partners to protect our societies, uphold rights, and strengthen resilience in the digital age," Welles said.

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Rainy day fishing yields some big fish for PFC members at Annual Vital Circuit

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 25, 2026

Pohnpei – Not a single angler at the Annual Vital Circuit fishing tournament was heard to complain under the pouring rain at the weigh in held at Mangrove Bay Bar and Grill. Perhaps the decent sized fish, cash prizes, and \$100 fuel vouchers held angler tongues at bay.

The biggest fish of the day was caught by young Kenty Spencer, a 61-pound yellowfin tuna winning the youngster \$500 for heaviest fish. Kenty also had the fourth heaviest fish of the tournament, a 35.4-pound tuna for an additional \$200. Jager Fredrick came in second place with a 47.2-pound tuna for the \$400 second prize. Ricky David landed a tuna of 38.4 pounds yielding \$300 for the third largest fish of the tournament. The fifth largest fish of the tournament was a mahi mahi of 21 pounds for the fifth-place prize of \$150.

Prizes were also awarded for the biggest of several species. Top prize in that category was \$100 with the second-place prize winner earning \$50.

Jager Fredrik had another prize-winning fish with his barracuda of 15.5 pounds. His was followed by the 12.4-pound barracuda caught by

Asterio Takesy.

Avan Boylan landed the only Giant Trevally. His nice 16.6-pound fish earned him top prize in that category.

Pohnpei Fishing Club records show only that an angler named Johnny landed the top prize yellowfin in the species category at 15.8 pounds. His was followed by Ricky Martin's 15.2-pound fish.

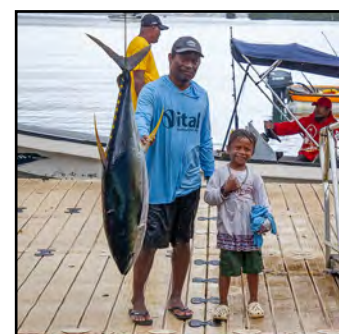
Rickson Soswe boated the biggest skipjack of the day at nine pounds. Tony Samuel had an 8.6-pound skipjack for second prize.

The angler shown in the records as Genevieve won the \$150 lady angler prize with a 13.8-pound barracuda.

Vital/FSM Petroleum Corporation presented \$150 fuel vouchers to each boat that registered, checked out and, returned for the weigh in.

Vital also raffled five EPIRBs out to participating boat captains.

Though \$10,000 from the Pohnpei Fishing Club was available to any member landing a marlin over 450 pounds, and \$3,400 could be won for any yellowfin tuna caught during the tournament, no jackpot prizes were awarded. The pot continues to grow.



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FSM and China sign protocol on dispatching Chinese medical teams to the FSM

Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the FSM

of Department of Foreign Affairs and others.

July 17, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei - On July 16, 2026, Chinese Ambassador H.E. Wu Wei and T.H. Marcus Samo, Secretary of Department of Health and Social Affairs of the FSM signed the Protocol Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia On Dispatching Chinese Medical Team to Work in the FSM(2026—2030). The signing ceremony was attended by Assistant Secretary T.H Moses Pretrick and Assistant Secretary T.H Kasinda Ludwig of the Department of Health and Social Affairs, and Mr. Sohses Ehmes, Deputy Assistant Secretary

Ambassador Wu Wei said that strengthening China-FSM cooperation in the field of health is a concrete step in implementing the common understandings between the two heads of state. Over the past two years, the Chinese medical team has carried forward the spirit of tenacity, dedication, commitment to saving lives and love that knows no borders, benefiting the people of the FSM with their medical expertise and compassionate care. The renewal of the protocol opens a new chapter in bilateral health cooperation for the next five years and demonstrates China's firm commitment to promoting the building of a global community of



health for all.

Secretary Samo expressed gratitude for the dedication of the Chinese medical team and looked forward to closer cooperation between the two countries in the field of health.

United States, IOM demonstrate temporary shelter solutions for Typhoon Sinlaku-affected communities in Chuuk

International Organization for Migration

July 17, 2026

Chuuk, FSM - The International Organization for Migration (IOM), with support from the United States Government, held a three-day demonstration in Chuuk from 15 to 17 July on the assembly of temporary shelters for communities affected by Typhoon Sinlaku.

The demonstration brought together mayors, skilled carpenters, officials from the Chuuk Disaster Coordinating Office, representatives of the Public Works Department and the Environmental Protection Agency, and other stakeholders involved in shelter response and recovery.

At the Chuuk Disaster Coordinating Office in Weno, IOM engineers and carpenters erected a prototype shelter and guided participants through a step-by-step construction process designed for household-level implementation.

"This is the first time IOM is implementing temporary shelter solutions in response to a typhoon in the North Pacific. For families who lost their homes and are relying on alternative shelter arrangements, these shelters offer a safe and dignified option as recovery and reconstruction efforts continue. IOM is grateful to the United States Government for its unwavering support to affected communities," said Ms. Ewa Naqvi, IOM North Pacific Chief of Mission.

The temporary shelters, with a minimum lifespan of two years, follow Sphere standards, which are widely recognized humanitarian principles and minimum benchmarks for quality humanitarian response. Each shelter consists of a wooden frame structure with tarp covers and is designed to be adaptable, allowing households to adjust materials based on their needs and local conditions. IOM will construct temporary shelter prototypes in additional priority locations, including the Chuuk Lagoon and outer islands, to strengthen local capacity and provide practical training in preparation for the construction of temporary shelters for selected households.'

IOM is procuring temporary shelter materials to support more than 700

families whose homes were completely destroyed by Typhoon Sinlaku. Once the materials arrive in Weno and are dispatched to municipalities, participants are expected to share the construction methods they learned with their communities. IOM will continue to provide technical support and oversight as community-level construction begins.

The shelter demonstration builds on the initial emergency response, which included the distribution of plastic tarpaulins and basic shelter repair kits for affected households. The initiative aims to provide safe, dignified temporary shelter while longer-term housing solutions are pursued.





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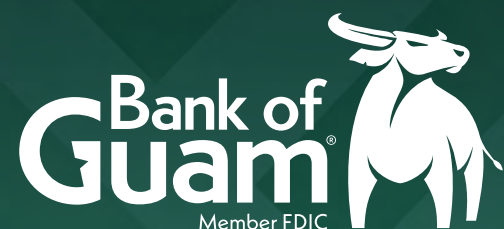
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UNFPA-supported OOSFLE program marks third year of success as facilitators prepare for new community rollout

Micronesian Productions

July 24, 2026

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia — The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in partnership with Micronesian Productions (MP), proudly celebrates the successful completion of the 2026 Out-of-School Family Life Education (OOSFLE) Refresher Training, preparing facilitators for the next phase of a program that has positively impacted young people across Pohnpei from 2024 onwards.

Supported by UNFPA as part of the Transformative Agenda for Women, Adolescents and Youth in the Pacific funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and implemented by Micronesian Productions, the OOSFLE program has become an important community initiative that reaches adolescents and young people outside the formal education system with practical life skills, relationship education, and personal development. Since the program began, Micronesian Productions has served as UNFPA's implementing partner, coordinating community outreach,

training facilitators, managing program delivery, and supporting participating communities throughout Pohnpei.

The refresher training brought together facilitators from seven active OOSFLE groups, providing an opportunity to strengthen their knowledge, refresh facilitation techniques, share experiences from previous community sessions, and prepare for the program's next expansion.

OOSFLE continues to demonstrate the value of investing in young people. Through engaging, community-based learning, participants have strengthened their communication and relationship skills, developed greater self-confidence and self-worth, explored positive values and personal responsibility, and gained practical knowledge to help them make healthy, informed decisions throughout their lives.

The success of the program reflects the dedication of the facilitators who have committed countless hours to mentoring young people and creating safe spaces for learning, discussion, and personal growth. Their passion and commitment have helped build trust within communities and ensure that OOSFLE

continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of participants.

Building on the success of the past years, UNFPA and Micronesian Productions are preparing to launch a new rollout of the OOSFLE program beginning in August. New community groups will soon be established, creating additional opportunities for young people to participate in this life-changing program.

Community members are encouraged to watch for announcements as OOSFLE expands into a community near you. Information on upcoming group locations and registration opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks.

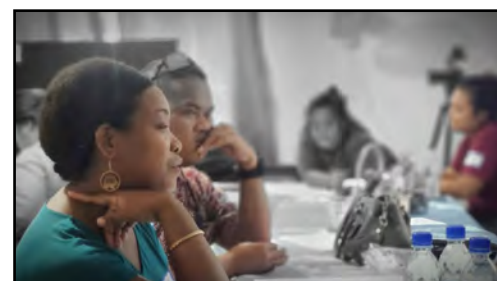
The continued partnership between UNFPA and Micronesian Productions demonstrates a shared commitment to empowering young people, strengthening families, and building healthier, more resilient communities throughout Pohnpei.



About the OOSFLE Program

The Out-of-School Family Life Education (OOSFLE) program is supported by UNFPA as part of the Transformative Agenda for Women, Adolescents and Youth in the Pacific funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and implemented by Micronesian Productions. The program equips adolescents and young people outside the formal education system with knowledge and life skills that promote healthy relationships, self-esteem, communication, gender equality, respect, informed decision-making, and responsible citizenship. Through interactive community-based learning, OOSFLE helps prepare young people to become confident individuals, supportive partners, and positive contributors to their families and communities.

For more information, contact Micronesian Productions at micronesianproductions@gmail.com



FSM ratifies Pacific Resilience Facility Treaty

FSM Information Services

July 12, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — The Office of the President welcomes the approved ratification of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) Treaty by the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia during the recent Special Session, marking an important step in advancing Pacific-led efforts to enhance access to critical climate finance and strengthen climate resilience in the region.

The PRF Treaty has been a legislative priority of the Simina-Palik Administration, having been included among its priority measures during both the previous regular session and the recent Special Session of Congress. President Simina extends his sincere appreciation to the 24th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) for its support and approval of the Treaty, recognizing Congress' continued commitment to strengthening the nation's resilience and regional cooperation.

The Treaty's passage positions the FSM to participate fully in the Pacific Resilience Facility, a Pacific-led, Pacific-owned financing mechanism that supports community-level resilience projects. Becoming a party to the PRF Treaty will strengthen the FSM's ability to access resources for climate adaptation and disaster preparedness responding to gaps in current international financing mechanisms.

Prior to the Treaty's passage, the

FSM participated as an observer at the First Annual Pacific Resilience Facility Council Meeting, reaffirming its commitment to regional cooperation and continued engagement as the Facility becomes fully operational. The FSM looks forward to formally depositing the instrument of ratification to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Baron Waqa and engaging as a member in the next PRF Council meeting tentatively scheduled for August 2026.



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LINGHUI

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MUNRO LEYS

Courtesy call by Archbishop of the Holy See, H.E. Gábor Pintér, on Joseph-Movick Administration

Pohnpei Public Information

July 17, 2026

Pei Lapalap, Pohnpei — His Excellency Gábor Pintér, Archbishop and Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See, paid a courtesy call on Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lt. Governor Herolyn S. Movick highlighting the strong relationship between the Catholic Church and the people of Pohnpei and expressed the closeness and care of Pope Leo for the islands and their communities.

During the meeting, held at the Governor's Office, Archbishop Pintér conveyed his deep appreciation for the warm welcome he and his delegation received since their arrival, noting the kindness and generosity of the Pohnpeian people across parishes, communities, and public events.

Archbishop Pintér observed that he found the people, both young and old, to be inherently good and living their lives with joy and resilience under their present conditions, praising the strong faith of the local population.

Discussion on the Federation and Governance

Archbishop Pintér and Governor Joseph discussed the unique structure of the Federated States of Micronesia, composed of four states with different languages and cultures. Archbishop Pintér remarked that the FSM's federation is special within the world of foreign affairs relationships. Governor Joseph explained how critical issues

such as land are managed at the state level, reflecting the importance of protecting indigenous ownership and cultural values, while acknowledging the challenges this poses for economic development.

Youth, Education, and Employment

The conversation focused significantly on the youth, exploring ways to help young people navigate their future goals and aspirations, alongside Governor Joseph's perspective on the many opportunities available for them to build meaningful futures. The Governor reflected on his own generation's success as an example of what is possible, noting that through determination and utilizing available resources, young people can build meaningful futures.

Archbishop Pintér encouraged the youth to seek guidance from others who had successfully pursued education and careers, stressing that personal effort and initiative are essential:

He shared a Hungarian proverb: "Help yourselves, and after God will help you," emphasizing the need for each person to take the first step toward their own development.

Governor Joseph responded by highlighting that opportunities do exist, including scholarships—some provided through development partners such as the Government of Australia—as well as special arrangements with the



United States that allow Micronesians to travel and work there without visas. Many young Micronesians study, work, or serve in the U.S. military under these arrangements.

He acknowledged, however, that motivation and mindset remain challenges.

Skills Training and Vocational Pathways

Governor Joseph outlined efforts by his administration to reintroduce and strengthen skills training, recalling a formerly strong vocational school in Pohnpei - PATS High School - that successfully prepared high school graduates for direct entry into the workforce:

"These students, when they graduated from high school, went right away into the workforce... That's something that we're trying to bring back," he said, noting that many infrastructure workers today are graduates of that school.

He emphasized the importance of giving students practical skills by the time they leave high school so they can find employment locally or take those skills abroad, reducing dependence on limited office jobs and formal government positions.

Both Archbishop Pintér and Governor Joseph reflected on how historical patterns of external assistance may have fostered a culture of dependency, where some people came to see aid and benefits as an entitlement. They expressed optimism, however, that new generations are slowly embracing greater responsibility, self-reliance, and initiative, recognizing that foreign assistance will not last forever.

Culture, Faith, and Social Harmony

The meeting also highlighted the deep interconnection between culture, faith, and daily life in Pohnpei. Archbishop Pintér praised the vibrant and active life of the Catholic Church in the islands, not only in liturgy and religious practice, but also in education, healthcare, and social services:

"The Catholic Church is not only about liturgy... but about how to respect each other, have compassion, and love. The teaching of Jesus is not only theology; first of all, it is about everyday life," he noted.

Governor Joseph expressed the State's gratitude for the long-standing contribution of the Catholic Church, recognizing its role in social development and moral formation. He observed that Catholic teaching aligns closely with traditional Pohnpeian culture, which helped the faith be naturally and peacefully integrated into local life.

Both sides noted that religious freedom is fully respected in Pohnpei and that the peaceful coexistence of culture and religion has contributed to the island's social harmony and stable way of life.

Message from Pope Leo

Archbishop Pintér concluded by conveying the closeness and spiritual solidarity of Pope Leo with the people of Pohnpei and the wider Pacific:

He explained that, while the Pope cannot personally visit all corners of the world, the mission of the Apostolic Nuncio is to serve as a bridge between the local Church and the Holy See, providing Rome with a "living picture" of how people in places like Pohnpei live, think, and practice their faith, while in turn transmitting the Pope's greetings, concern, and prayers to the local community.

Despite the geographic distance, Archbishop Pintér assured Governor Joseph and the people of Pohnpei that they remain very much present in the Pope's thoughts and prayers, and that the Vatican follows their situation with sincere interest and care.



Acting Governor Movick welcomes New Zealand Ambassador, reaffirming strong ties and shared commitments

Pohnpei Public Information

July 22, 2026

Pei Lapalap, Pohnpei — Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick welcomed the Ambassador of New Zealand to the FSM, H.E. Stuart Horne, and a diplomatic delegation to the Office of the Governor for a courtesy meeting. The discussion reaffirmed the enduring partnership between New Zealand and Pohnpei State, emphasizing a shared commitment to regional cooperation.

Acting Governor Movick conveyed Governor Stevenson A. Joseph's appreciation for New Zealand's longstanding friendship. She underscored the Joseph-Movick Administration's dedication to collaborative efforts in sustainable development, climate resilience, food and water security, and education to enhance community well-being across Pohnpei and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Ambassador highlighted several community-based initiatives supported by the North Pacific Development Fund, including a rabbit-fish aquaculture project, a library accessibility program, and a climate-resilient hydroponics project. These initiatives reflect New Zealand's focus on practical, community-driven solutions that deliver meaningful, long-term benefits to the local population.

Addressing regional challenges, Acting Governor Movick briefed the delegation on the impact of climate change, specifically the prolonged drought affecting Pohnpei's main and outer islands. She emphasized that while the State is proactive in emergency management, support from development partners remains vital to addressing urgent humanitarian and infrastructure needs.

"Our immediate priority is ensuring reliable access to safe water for our communities, especially those in the outer islands," Acting Governor Movick said. "Investments in water storage, solar-powered pumping systems, and other climate-resilient infrastructure are essential as we continue adapting to the increasing impacts of climate change."

The Acting Governor also welcomed New Zealand's continued support for sustainable fisheries, agriculture, renewable energy, and other initiatives that strengthen local livelihoods while protecting Pohnpei's natural resources.

Education was also a primary focus. The Ambassador encouraged Pohnpeian students to pursue New Zealand's scholarship opportunities, describing education as a critical investment in future leadership and national capacity. The Acting Governor expressed gratitude for this continued support in human resource development.

The meeting concluded with both parties pledging to maintain a close dialogue to identify further opportunities for cooperation. Acting Governor Movick thanked the Government and people of New Zealand for their steadfast partnership, noting their shared vision for a resilient and prosperous future.



Governor Joseph receives Pohnpeian language study resource from longtime friend and classmate Tanya Harris Joshua

Pohnpei Public Information

July 15, 2026

Pei Lapalap, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph recently received a courtesy visit from Mrs. Tanya Harris Joshua at the Pohnpei State Government administrative seat in Pei Lapalap.

Mrs. Joshua, who currently serves with the U.S. Department of the Interior, visited Governor Joseph in a personal capacity. The meeting marked a warm reunion for the two, who attended high school together.

During the visit, Mrs. Joshua presented Governor Joseph with a completed copy of her book, titled "Pohnpeian Verbs, A Language Study Resource." This publication serves as a comprehensive tool dedicated to preserving, documenting, and studying the complexities of the Pohnpeian language.

Governor Joseph expressed his deep gratitude to Mrs. Joshua for her dedication to cultural preservation, noting that the resource will be invaluable for educators, students, and anyone seeking to strengthen their command of the Pohnpeian language.

Anyone interested in purchasing the book, please email: tanyajoshua@gmail.com





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



Job Opening Advertisement

Opening date: 15 July 2026

Closing date: 14 August 2026; 2359hrs

About the Micronesian Shipping Commission

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

Job Opening

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

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

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

The annual salary is \$50,000.00. Contract duration is 4yrs.

Priority Consideration:

In accordance with the Micronesian Shipping Commission Treaty, the hiring process will prioritize citizens of the three signatory governments — the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Sample Duties and Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Duty Station

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

Application Requirement

Interested applicants should submit the following documents to postal address:

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

Or submit documents in person at – MSC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor of the Shoniber Building, located at Ohmine, Pohnpei, FSM. To submit documents electronically, interested applicants can contact MSC at Micronesianshippingcommission@gmail.com for instructions on electronic submission.

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

Tripler Army Medical Care Center referral program reinstated

Pohnpei Department of Health and Social Services

July 22, 2026

Honolulu - Today marks a truly remarkable and hopeful chapter in the history of healthcare in Pohnpei.

We are proud to announce the reinstatement of the Pohnpei State Hospital-Tripler Army Medical

Center Referral Program, reopening the door to life-saving medical care for our people. Under this renewed partnership, Tripler Army Medical Center will once again accept patients referred by Pohnpei State Hospital and will cover the costs of airfare and medical treatment, providing hope and access to specialized care for those who need it most.

This important achievement was made possible through a high-level meeting led by Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, accompanied by First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang, Director Stuard Penias, Dr. Payne Perman, and Medical Coordinator

Hinden Alexander.

Representing Tripler Army Medical Center were Commander Col. William Bimson, Col. Charles Nguyen, Capt. Angela Viers, and Protocol Officer Joel Jenkins, whose commitment and willingness to strengthen this partnership are deeply appreciated.

The meeting concluded on a very positive note, with both sides reaffirming their shared commitment to improving healthcare services for the people of Pohnpei. We are also delighted to announce that the Tripler team will soon visit Pohnpei to continue strengthening this collaboration and further enhance medical services for our community.

Together, we are building a healthier Pohnpei.



President Simina receives credentials of His Excellency Archbishop Gábor Pintér, Apostolic Nuncio to the FSM

FSM Information Services

July 20, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei - His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, received the credentials of His Excellency Archbishop Gábor Pintér, Apostolic Nuncio to the Federated States of Micronesia, during a formal ceremony held at the Office of the President on Saturday, July 18, 2026.

The presentation of credentials formally accredited Archbishop Pintér as the representative of the Holy See to the Federated States of Micronesia. Appointed by Pope Francis in January 2025, he is the fifth Apostolic Nuncio accredited to the FSM with residency in New Zealand.

During the ceremony, President Simina and Archbishop Pintér delivered remarks reflecting on the longstanding and cordial relationship between the FSM and the Holy See and expressed confidence in its continued growth.

President Simina conveyed his

appreciation for the Holy See's moral leadership in promoting peaceful dialogue, conflict resolution, and international cooperation. He also acknowledged the Catholic Church's longstanding contributions to education in the FSM, including the important role of Catholic schools in educating generations of Micronesians and preparing leaders, professionals, and citizens who continue to serve the nation.

Archbishop Pintér expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening engagement between the Holy See and the FSM. He also conveyed his readiness to support the nation and encouraged continued communication on areas where his assistance could be beneficial.

Following the ceremony, President Simina and Vice President Palik received Archbishop Pintér for a courtesy call. Their discussions emphasized the importance of sustained dialogue, closer diplomatic engagement, and continued cooperation between the FSM and the Holy See.

The Federated States of Micronesia and the Holy See established diplomatic relations in 1994 and have since maintained cordial relations founded on mutual respect and continued diplomatic engagement.

Archbishop Pintér was accompanied by Monsignor Tomasz Gdula, Deputy Head of Mission; the Most Reverend Julio Angkel, Bishop of the Diocese of the Caroline Islands; Father Kelly Yalmadau, Vicar General; Father Augustine Barnabas, Episcopal Vicar of Pohnpei and Kosrae; and Father Jove Thompson.

The FSM Government looks forward to working closely with Archbishop Pintér and the Holy See to deepen their longstanding relationship and advance areas of shared interest.



Finance and Administration Officer

The position of Finance and Administration Officer is assigned to the Federates States of Micronesia (FSM) Pacific Country Office (PCO) within the Pacific Department (PARD). You will be based at the FSM PCO, with frequent visits to the Palau PCO and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) PCO.

Description of Responsibilities

As Finance and Administration Officer, you will manage the FSM, the RMI, and Palau PCOs' finance, administration, human resources (HR), procurement, and security functions, with support of the technical local staff of these PCOs. You will ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with ADB policies coordination with internal and external partners, while providing leadership to staff and safeguarding the FSM, the RMI, and Palau PCOs' assets. The Finance and Administration Officer reports to Advisor, North Pacific and oversee junior team members at the FSM, the RMI, and Palau PCOs.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include:

- Bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting, economics, or a related field; advanced training is preferred.
- At least 8 years of relevant experience in financial accounting, institutional procurement, general office administration, and personnel management, preferably gained in multilateral development banks or similar international organizations.
- Hands-on experience using digital tools and systems to support administrative, financial, and operational processes, including data management and reporting (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and SharePoint).
- Knowledge of local government administrative systems, institutions, and procedures.
- Demonstrated experience building and maintaining working relationships with partners in a multicultural environment and working collaboratively as a constructive team member.
- Proven experience in improving processes, driving innovation, and adapting to changing organizational needs.
- Proven experience in preparing clear written outputs (e.g., emails, memos, reports, briefing notes), and coordinating with internal and external stakeholders in a professional work setting.

ADB is a leading multilateral development bank supporting inclusive, resilient, and sustainable 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 headquartered in Manila and owned by 69 members—50 from the region.

This vacancy is a regional staff position with local remuneration package. It is open to nationals and permanent residents residing in the duty station, the Federated States of Micronesia, and ADB member countries in the Pacific region such as Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. ADB offers a competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for the Federated States of Micronesia Pacific Country Office, ADB staff may be required to serve in any location outside the Resident Mission at the discretion of Management.

To apply, visit:

<https://www.adb.org/careers/260730>

Deadline for applications is Thursday, 13 August 2026.

ADB seeks to ensure that everyone is treated with respect and given equal opportunities to work in an inclusive environment. ADB encourages all qualified candidates to apply regardless of their racial, ethnic, religious and cultural background, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

Vacancy Reference Number: 260730

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
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Professor Sir Collin Tukuitonga new President-Elect of World Obesity Federation

University of Auckland public health leader to help shape global response to obesity and non-communicable diseases



University of Auckland

July 23, 2026

New Zealand - Professor Sir Collin Tukuitonga, Co-Director of Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa, Centre for Pacific and Global Health at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, has been appointed President-Elect of the World Obesity Federation, one of the world's leading organisations addressing obesity prevention, treatment, advocacy, research and education.

The appointment was announced at the International Congress on Obesity (ICO) 2026, where Professor Bruno Halpern commenced his term as President of the Federation.

Sir Collin, who is also Associate Dean Pacific in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and Professor of Public Health, brings more than 40 years of experience in clinical medicine, public health and health policy across Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific and internationally.

"I look forward to using this role to advance obesity prevention and care across the Pacific, strengthening partnerships with regional organisations and helping ensure Pacific communities benefit from the latest evidence, research and advocacy efforts."

His distinguished career has included

Click here for continuation

President Simina signs the National Agriculture Investment Plan

FSM information Services

July 27, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei - His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) officially signed the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) during a ceremony held at the Office of the President in Palikir on July 20, 2026.



The ceremony was attended by Lieutenant Governor Mekioshy William of Chuuk State; Lieutenant Governor Arthy Nena of Kosrae State; Lieutenant Governor Herolyn S. Movick of Pohnpei State; Secretary Elina Akinaga of the Department of Resources and Development; Secretary Rose Nakanaga of the Department of Finance and Administration; and Dr. Rodrigo Ofrin, Officer in Charge of the United Nations Multi-Country Office, Micronesia, along with representatives of the national and state governments and development partners.

The National Agriculture Investment Plan was developed through an inclusive and consultative process involving the national government, the four state governments, farmers, communities, and other stakeholders. Its preparation was supported under Component 3 of the Small Islands Food and Water Project (SIFWaP) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The NAIP establishes a national framework for agricultural investment and identifies five priority areas for the development of the FSM agriculture sector: increasing the production and productivity of crop farming systems; increasing the production and productivity of the livestock sector; strengthening biosecurity services; promoting high-value horticulture value chains and linkages to local markets; and enhancing training, capacity development, and institutional support. Together, these priorities respond to the need for stronger and more coordinated support for farmers across the nation.

President Simina recognized the contributions of the state governments, communities, farmers, technical experts, and stakeholders who contributed to the development of the Plan through

partnerships.

President Simina also emphasized the importance of continued investment in young people and the opportunities available in modern agriculture, including innovation, entrepreneurship, science, technology, and sustainable resource management.

The President called for continued action and investment to strengthen the nation's food systems and resilience.

"The El Niño season before us reminds us that we cannot wait until a crisis arrives before taking action,"

the President said. "This National Agriculture Investment Plan represents our commitment to invest before those challenges become emergencies—to strengthen our food systems, safeguard our natural resources, support our farmers, and build lasting resilience for future generations."

The signing of the NAIP represents a significant step toward establishing a coordinated national framework for agricultural investment and development. Its implementation will require continued cooperation among the national and state governments, communities, farmers, development partners, traditional leaders, educational institutions, and the private sector.

consultations across Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

President Simina also acknowledged the important role of FAO in implementing the preparation of the NAIP and expressed appreciation for the support provided through the Small Islands Food and Water Project.

The President stressed that the signing of the Plan marks the beginning of implementation.

"Today, however, our work is only beginning," President Simina said. "The true measure of this Plan will not be the quality of the document itself, but the results it delivers."

In his special remarks, Dr. Rodrigo Ofrin, Officer in Charge of the United Nations Multi-Country Office, Micronesia, congratulated the Government of the FSM and the Department of Resources and Development on the signing of the Plan and recognized the collaborative process through which it was developed.

Dr. Ofrin further emphasized that the signing marks the beginning of the work ahead.

"The true measure of success will not be today's signing, but the implementation that follows," he said. "Turning this vision into tangible results will require sustained political commitment, effective coordination across national and state governments, meaningful participation of local communities, and continued engagement from partners across all sectors."

He reaffirmed the United Nations system's commitment to supporting the FSM in the implementation of the Plan, including through strengthening institutional capacities, mobilizing investments, promoting innovation, supporting evidence-based policymaking, and facilitating

PSAKC Kicks Off "Kick Forward: Girls in the Game" as U14 Girls' Team Departs for Kosrae

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC)

July 20, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei —The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) officially launched its Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)-supported project, Kick Forward: Girls in the Game (ref. CFLI-FSM-2026-PSAKC-001), at a kickoff meeting held on 19 July. The gathering brought together the PSAKC board to review the goals, timeline, and activities of the initiative, which is dedicated to empowering girls through football across the Federated States of Micronesia.

The kickoff meeting served as a working session for the board to align on the details of the CFLI-funded project and to prepare for its first major milestone: the departure, on July 20th, of six girls and two coaches from PSAKC's U14 female soccer team for a multi-day program in Kosrae. Other activities

discussed are the free transportation to the training ground for children in Ohmine and Chinatown areas in collaboration with the Micronesia Justice Initiative, the island-wide clinics, the 2026/27 Champions League, and the installation of goalposts at the Spanish Wall Park and in Daini Street fields in collaboration with the Pohnpei Sport Commission. This latest project will allow children of the Kolonia Elementary School to access the ground and play during recess, after the proper gates will be opened.

The PSAKC board expressed its pride in the girls going to Kosrae and its appreciation for the support of CFLI in making these initiatives possible, as well as for the cooperation of the U.S. Army Oceania Engagement Tem.

PSAKC will continue to share updates on the Kick Forward: Girls in the Game project as the team's activities in Kosrae unfold.



Kick Forward: Girls in the Game — PSAKC's U14 girls take soccer, and a whole lot of heart, to Kosrae

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club

July 25, 2026

Kosrae - Six girls. Several days. Three Locations in Kosrae, and a Coast Guard boat and one very muddy field in Pohnpei. And through all of it, one message that needed no translation: girls belong on the field.

As part of the "Kick Forward: Girls in the Game" outreach program, the Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) sent its U14 girls team on a joyful, jam-packed journey to Kosrae — not just to play soccer, but to build something that lasts a lot longer than a scoreline: connection, confidence, and a shared conversation about sport, health, and nutrition between the youth of two islands.

The Team

Christina, Amaia, Yoki, Tatiana, Lyla, and Geonna packed their bags for Kosrae under the guidance of coaches Shalolyn and Zenica, ready to play — and just as excited to meet new friends, swap stories, and see a bit of another island.

Three Days, Three locations

Over three full days, the team traveled through Tafunsak, Tofol, and Lelu, playing matches against both boys' and girls' teams from the host island. Some games were won; others were lost — but the scoreline was never really the point. What mattered was everything that happened around it: the chats on the sidelines, the shared meals, the questions asked and answered between kids who'd never met each other a week before.

The program brought together a wonderfully wide circle of partners to make this exchange possible: Ms. Nagai, a JICA nutritionist, who spoke with the players about diet and health; Marlene and Logan of the U.S. Army Oceania Engagement Team (OET); the Kosrae Department of Health; coach Khriis Diau; and Kosrae Sports Commissioner Osamu Abraham and his staff, who welcomed the team with open arms and helped organize the matches and exchanges on the

ground.

Between matches, the girls talked with their Kosraean counterparts about the things that matter well beyond the touchline — nutrition, health, and what it takes, day to day, to keep showing up for a sport you love.

More Than a Scoreline

The outreach was built around a simple goal: promote girls in sport. And it worked — girls came out to play, many of them, some perhaps for the first time in a setting like this.

For the boys who played against them, there was a lesson too, and anyone who was once a kid knows exactly how it lands: girls can beat you. Some of them did. That's a lesson far more durable than any single match result.

Just as important was what the girls themselves demonstrated when a match didn't go their way. Standing back up after a loss is not easy — not for a 13-year-old on an unfamiliar field, and not even for the best in the world. The current Argentina national team, World Cup and Copa América champions, weren't able to do it after a bitter defeat and reached instead for gratuitous violence. PSAKC's players did the harder thing: they got back up, and they played again. Strong and committed. That is a lesson worth carrying home, whatever the age.

Thank You. None of this happens without a great many people giving their time, patience, and trust.

To the coaches, Shalolyn and Zenica — for your patience, your rigor, your commitment, and for spending five days of your own lives, and your own holidays, to turn a small dream into a lived experience. The girls, here in Pohnpei and in Kosrae, will carry that experience with them for years. Wherever their paths lead, you are now a brick in the foundation of who they will become.

To the players — Christina, Amaia, Yoki, Tatiana, Lyla, and Geonna — even if you don't fully realize it yet, you built memories that will stay with

you, and you gave girls in Kosrae a reason to believe they can step up for what they want too.

To the parents — for your support and your trust. Sending your kids off on an adventure like this is not a small thing, and PSAKC doesn't take it for granted.

To the Island Hopper — for the excellent accommodation, the support, and the "electrifying" hospitality — and for the food.

To Senator J. Asher — for contributing to this endeavor with a closing barbecue that brought together everyone in the Pohnpei-Kosrae soccer community.

To the Oceania Engagement Team — for trusting a group of people you didn't yet know. That trust meant a great deal, and it made this program possible.

To Kosrae — for welcoming PSAKC once again like family. It never goes unnoticed.

To the Kosrae Department of Health, Ms. Nagai, Marlene, Logan, coach Khriis Diau, Sports Commissioner Osamu Abraham, and his staff — thank you for opening doors, sharing knowledge, and helping build a program that was about so much more than soccer.

See you all very soon.

A detour in Pohnpei... to the U.S. Coast Guard — and a very muddy rematch

On Wednesday the 22nd, the PSAKC team visited a US Coast Guard boat docked in Pohnpei, getting a look at life aboard and meeting the crew. The friendship struck up so well that a rematch was inevitable — and the next day, Thursday the 23rd, the boys and girls faced off against the boat's crew in a match that ran well over an hour.

The crew won that one. But the real story of the day was the rain — it poured non-stop from morning to evening, turning the pitch into an absolute mud bath. Rather than dampening the mood, it made the whole thing better: players sliding wildly across the field, laughing, joking, and generally having a blast together, crew and kids alike, soaked and muddy and grinning the entire time. It's exactly the kind of afternoon nobody forgets.

To the crew of the US Coast Guard boat — for the warm welcome aboard, for a hard-fought match, and for turning a day of relentless rain and mud into one of the happiest, muddiest memories of the whole trip. Thank you for winning with such good humor, and for laughing right alongside the girls in the downpour.



Vice President Palik opens Finance Conference in Kosrae

FSM Information Services

July 27, 2026

Tofol, Kosrae - The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), officially opened the Finance Conference in Kosrae on July 24, bringing together more than 200 government officials, finance professionals, policymakers, and development partners from across the FSM.

Joining the Vice President at the opening ceremony were the Honorable Tulensa Palik, Governor of Kosrae; the Honorable Semeon J. Phillip, Speaker of the 13th Kosrae State Legislature; and the Honorable Salpasr E. Tilfas, Vice Speaker of the 13th Kosrae State Legislature.

Held under the theme “Strengthening Public Financial Management Stewardship,” the conference provides a forum for participants to strengthen accountability, improve financial management practices, and enhance cooperation among the National and State Governments.

In his opening remarks, Vice President Palik thanked the Governor, the leadership, and the people of Kosrae for hosting the conference and extending their hospitality to participants.

“You carry an important responsibility: ensuring that the resources entrusted to the government are managed carefully, responsibly, and in the best interests of our citizens,” Vice President Palik said.

The Vice President encouraged

participants to be guided by six principles: treating stewardship as a public trust; setting a strong standard through leadership; applying responsible financial practices in daily government operations; advancing national development through sound public financial management; strengthening cooperation between the National and State Governments; and recognizing the important contributions of development partners.

Echoing this message, Governor Palik said the FSM is entering an important new chapter in its development, one that brings both greater opportunities and greater responsibilities.

“The people we serve expect nothing short of complete accountability in the management of public funds,” the

Governor said.

Vice President Palik encouraged participants to engage fully in the conference by sharing experiences, discussing common challenges, identifying practical solutions, and applying the knowledge gained in their respective workplaces.

Conference discussions will cover financial management best practices, budget planning and performance management, public accountability, fiscal policy and economic development, audit and compliance, emerging financial technologies, and professional development.

The conference reflects the National Government’s continued commitment to transparency, accountability, professionalism, and the responsible stewardship of public resources.



Vice President Palik receives U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Vincent Mut-Tracy for farewell call

FSM Information Services

July 20, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei —The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, received United States Chargé d’Affaires Vincent Mut-Tracy for a farewell call ahead of his departure from the FSM.

On behalf of the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, Vice President Palik expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Mut-Tracy for his dedicated service and valuable contributions to advancing the enduring partnership between the FSM and the United States.

Vice President Palik acknowledged Mr. Mut-Tracy’s efforts to promote

dialogue, deepen cooperation, and advance shared priorities between the two countries. He also thanked him for his engagement with the National Government and the people of the FSM throughout his tenure.

Mr. Mut-Tracy expressed his gratitude to the Office of the President and the people of the FSM for the warm hospitality and support extended to him during his service. He reflected on the progress achieved through close collaboration and on the meaningful relationships established during his time in the country.

Vice President Palik extended his best wishes to Mr. Mut-Tracy as he prepares to take up his next assignment and reaffirmed the FSM’s commitment to its enduring partnership with the United

States, grounded in mutual respect, shared interests, and a common vision for a peaceful, secure, and prosperous Pacific region.



Courtesy visit to Governor Joseph by Micronesia Conservation Trust and Waite Institute Leadership

Pohnpei Public Information

July 15, 2026

Pei Lapalap, Pohnpei –

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph received a courtesy visit from the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and the Waite Institute at the Governor's Office in Pohnpei.

The delegation was led by Mae Bruton-Adams, Chief Executive Officer of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), accompanied by:

- Michael Goldman, President, Waite Institute
- William Toganivalu, Strategic Advisor, Waite Institute
- Taholo Kami, Strategic Advisor, Waite Institute
- Pablo Granados, Sustainable Fisheries Director, Waite Institute
- Tiffany Ngo, Media & Strategic Communications Manager, Waite Institute
- Xner Luther, Project and Grants Manager for the Green Climate Fund-supported initiative, MCT
- Drinette James, Program Manager, Terrestrial, MCT
- Mahina Cole, Sustainable Finance Coordinator, MCT



- Mark Kostka, Director of the Department of R&D, Pohnpei State

During the visit, the delegation reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Pohnpei State and the FSM National Government in advancing marine spatial planning, sustainable fisheries, and community-based conservation efforts.

Governor Joseph welcomed the team and expressed appreciation for the longstanding partnership with MCT and the Waite Institute, noting the importance of aligning national and state-level initiatives to:

- Strengthen stewardship of Pohnpei's ocean and coastal resources
- Support the implementation of marine spatial planning and related

legislation

- Promote sustainable economic opportunities, including fisheries and aquaculture
- Protect traditional practices and ensure food security for Pohnpeian communities

The discussions highlighted ongoing and planned collaboration on:

- The Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) bill and related public consultations
- Support to state agencies and communities in coastal resource management
- Potential pilot projects linking land-based activities, coral reef protection, and blue economy initiatives

Governor Joseph thanked Chief Executive Officer Bruton-Adams, President Goldman, and the entire delegation for their continued partnership and reaffirmed Pohnpei State's openness to further engagement in support of sustainable development and the long-term health of its marine environment.

2026 Yap Games weightlifting competition showcases women's strength

Yap Government

July 16, 2026

Yap, FSM - The 2026 Yap Games continued on July 13 with the women's weightlifting competition, where athletes from across Yap showcased their strength, determination, and sportsmanship in a series of exciting contests.

Athletes reported for weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., with competition beginning at 6:30 p.m. Events were held in the 48 kg, 53 kg, 58 kg, 63 kg, 69 kg, 77 kg, 86 kg, and +86 kg weight categories, allowing competitors to demonstrate the results of their hard work and dedication.

Throughout the evening, the women's weightlifting competition highlighted

the growing talent within Yap's athletic community. Competitors displayed discipline, resilience, and perseverance as they vied for top honors in their respective divisions while earning the support of family, friends, and spectators.

Among the standout athletes was Gina Gina, whose medal-winning performance reflected her commitment to excellence and determination to succeed. As a participant in the Youth Services Raising Program, Gina embodies the program's mission of developing confident, disciplined, and goal-oriented young leaders. Her accomplishment serves as an inspiring example of how dedication and community support can help young athletes achieve success.

As one of the featured events of the 2026 Yap Games, the women's weightlifting competition celebrated athletic achievement while reinforcing the Games' commitment to promoting fitness, healthy competition, and community pride throughout Yap.



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President Simina welcomes Talent Search Program students

FSM Information Services

July 23, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia welcomed 56 students from the Talent Search Program to the Office of the

President as part of their Career Exploration field trip.

The visit provided the students with an opportunity to learn more about the FSM National Government and the responsibilities of the Executive Branch. President Simina and members

of his team engaged the students in an interactive question-and-answer session focused on leadership, public service, and the role of young people in contributing to their communities and the nation.

President Simina encouraged the

students to remain committed to their education, pursue their goals with discipline and confidence, and use their talents in service to others. He also thanked the students for their visit and expressed appreciation to the Talent Search Program for organizing the educational engagement.



Australia and Pohnpei partnerships to enhancing public safety

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

July 20, 2026

Pohnpei - The Australian Embassy team recently met with Director of Pohnpei Public Safety Eltes Pelep, Acting Chief of Police Bronson Martin and members of the Pohnpei State Police.

Ambassador Jenny Grant and Consular Officer Sackett Peter thanked the Pohnpei Police for participating in the recent Basic Investigations Training provided by the AFP in the Pacific in Chuuk. This training aims to support investigations and effective public

prosecutions.

The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss work by Tetra Tech's Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) team, who are clearing the site at the future Pacific Humanitarian Warehouse in Palikir to ensure the area is safe for construction. The Pohnpei Police are the first responders to any UXOs that are found.

The Pacific Humanitarian Warehouse Program is a partnership between Australia, the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management and SPC.

This collaboration underscores the shared commitment of Australia, Pohnpei State, and technical partners to building safer communities and strengthening law enforcement and development in the FSM.



Opinion Editorial

Upholding the One-China Principle to open a new chapter in China-Pacific cooperation



and stronger support from the international community.

There is but one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. The one-China principle is a universally recognized basic norm governing international relations and a prevailing international consensus. The UNGA Resolution 2758 in 1971 solemnly confirms and fully embodies the one-China principle. It was clearly stated in the official legal opinions of the Office of Legal Affairs of the U.N. Secretariat that "the United Nations considers 'Taiwan' as a province of China with no separate status." To date, China has established diplomatic relations with 183 countries, all of which have made solemn political commitments in their joint communiqués with China to abide by the one-China principle.

In 1989, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia signed the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations, under which the FSM recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. Since then, the traditional friendship between the two countries has entered a new stage of development. Over the past 37 years, China and the FSM have consistently supported each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns, continuously deepened political mutual trust, steadily expanded practical cooperation across various fields, and advance the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Across the Pacific, the overwhelming majority of island countries have seen clearly the trend of history, upheld justice, and embraced a brighter future of friendly cooperation with China. In recent years, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Naoero have successively established or resumed diplomatic relations with China, removing the political barriers to comprehensive cooperation. President Xi Jinping

presented China's policy toward Pacific Island countries, namely China fully respects the sovereignty and independence of Pacific Island countries, fully respects their will, fully respects their cultural traditions and fully respects their effort to seek strength through unity. Guided by the "four full respects," China and these Pacific Island countries have witnessed flourishing exchanges at all levels and across various sectors, signed Belt and Road cooperation documents, achieved substantial early outcomes in mutually beneficial cooperation, and opened up broad new prospects for common development.

Regrettably, certain Pacific Island countries—including Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu—remain blinded and utilized by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities in Taiwan and continue to maintain so-called "diplomatic relations" with Taiwan, placing themselves outside the international consensus on the one-China principle.

In an attempt to drill through the rock-solid international commitment to the one-China principle, the DPP authorities have coerced or cajoled the said countries through dollar diplomacy and bribes. They have gone to great lengths to expand their presence in the Pacific Island region, even seeking to participate in regional intergovernmental meetings under various pretexts to enlarge their so-called "international space." Their ultimate and ulterior objective is to tie Pacific Island countries to the war chariot of "Taiwan independence." Support for "Taiwan independence" means interference in China's internal affairs and attempts to abet "Taiwan independence" mean destabilizing the Taiwan Strait. China's reunification is an irreversible trend, and the DPP authorities' futile attempts amount to nothing more than self-deception having little support in the Pacific islands region and will ultimately end in humiliation.

Facts speak louder than rhetoric, and genuine cooperation always outweighs political opportunism. As the world's second-largest economy and one of its fastest-growing major economies, China offers tremendous development

opportunities and vast prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation. Standing with China and adhering to the one-China principle is the natural choice for Pacific Island countries that seek to keep pace with the times, advance the well-being of their peoples, and stand on the right side of history.

In fact, China has remained Palau's largest single source of tourists for many consecutive years. According to statistics released by Palau, visitors from the Chinese mainland accounted for 36 percent of all arrivals in the first quarter of 2026, directly boosting tourism, hospitality, catering, and related service industries while providing strong support for economic recovery, job creation, and income growth.

In the Marshall Islands, entrepreneurs in local Chinese community have long contributed to the local economy by expanding the supply of goods, invigorating commerce, improving people's livelihoods, and supporting sustainable economic development. However, because these countries have yet to establish diplomatic relations with China, they remain unable to participate fully in major international cooperation initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative. As a result, they have missed valuable development opportunities and constrained broader people-to-people exchanges and practical cooperation with China.

We believe that the people and visionary individuals of Palau and the Marshall Islands will encourage their governments to recognize the trend, leap from the sinking broken ship of "Taiwan independence" separatist forces in time and make the right choice that accords with the trend of the times, conforms to the basic norms governing international relations, and serves the fundamental interests of their peoples. By joining the ever-growing "circle of partners" of cooperation with China at an early date, they will be able to share in China's development opportunities and work together to build a brighter future for the Pacific region.

Wu Wei
Ambassador to the People's Republic of China to the FSM

On July 15, Papua New Guinea officially announced the closure of the "Chinese Taipei Economic Office in PNG." Following its decision to shut down the "PNG Trade Mission in Taiwan" in January 2023, this latest move once again underscores PNG's steadfast commitment to the one-China principle. More importantly, it sends a clear message across the Pacific that mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and other fundamental norms governing international relations must be upheld, while reaffirming PNG's resolve to stand firmly on the right side of history.

As PNG's Foreign Minister Tkatchenko stated, this administrative action underscores the Government's unwavering commitment to honoring, respecting, and upholding PNG's foundational one-China policy. The PNG Government views this administrative alignment as a vital and necessary step toward deepening state-to-state trust, reinforcing our shared values, and elevating the bilateral relationship between PNG and the People's Republic of China to unprecedented levels.

PNG's decision also illustrates an undeniable truth: upholding the one-China principle is where international public opinion trends and the arc of history bends. Any attempt to challenge this principle or create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" is doomed to fail. The just cause of the Chinese people in opposing "Taiwan independence" separatist activities and realizing national reunification will continue to gain broader understanding

Opinion Editorial

Chuukese (FSM) U.S. citizens in Guam: Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Future

By John Howard

The Chuukese (FSM) community continues to grow and is now one of the largest ethnic groups on Guam. Our numbers are counted in Guam's population and data collection. Those numbers help determine funding for schools, healthcare, public safety, roads, and other services that support our community.

Estimating the number of eligible voters per FSM U.S. citizen household on Guam comes down to a simple breakdown of family size, citizenship, and age. If we take the total FSM population of roughly 14,500 people and divide it by the average household size of seven people, that gives us about 2,071 FSM households across the island.

To figure out who can vote within these homes, we have to separate the generations in the household. The older parents who are FSM citizens cannot legally vote in Guam elections. Under current U.S. law, anyone born within the geographical boundaries and jurisdiction of the United States, including Guam, automatically acquires U.S. citizenship at birth. This means our children are eligible to vote at age 18.

It is estimated that about 20% of the 14,500 FSM population on Guam are Guam-born children who have now reached the voting age of 18 or older, totalling about 2,900 eligible voters. When you divide those 2,900 voters among the estimated households, it averages roughly one to three eligible voters per household. In plain terms, this means many FSM households on Guam have a strong political voice when those households stand together.

Our numbers can be our voice, our vote, and our future. I urge Chuukese (FSM) U.S. citizens to vote in this election and

the many that will come. We hold the numbers to help shape the outcome. We can influence the future, but only if we show up and vote.

We should also pay attention to H.R. 9724, the End Birthright Citizenship for Territories Act. If this bill becomes law, it could change automatic U.S. citizenship for children born in Guam in the future, including children born to many FSM families living here under the Compact of Free Association. This is another reason why we must vote. The decisions made today can affect the future of our children and our community.

Because of our unique dual citizenship statutes, FSM U.S. citizens may hold the right to vote in both Guam local elections and the FSM. This gives us a voice in choosing the leaders of both our home islands and the island we now call home.

Let's vote for leaders who have our community's best interests in mind. When you cast your ballot, look beyond empty campaign promises. Vote for leaders who have the FSM community's best interests at heart. Choose leaders who see us not just as a voting bloc during election season, but as valued partners in Guam's future. Support candidates who will commit to real initiatives that build, uplift, and move the FSM community forward. Demand better access to education, healthcare, fair employment, and housing for our families. Choose leaders who build respect and understanding between the FSM community and the wider Guam community, and who recognize the contributions we make to this island.

Let's make our voices heard. If we do not vote, our challenges may remain unaddressed, and our voices may be ignored. But if we show up at the polls in strong numbers, Guam's leaders will have to listen to us, work with us, and support our community's growth.

A vote is not just a right. It is a tool to build a better future for our children. Let's stand united, exercise our democratic right, and make our voices heard loud and clear. Let's make our vote count and help make Guam a better, more inclusive place for our entire community.

Know the candidates, and show up to vote!

Kinisou Chapur

Australian Ambassador welcomes UNICEF's newly appointed Chief

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

July 24, 2026

FSM - Australian Ambassador Grant was pleased to welcome UNICEF's newly appointed Chief of UNICEF North Pacific Office, Mr Seifu Ali, underscoring the enduring partnership between Australia, UNICEF, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Australia and UNICEF are working hand-in-hand with the FSM Government and local communities to improve outcomes for children and young people through investments in health, education, family protection, nutrition, water and sanitation. This

partnership continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of families across the nation.

Australia's partnership with UNICEF is helping to create a brighter future for children across Micronesia. We thank the outgoing Chief Mr. Cromwell Bacareza for his eight years of friendship and service and welcome Mr Seifu Ali to this important work," said Ambassador Grant.

We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the outgoing Chief for his dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the people of the FSM.



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Pacific Climate Ministers Advance United Regional Agenda Ahead of COP31

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

July 21, 2026

Sydney, Australia - Pacific Climate Ministers convened today for the sixth Pacific Climate Ministers Talanoa, strengthening regional climate cooperation and advancing a united Pacific agenda ahead of Pre-COP31 in the Pacific and COP31 in Türkiye.

The Talanoa was co-chaired by Hon. Wayne Ghemu, Solomon Islands' Minister of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, representing the Pacific Islands Forum Chair, and Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

The Talanoa focused on delivering ambitious outcomes through the Pacific-Australia partnership, with discussions focused on advancing shared regional priorities through the Pacific Senior Officials Taskforce, including coordination of Pacific positions, preparations for the Pre-COP in Fiji, and the Leaders' side visit to Tuvalu.

"Through the Pacific Islands Forum and the COP31 Pacific Partnership, we have shown that when we speak with one voice, we amplify our influence, strengthen our negotiating position and present solutions that are greater than the sum of our individual efforts. In an increasingly uncertain world, our regional solidarity is not simply a matter of convenience; it is a strategic necessity," said co-chair Hon. Ghemu.

"Pre-COP will position Pacific voices to shape global climate negotiations, bringing governments and investors to the region," said co-chair Hon. Bowen.

"Today Climate Ministers took forward their important work on regional climate cooperation, which will help deliver real outcomes on the region's priorities."

"Our Pacific Islands communities feel the impacts of climate change in their daily lives, so it is imperative that we do everything within our collective power to address this issue. Together, we have a responsibility to ensure Pacific priorities are amplified in the global

negotiations that will shape our future," said Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

"While progressing this work, Senior

Officials and the COP31 Secretariat are also very mindful of the current geopolitics and the impacts it will have in how we move forward. Amid current geopolitical uncertainties, alarms have been raised on the potential

of an overshoot in the global average temperature, a strong push-back on the centrality of science, a shrinking climate financial landscape, and concerns

[Click here for continuation](#)

FSM Social Security Administration welcomes three new staff members to advance public service excellence

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia

July 15, 2026

The Federated States of Micronesia Social Security Administration (FSMSSA) is proud to officially announce the appointment of three new professionals to its growing team. These strategic hires reinforce FSMSSA's commitment to improving service delivery, safeguarding public funds, and ensuring the long-term social security benefits of all working citizens and retirees across the four states.

The new team members bring a diverse range of skills and a shared dedication to public service.

Introducing the New Team Members:

1. Lizzyann Rosario – Public Information Officer

Lizzy Ann Rosario officially joined the FSM Social Security Administration on June 29, 2026, stepping into the vital role of Public Information Officer. Outside of her professional dedication to public communication, Ms. Rosario is deeply family-oriented and enjoys spending quality time bonding with her family. In her new capacity, she will be leading the agency's efforts to keep the public informed and connected.



"I wanted to work at the FSMSSA because I would love to help our people of Micronesia. I am looking forward to learning more about what the FSMSSA does for the citizens of Micronesia and what I, as a Public Information Officer, can do for them. Your hard work builds the future of the FSM, and your Social Security Administration is dedicated to protecting your future and your family's peace of mind!"
said Ms. Rosario.

2. Riesha Shianne Wilson – Data Entry Operator

Also joining the FSMSSA team on June 29, 2026, Riesha Shianne Wilson steps into the role of Data Entry Operator. Ms. Wilson has a strong passion for managing information with high precision and is deeply grateful for the continuous encouragement and support of her family. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to music and relaxing with friends.



"I wanted to come work here because I enjoy working with information, paying close attention to detail, and contributing to an organization that provides important services to the people of the FSM. I am looking forward to learning more about the social security system, growing professionally, and contributing to the team by ensuring accurate and efficient data entry. I am honored to be part of the Social Security Administration and am committed to providing accurate, efficient, and courteous service to our citizens," stated Ms. Wilson.

3. Jenilee Actouka – Collection Clerk

Jenilee Actouka joined the FSMSSA team on July 13, 2026, as the agency's new Collection Clerk. Married to Augustine (Randel) Ardos and a proud mother of three beautiful girls—Raemielle, Vivica Rae, and Ayumi Rose—Mrs. Actouka successfully balances a warm family life with her passion for public service. As a creative fun fact, she enjoys sewing custom Pohnpeian skirts crafted in Seinwar by jenActouka. In her new role, she is most excited to learn, grow, and meaningfully contribute to the administration's core operations.



"I wanted to work for the Social Security Administration because I want to be a part of a team that serves as a positive impact on the people of the FSM. As we look ahead, I want to leave the citizens with a powerful quote by Martin Luther King Jr.: 'We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now,'"
shared Mrs. Actouka.

About FSM Social Security Administration:

Established to provide financial security and peace of mind to the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the FSMSSA administers retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for the nation's workforce and their dependents. For more information regarding monthly benefit schedules, registration, or branch locations, please visit the official website at www.fsmssa.fm.

You can find us on the web at www.fsmssa.fm. Or you can e-mail us at info@fsmssa.fm.

Pacific leaders seek stronger regional strategy to unlock climate finance

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlle Press

July 15, 2026

Nadi, Fiji — Pacific Islands Forum Deputy Secretary General Desna Solofa has called for closer regional cooperation to improve access to climate finance, saying Pacific Island countries continue to face significant barriers despite growing international commitments to support climate action.

Speaking at the opening of the Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy (CFAMS) Preparatory and Prioritization Workshop in Nadi, Solofa told government officials, regional organizations, development partners and financial institutions that climate change has become far more than an environmental concern for Pacific nations.

Instead, she described it as a development, economic and fiscal challenge that affects virtually every sector of island economies, including infrastructure, agriculture, health, fisheries, water security and disaster resilience.

"The scale of these challenges demands investments that far exceed the fiscal capacity of our countries," Solofa said.

She noted that while the international community increasingly recognizes the unique vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States, securing funding remains difficult. Pacific governments continue to encounter lengthy approval processes, fragmented funding systems, limited institutional capacity and increasingly complex financing requirements when seeking climate funding.

Those obstacles, she said, prompted Forum Economic Ministers to endorse the Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy as the region's collective framework for improving climate finance access.

Rather than serving as another regional policy document, Solofa said the strategy is intended to provide a practical roadmap for improving coordination among Pacific countries, strengthening institutional capacity, developing investment-ready projects, expanding partnerships and increasing the volume and effectiveness of climate finance reaching Pacific communities.

She stressed that the regional strategy is not intended to replace national climate priorities.

Each Forum member, she said, already has its own development plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and sector priorities that remain the foundation for climate investment decisions. Instead, CFAMS is designed to identify common priorities among member countries that can be advanced through regional programs capable of attracting larger investments and creating economies of scale.

By combining national priorities into regional initiatives, Solofa said Pacific countries can present a stronger case to development partners, multilateral development banks, climate funds and private investors.

She described the workshop as an important step toward identifying regional investment opportunities and preparing for the Pacific Climate Finance Investment Forum planned for 2027.

During the three-day meeting, participants were expected to validate national priorities, identify regional investment opportunities, examine financing pathways and begin shaping the agenda for the 2027 forum. The success of that future event, Solofa said, would depend on the quality of planning undertaken during the workshop.

The workshop also seeks to determine which investment proposals are ready to move forward, where additional project preparation is needed and how regional cooperation can help accelerate access to financing.

Solofa said achieving those goals will require open dialogue among governments, stronger cooperation across ministries, closer partnerships with regional organizations and development partners, and continued collaboration under the Blue Pacific Continent framework.

She reaffirmed the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's commitment to supporting member countries by coordinating regional action, strengthening international partnerships and ensuring Pacific voices continue to influence global climate finance discussions.

Closing her remarks, Solofa encouraged delegates to participate actively throughout the workshop and to focus on translating current priorities into future investments that strengthen the region's resilience to climate change.

"Together, we have an opportunity to strengthen the Pacific's climate finance future," she said.



...COP31

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over the inadequacy of multilateral processes and their ability to respond at the speed needed to address the climate crisis," said PIF Deputy Secretary General Desna Solofa.

"It is therefore very critical that we are agile and remain ahead of these issues particularly in how we implement the COP31 Pacific Partnership."

Ministers reviewed progress in Pacific climate diplomacy, including engagement with Türkiye, outcomes from the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies meetings in Bonn, and discussions held during London Climate Action

Week last month. They also considered upcoming technical engagements that will inform the region's collective approach to COP31.

The Talanoa also received updates from the COP31 Pacific Climate Envoys on their workplans, international engagements and priorities through to the end of 2026.

The Pacific Climate Ministers Talanoa reflects the region's commitment to collective climate action, resilience and keeping Pacific priorities at the centre of global climate decision-making.

As preparations for Pre-COP31 meetings and COP31 gain momentum, the Talanoa reinforced the Pacific's united voice and shared vision for a successful Presidency that delivers meaningful outcomes for the region and the world.



New paper calls for renewed attention on land security in the Pacific

Pacific Security College

16 July 2026

Land governance must be restored as a central pillar of regional peace and security efforts in the Pacific, according to a new paper released by the Pacific Security College.

Authored by Dr Anna Naupa, a Senior Research and Engagement Fellow at the Pacific Security College, Land: a fault line for Pacific peace and security? says the region must renew its attention on land security.

“As climate change reshapes coastlines, affects food systems and forces communities to relocate, land is becoming a critical security issue. It underpins identity, livelihoods, governance and community cohesion, yet it has become increasingly absent from regional security discussions,” Dr Naupa said.

“This has created a vacuum in regard to regional land policy.”

Dr Naupa proposes several initiatives to strengthen the consideration of land in regional peace and security efforts, including:

- refocusing on land and its centrality to Pacific peoples’ identity and belonging
- reintroducing land governance as

a critical component of regional peace and security discussions

- using the development of the Regional Peace and Security Action Plan to formally recognise the role of plural land governance systems

- using the annual Pacific Security Outlook Report to spotlight pressing land policy issues.

“Sustainable access to and management of land are fundamental for the environmental, human and livelihood security of Pacific peoples,” Dr Naupa said.

“Developing regional collective actions within a Regional Peace and Security Action Plan presents an opportunity to focus on how land governance systems could contribute to regional goals for peace, prosperity and security.”

Land: a fault line for Pacific peace and security? includes responses from four regional experts: Karen Mapusua, George Hoa’au, Vehia Wheeler and Dr Akka Rimon. Ms Mapusua, Director of the Land Resources Division at the Pacific Community, said the paper highlighted a critical gap in the discourse on security and resilience in the region.

“Donor institutions, development banks and regional policy frameworks routinely approach land as a resource. Pacific

peoples, however, have long understood land as something far more elemental: not as an asset to be exploited, but the very ground of identity and belonging,” she said.

“Food insecurity and hunger are drivers of social unrest. When people cannot feed themselves, and cannot afford healthy imported alternatives, the crisis is real. As climate-related relocation, urbanisation, non-agricultural developments such as tourism, and population growth put pressure on arable land, these issues will grow.”

Mr Hoa’au, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands, said there was much to be learned from national policies regarding land.

“We need more regional knowledge exchange so we can learn from each other,” he said.

“They are not abstract practices; they are already happening. But our regional security efforts must catch up. We need to look to these national lessons, codify them and incorporate them into regional policies and planning.”

Ms Wheeler, a Ma’ohi Nui scholar and environmental and cultural consultant at Sustainable Oceania Solutions, reflected on the lessons from the past, including nuclear testing and its impact on land and oceans,

and subsequently on food security and displacement.

“Without secure, healthy land and ocean space for people to practise traditional management, agriculture and fishing, we create vulnerable societies,” she said.

“Furthermore, the Pacific can look to the history of several communities that have experienced similar issues of displacement due to factors out of their control. Our past can, and should, inform our future.”

Dr Rimon, a Senior Research Fellow at the Pacific Security College, said Dr Naupa’s paper highlights that land remains the spiritual, relational and cultural foundation of society.

“This worldview underscores why land insecurity, whether driven by climate change, economic shocks or poorly informed policies, could potentially undermine Pacific peace and security,” she said.

“As climate impacts intensify and mobility pressures rise, the region faces mounting challenges of land scarcity, contested tenure and undermined sovereignty. Naupa’s call to foreground land-rooted security is therefore both timely and urgent.”

Habele awards 151 scholarships to students from all four FSM states

Habele

July 21, 2026

Colonia, Yap - Habele has awarded 151 tuition scholarships, totaling \$80,844.75, to students from all four states of the Federated States of Micronesia for the 2026–27 school year.

The scholars range from kindergarten through grade 12. Eighty-nine are outer-island students whose families come from the outer islands of Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei States. The full class includes students from Kosrae as well as Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei, and includes 89 girls and 62 boys.

The 13 participating independent schools are located in Yap, Pohnpei and Chuuk. Because Micronesian students often move within the FSM or stay with relatives to attend the school their family selects, the location of a school does not necessarily identify a scholar’s home state or island. This year’s recipients include a Kosraean student attending school in Chuuk, as well as outer island students attending

schools across all three participating states.

The new awards build on strong results from the students who completed high school last year. All 11 Habele scholars who graduated in 2025–26 are headed to college, and three graduated as valedictorians of their respective high school classes.

“Habele serves students from across Micronesia, and this scholarship class reflects that national reach,” said Neil Mellen, Habele’s founder and executive director. “The students come from all four states and from outer islands across three states. Families choose the schools, students do the work, and Habele’s donors provide practical people-to-people support that helps their effort carry farther.”

Habele scholarships are paid directly to schools. Each grant is set below the full cost of tuition so families remain invested in the student’s education while receiving meaningful help with the expense. Scholars submit report cards, letters and photographs throughout

the year, and returning students earn renewal through continued effort and regular reporting.

Participating schools in Yap are Faith Christian Academy, Saint Mary’s Catholic School, Yap Catholic High School, Yap International Christian School and Yap Seventh-day Adventist School. Pohnpei schools are Calvary Christian Academy, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, Pohnpei Catholic School and Pohnpei Seventh-day Adventist School. Chuuk schools are Chuuk Seventh-day Adventist School, Saint Cecilia School, Saramen Chuuk Academy and Xavier High School.

The scholarships are funded by individual donors, many of whom have longstanding personal ties to particular islands and communities. Habele welcomes former Peace Corps Volunteers, Micronesians living abroad, educators and other friends of every FSM state to help extend these opportunities to more students throughout the country.

Established in 2006 by former Peace Corps Volunteers, Habele is a US nonprofit serving students, schools and community institutions across Micronesia. In addition to tuition scholarships, Habele provides books for young children and school libraries, supports traditional carving and weaving instruction, and assists locally led educational and cultural projects.

Learn more at <https://habele.org>.



One year on from the ICJ Climate Ruling: The Pacific, the World Court, and the road ahead

Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change

Exactly one year ago, the International Court of Justice, the world's highest court, delivered its landmark Advisory Opinion on climate change - a historic milestone that reshaped the global conversation on climate justice. This achievement was a victory for international law and also a testament to the transformative power of Pacific leadership, in particular of its youth.

What began as an idea championed by twenty seven Pacific law students grew into a global movement because young people have worked hand in hand with governments, civil society organisations, stakeholders and countless allies who believed that climate justice could be pursued through international law. Together, they demonstrated that when youth are meaningfully engaged as partners in decision making, they can help drive change at the highest levels of global governance.

The journey to The Hague was long-fought and it was Pacific-led from the very beginning. The question posed by the young law students - could the world's highest court rule on climate obligations? - essentially turned into more than just a student-led initiative. It became a Pacific-wide movement and was later carried forward by Vanuatu and other Pacific nations who championed the call for an advisory opinion at the United Nations General Assembly and staunchly stood behind it until it reached the doors of the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Since the landmark climate ruling, the Pacific has continued to lead the way, this time, to call for the Advisory Opinion's implementation. In the last year alone, the Advisory Opinion has been cited in court cases around the world and used as legal grounds to increase pressure on fossil fuel companies, drilling companies, and more. It is an authoritative confirmation that states have legally binding obligations to prevent further climate harm and to protect our shared climate system. The obligations outlined in the Opinion are not aspirational goals, they are grounded in firm existing commitments and law and are



states must act to uphold.

"The ICJ used scientific findings which were very clear that climate change is dangerous, that there is not much time left, and there's all these irreversible harms that have already occurred," said Alofi po So'oalo Fleur Ramsay, International Indigenous and Human Rights Lawyer, at PISFCC's Webinar to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Advisory Opinion. "We need the most progressive interpretation of this ruling — and of the climate litigation still ahead — so the Advisory Opinion is not undermined."

In May 2026, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a follow-up resolution to operationalise the Advisory Opinion — once again, spearheaded by Vanuatu and Pacific partners. With the resolution in place, we now look ahead to transform climate law into real, tangible action.

"The Advisory Opinion was about unity, not individual agendas. It was about a collective. It proved that when a movement is anchored in unity, humility, and peace, and shared survival, no tide could turn it back" said Shiva Gounden, Head of Pacific at Greenpeace Australia Pacific. "The Court affirmed what frontline communities had been pushing for, that the destruction of our climate is not just a natural tragedy, it is a profound and actionable injustice. The law and the science are finally standing on the same ground...and the landslide vote for the UNGA resolution shows political will is finally catching up."

"One year on, the Advisory Opinion is not just any ordinary document, it is a living instrument that has the power to protect our climate for us now, and for the generations to come," said Vishal Prasad, Director at Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change. "Our journey started far in a small classroom at the University of the South Pacific. Since those moments, we have watched this movement for climate justice evolve and take steps into the International Court of Justice, into courtrooms around the world, to negotiating spaces, and to communities all over. Opportunities like these are all thanks to law finally catching up to science and to the lived realities of our people and the work of all our friends and allies who continue to stand beside us. Our work now is to make sure we keep up the momentum and start implementing."

While we celebrate the Advisory's Opinion first anniversary, we understand that states' legal obligations do not expire with the anniversary of the ruling and that with every new year, obligations must sharpen with greater action and accountability.

"The Advisory Opinion is now an overlay on how the line is held — on science, on ambition, on 1.5°C. When Pacific Islands and our allies show up now, they show up with a different kind of strength behind them," said Dr. Sindra Sharma, International Policy Lead at PICAN.

"There is no exit ramp. A state cannot negotiate its way out of a legal obligation by weakening a COP text," added Dr. Sivendra Michael, Permanent Secretary for Fiji's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. "Our message is [simple: move from ambition to implementation, not language that lets you evade responsibility.] The Pacific will not accept another decade of [climate inaction.]"

PISFCC, alongside Pacific youth from all over, civil society organisations, and partners, will continue to utilise the Advisory Opinion as it was intended, as a tool for accountability not just in courtrooms but at the UNFCCC, at negotiating spaces and convenings, and in every space where the future of the Pacific and the planet is being decided. The voyage that started with the twenty-seven young law students from the University of the South Pacific continues to traverse our vast oceans, carrying with it a movement that has not and will never slow down.

backed by extensive technical and scientific evidence. The Opinion goes beyond confirming States' legal obligations, it also affirms that breaches carry real legal consequences and reparations, meaning states that fail to act can be held legally accountable

for their inaction to protect the climate. The Opinion also affirms that 1.5°C is the legally recognised temperature limit that



Pacific unity key to climate agenda ahead of COP31, Solomon Islands minister says

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlle Press

July 21, 2026

Sydney, Australia — Pacific Islands Forum nations must strengthen regional cooperation and make the most of upcoming international meetings to advance their shared climate priorities as preparations intensify for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), Solomon Islands Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology Wayne Ghemu said Tuesday.

Speaking on behalf of Pacific Islands Forum Chair and Solomon Islands Prime Minister Matthew Wale at a Ministerial Talanoa in Sydney, Ghemu said Pacific leaders face mounting global political and economic uncertainty while continuing to confront what he described as the existential threat of climate change to the region's people and communities.

The meeting brought together Pacific leaders and ministers, including Kiribati President Taneti Maamau, Niue Prime Minister Dalton Tagelagi, Australian Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen, representatives of regional organizations and United Nations officials.

Ghemu thanked Australia for hosting the meeting and acknowledged the work of the COP31 Senior Officials Taskforce and Secretariat in advancing the Pacific Partnership established to coordinate the region's preparations for the climate negotiations.

A central theme of the minister's address was the importance of maintaining Pacific unity as international institutions face increasing strain.

Ghemu said that although global consensus on major issues has become more difficult to achieve, Pacific nations have demonstrated through the Pacific Islands Forum and the COP31 Pacific Partnership that they are more influential when speaking collectively. He said regional cooperation strengthens the Pacific's negotiating position and enables member countries to pursue solutions that would be difficult to achieve individually.

At the same time, he said regional initiatives must remain rooted in the priorities of individual countries rather than replacing them. According



to Ghemu, the region's collective strength comes from the aspirations and needs of its individual members, with regional cooperation serving to expand opportunities, attract greater investment and increase the impact of shared initiatives.

Looking ahead, Ghemu noted that fewer than 100 days remain before the Pre-COP meeting, describing the period as critical for advancing Pacific priorities. He identified several upcoming events—including the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Palau, the United Nations General Assembly and COP31 itself—as important opportunities for Pacific countries to promote positions already endorsed through the regional partnership.

He urged Forum members to maximize every diplomatic opportunity available, whether acting collectively or through bilateral engagement with international partners, to ensure the Pacific's priorities remain visible on the global climate agenda.

Ghemu also called for broader public participation in climate action, saying vulnerable communities, civil society organizations and young people should be included more directly in the region's climate efforts.

He said addressing climate change should not be limited to governments or a small group of decision-makers and encouraged participants to build genuine partnerships capable of driving meaningful change.

Concluding his remarks, Ghemu encouraged ministers attending the Sydney meeting to engage openly and constructively as they continue implementing the mandate given by Pacific Islands Forum leaders through the COP31 Pacific Partnership.

...World Obesity Federation

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serving as Director-General of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Commissioner on the World Health Organization's Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity.

Sir Collin said obesity represents one of the most pressing public health challenges of our time.

"Obesity and its related health conditions have a profound impact on individuals, families and communities around the world. Addressing this challenge requires evidence-based approaches, stronger health systems and policies that promote equity and

wellbeing."

"As President-Elect, I look forward to working alongside colleagues from across the globe to strengthen prevention efforts, improve access to effective care, and ensure the voices and experiences of people living with obesity are at the centre of our decision-making."

The World Obesity Federation works with organisations, researchers, clinicians and policymakers worldwide to advance solutions that improve health outcomes and reduce the growing burden of obesity and related non-communicable diseases.

Sir Collin's appointment reflects his longstanding commitment to reducing health inequities, particularly for Pacific peoples and other populations disproportionately affected by chronic disease.

Pacific Island countries are among the countries with the highest prevalence of obesity globally, with obesity driven by changing diets, climate change, food insecurity, urbanisation, reduced physical activity and growing pressures on local food systems. It is a leading risk factor for diabetes, heart disease and other non-communicable diseases across the region.

Sir Collin said his work at the University of Auckland's Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa had reinforced the importance of collaboration in addressing complex health challenges.

"Many of the factors driving obesity are linked to wider social, economic and environmental conditions. Lasting progress depends on partnerships across sectors, countries and communities to create healthier environments and improve opportunities for good health."

As President-Elect, he will work closely with the Federation's Executive Board and Secretariat to help guide its strategic direction and strengthen global leadership in obesity prevention, treatment, education and advocacy.

The Federation's new leadership team includes President Professor Bruno Halpern and Past President Dr Simón Barquera. Together, they will support global efforts to recognise obesity as a complex, chronic disease while advocating for equitable access to evidence-based prevention and care.

Sir Collin's appointment represents a major international leadership role for a New Zealand public health expert and further strengthens the University of Auckland's contribution to addressing global health challenges.