

FSM Independent Prosecutor resigns, court cases remain pending

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 8, 2026

PALIKIR, Pohnpei — The resignation of Lucas Cupps as the FSM's first Independent Prosecutor has triggered a process requiring the judiciary to appoint an Acting Independent Prosecutor within 180 days, even as questions have arisen over whether two pending Supreme Court cases involving Cupps and the newly created office should continue.

Cupps resigned effective July 31, the same day FSM Supreme Court Associate Justice Chang B. William issued a ruling finding that Cupps was constitutionally required to take an oath of office, that the oath he took while in the United States was invalid, and that the "de facto officer" doctrine could not be used under the circumstances to validate his exercise of the office.

The ruling followed a July 29 consolidated hearing involving two cases: Cupps v. Nakanaga et al., Civil Action 2026-004, and Mori v. Cupps, Civil Action 2026-005. The court said separate declaratory judgments would be issued in the cases and ordered additional briefing on whether further proceedings were necessary.

Cupps' resignation has now added another issue for the court to consider.

An FSM Department of Justice official told The Kaselehlie Press that under the constitutional amendment establishing the Independent Prosecutor, Cupps' resignation requires the judiciary to appoint an Acting Independent Prosecutor.

The official said the continuing vacancy in the position of FSM Supreme Court Chief Justice does not prevent that process from occurring. Associate Justices serving in an

acting capacity as Chief Justice have the authority to carry out that responsibility, he said.

That interpretation is also reflected in two notices Cupps' attorney, Salomon Saimon, filed with the Supreme Court following the resignation.

In Cupps v. Nakanaga et al., Saimon notified the court that Cupps resigned July 31 but argued that the concerns raised in the complaint remain unresolved regardless of who serves as Independent Prosecutor. His filing says the Acting Chief Justice has 180 days to appoint an Acting Independent Prosecutor and asks the court for guidance on further scheduling, including the possibility of proceeding with discovery.

In Mori v. Cupps, Saimon similarly informed the court of the resignation and said he would remain counsel of



record without payment until an Acting Independent Prosecutor is appointed. He wrote that the new officeholder could then decide whether to retain him and how to proceed. Saimon expressed his own opinion that the legal questions raised in

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Ioannis challenges rejection of candidacy for 2027 FSM Congress election

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 3, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — Bellarmine Saimon Ioannis has asked the FSM Supreme Court to overturn National Election Director Ausen Lambert's decision rejecting his candidacy for Pohnpei's four-year at-large seat in the March 2027 FSM Congressional election, setting up a court test of a recently added constitutional residency requirement for members of Congress.

Ioannis, represented by attorney Salomon Saimon, filed a petition for declaratory and injunctive relief in the FSM Supreme Court Trial Division in Pohnpei on August 2. He also filed an application for a

temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction seeking to prevent specimen and final ballots from being printed without his name while the dispute remains before the court.

The dispute centers on an amendment to Article IX, Section 9 of the FSM Constitution approved by voters in July 2023. Among the qualifications for membership in Congress, the amended provision requires a candidate to have been residing in the FSM for at least five years.

Lambert rejected Ioannis' nomination petition on July 29 after concluding that Ioannis did not satisfy that requirement. According to Lambert's letter, immigration records showed that Ioannis' entry

into the FSM was in November 2025, and that he therefore had been physically living in the country for less than a year.

"Your candidacy meets all the qualification requirements except one," Lambert wrote, saying Ioannis did not meet the five-year residency requirement and therefore could not be placed on the official ballot for the March 2, 2027 Congressional General Election.

Ioannis disputes both the interpretation of residency underlying that decision and the manner in which the five-year requirement is being applied.

According to his petition, Ioannis was born in Pohnpei on May 4,

1962, and lived in Kitti until leaving for high school in Weno, Chuuk. He attended college in the United States from 1981 to 1985, returned to the FSM for volunteer work in Chuuk, and later worked for the Pohnpei Supreme Court and FSM National Government.

The petition says Ioannis subsequently worked in the United States from 2000 until 2024 while serving with the United Nations. During that period, according to the filing, he lived under a UN G-4 visa rather than under the Compact of Free Association and was not a legal resident of the United States. Ioannis says he returned to Pohnpei every year for at least a month to reconnect

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President Simina signs priority legislation passed by the Twenty-Fourth Congress

FSM Information Services

August 7, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei - His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, has completed action on legislation transmitted by the Twenty-Fourth Congress following its Third Special Session, signing into law a number of measures supporting infrastructure development, social programs, emergency assistance, and community-based projects throughout the Federated States of Micronesia. President Simina also vetoed several measures after careful review and consideration of recommendations from relevant departments.

During the session, the President signed numerous congressional acts into law, including supplemental appropriations and amendments to previously enacted public laws that reallocate funding to priority projects across the Federated States of Micronesia.

"The measures approved during this 3rd special session of the 24th Congress reflects our shared commitment to strengthening

communities, supporting critical infrastructure, and ensuring that national resources are directed toward the priorities of our people," President Simina said.

Among the key measures approved was Congressional Act 24-104 (CB 24-182), enacted as Public Law 24-98, which provides \$3.2 million in supplemental funding from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2026. The President also signed Congressional Act 24-114 (CB 24-174 CD1), enacted as Public Law 24-99, appropriating \$100,000 in support of relief and rehabilitation efforts following the devastating fire on Ebeye in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Additional measures signed into law include:

- CA 24-105 (PL 24-107), changing the use and allotment of previously appropriated funds for public projects and social programs in Pohnpei State;
- CA 24-106 (PL 24-106), amending funding allocations and extending lapse dates for public projects in Pohnpei and Yap;
- CA 24-107 (PL 24-100), supporting infrastructure and community projects in Pohnpei;
- CA 24-108 (PL 24-105), reallocating funds for priority infrastructure projects and community programs in Pohnpei;
- CA 24-109 (PL 24-108), changing the use of funds for public projects and social programs benefiting the people of Pohnpei;
- CA 24-110 (PL 24-111), changing the use and allottee of previously appropriated funds for public projects and social programs in the State of Pohnpei;

- CA 24-111 (PL 24-101), supporting essential government functions, programs, and activities in Pohnpei;
- CA 24-112 (PL 24-102), funding public projects and social programs across Yap State;
- CA 24-113 (PL 24-110), appropriating \$2.1 million for public projects and social programs in Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk;
- CA 24-115 (PL 24-109), supporting infrastructure and development projects in Kosrae;
- CA 24-117 (PL 24-103), reallocating funding for transportation-related costs in Pohnpei;
- CA 24-118 (PL 24-104), supporting road improvement projects and related infrastructure in Pohnpei;

The President also exercised his constitutional veto authority on several measures. CA 24-119 (CB 24-157), which sought to amend provisions relating to presidential decrees and emergency authority, was vetoed on July 31, 2026. CA 24-103 (CB 24-149), concerning housing stipends for exempt employees, was likewise vetoed on July 31, 2026. In addition, CA 24-116 (CB 24-168) was vetoed due to insufficient available funding.

In addition to legislative action, Congress adopted several resolutions during the session, including approval of grants from international and U.S. partners for health, education, child protection, water and sanitation, and emergency preparedness programs. Congress also ratified the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Resilience Facility Treaty.

President Simina expressed his appreciation to the Twenty-Fourth Congress for their continued collaboration in advancing programs and projects that improve the lives of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia. He reaffirmed the Simina-Palik Administration's commitment to continued engagement with the Twenty-Fourth Congress, guided by mutual respect and a shared responsibility to advance the nation's priorities.



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Managing Editor**

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Monday, August 24, 2026

Japan gives Sokehs new muscle for road maintenance

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 10, 2026

Sokehs, Pohnpei — The Government of Japan today formally handed over an excavator and road maintenance tools to Sokehs Municipal Government, equipment intended to help the municipality maintain secondary roads and improve access to schools, health care, markets and other services for approximately 6,600 residents.

Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs HORII Iwao represented the Japanese government at the handover ceremony at the Sokehs Municipal Government during a brief visit to Pohnpei that also included meetings with FSM government officials.

The equipment was provided through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects program and consists of an excavator and a set of tools for road repair and maintenance.

According to information provided in advance of the ceremony by the Embassy of Japan to the FSM, the equipment will be used to repair and maintain roads throughout Sokehs, including secondary coral roads. The Embassy said improved road maintenance is expected to provide



residents with safer year-round access to schools, health facilities and markets, while also improving access for emergency vehicles.

Sokehs Chief Magistrate Stanley R. Ernest thanked Japan for the donation on behalf of the municipal government and the people of Sokehs, describing the equipment as representing more than its practical value.

"This isn't just a new piece of machinery, but a major upgrade for our international cooperation," Ernest said.

He thanked Japan for what he described as its generosity, trust and continued partnership with Sokehs and assured Japanese officials that the excavator would be used responsibly in service to the community.

Pohnpei Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick also spoke at the ceremony, describing the donation in the context of the longstanding relationship between Pohnpei and Japan.

"This piece of machinery may not seem much, but it represents the strength of our people," Movick said. "It represents something bigger, our continued partnership, our continued collaboration, and the enduring friendship that we have had for a long time."

She expressed Pohnpei's gratitude for Japan's continued friendship and said she hoped the relationship would continue into the future.

HORII said he was honored to participate in the ceremony on behalf of the Japanese government and thanked Sokehs Municipal Government and those involved in bringing the project to completion.

He said Japan provided the excavator and maintenance equipment under its grassroots human security assistance program to help maintain roads that are essential to the daily lives of Sokehs residents.

"This equipment will maintain the quality of roads that are essential to the daily lives of the people of Sokehs thereby enhancing the convenience and the quality of life of local residents," HORII said.

He said Japan's approach to human security is intended to improve living standards and the welfare of people through projects with direct effects on communities.

HORII said he hoped improved road conditions would make daily travel easier, facilitate transportation of goods and provide better access to health care and education.

"This enhanced accessibility and connectivity will also contribute to boosting

economic activities," he said.

The State Minister placed the Sokehs project within the broader relationship between Japan and the FSM, saying the two countries are "precious friends connected by Pacific Ocean."

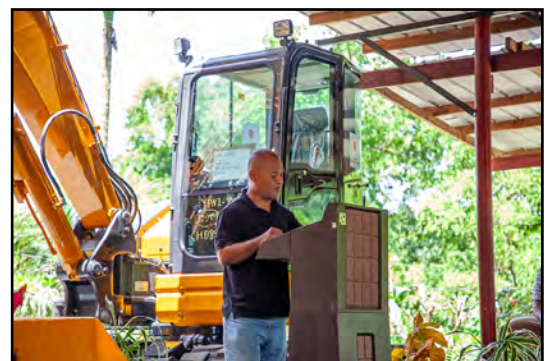
He said Japan and the FSM have a history of exchange spanning more than 150 years and described the Sokehs ceremony as one of many symbols of the relationship between the two countries.

HORII also looked ahead to the 11th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, which Japan will host next year and which will bring together leaders from Pacific Island countries, including the FSM.

He said Japan intends to continue working with the FSM to address issues facing the country and contribute to its prosperity.

"I sincerely hope that the friendly relations between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia will continue to grow ever stronger in the future," HORII said.

For Sokehs, however, the immediate result of that relationship is considerably more tangible: heavy equipment that municipal officials can put to work maintaining the roads residents depend on each day.



...Congress election challenge

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with family, fulfill traditional obligations and participate in community life. He says he returned permanently in November 2024 and has continuously resided in Pohnpei since then.

Ioannis filed his nomination petition on June 23 for the four-year Pohnpei congressional seat. Lambert rejected it July 29.

The Election Director's decision followed a May 19 legal opinion from FSM Department of Justice Secretary Leonito Bacalando Jr., issued in response to Lambert's request for advice concerning the new constitutional residency requirement.

The Justice Department concluded that a citizen living abroad does not satisfy the requirement. Its opinion said the Constitutional Convention intended candidates for Congress to "live in the FSM" for

the required period and interpreted the five-year residency requirement as consecutive and immediately preceding candidacy.

The opinion also distinguished FSM citizens living elsewhere within the FSM from those living overseas. It cited the Constitutional Convention committee report as recognizing that someone from Kosrae who moves to Pohnpei to work for the national government could retain residency in the person's home state for purposes of seeking that state's congressional seat. However, DOJ concluded that the committee report did not similarly recognize people living abroad as eligible.

Ioannis argues that approach equates residency with physical presence and fails to consider FSM and Pohnpei laws concerning legal residence and domicile.

His filing points to FSM election law defining a "resident" by reference to the laws of the state in which a person is registered or seeks to register to vote. It also cites Pohnpei law and previous FSM court decisions distinguishing

legal residence or domicile from a person's current physical location.

Among the cases cited is Chuuk Health Care Plan v. Pacific International, Inc., in which the court discussed the distinction between legal and actual residence, and In re Mix, which similarly recognized that legal residence generally refers to domicile or permanent abode while actual residence can refer to a person's current physical location.

Ioannis argues that his annual returns to Pohnpei, family residence, land ownership and voter registration should have been considered in determining whether Pohnpei remained his domicile while he worked overseas. Those assertions are Ioannis' arguments and have not yet been decided by the court.

His lawsuit raises a second and potentially separate question: whether the five-year residency provision approved in 2023 may be applied to periods before the constitutional amendment took effect.

Ioannis argues that doing so gives the amendment an impermissible retroactive effect. Under his interpretation, the government could begin counting the new five-year constitutional period only from July 2023, meaning no candidate could yet have accumulated five years of disqualifying residency under the new provision.

His filing cites the FSM Supreme Court Appellate Division decision in Heirs of Henry v. Heirs of Akinaga for the proposition that constitutional rights generally operate prospectively rather than retroactively. It also cites a 1993 Chuuk State Supreme Court decision involving candidate qualifications in support of his argument against retroactive application of a newly adopted constitutional restriction.

The court therefore is being asked to address two related but distinct issues: what "residing in the FSM" means under the amended Constitution and whether the five-year requirement may include periods before voters approved the amendment in July 2023.

Ioannis is asking the court to declare that Lambert improperly rejected

his nomination petition and that he satisfies the applicable residency requirements. He also seeks a permanent injunction preventing the government from applying the constitutional amendment in the manner challenged in the lawsuit, along with attorney's fees and other relief the court considers appropriate.

The separate request for immediate injunctive relief focuses on the approaching election timetable.

Ioannis says he has already spent tens of thousands of dollars campaigning and argues that excluding his name when specimen and official ballots are printed could cause harm that could not later be adequately corrected. His attorney has therefore asked the court either to halt ballot printing pending resolution of the case or to expedite proceedings so that the underlying dispute can be decided before the relevant election deadlines.

The motion invokes Rule 65 of the FSM Rules of Civil Procedure and argues that Ioannis meets the factors courts consider when deciding whether to grant preliminary injunctive relief, including likelihood of success on the merits, potential irreparable injury, the balance of possible harm to the parties and the public interest. The filing also asks the court to consider combining the preliminary injunction hearing with an expedited trial on the merits.

The FSM Supreme Court issued summonses to Lambert and the FSM Government, requiring answers to the petition within 20 days of service.

As of the documents provided to The Kaselehlle Press, the court has not ruled on Ioannis' request for a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction, nor has it decided whether Lambert's interpretation of the five-year residency requirement was correct.

The case is Bellarmine Saimon Ioannis v. Ausen Lambert, Election Director, Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, FSM Supreme Court Civil Action No. 2026-027.

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...Independent Prosecutor

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the complaint still need to be decided by the court.

The filings therefore do not establish that the litigation will continue. Once appointed, an Acting Independent Prosecutor could decide whether to pursue the case Cupps brought against Secretary of Finance and Administration Rose Nakanaga and other national government officials.

The Department of Justice official told The Kaselehlie Press that Cupps' resignation has also renewed questions of mootness—whether an actual controversy remains for the court to decide now that Cupps no longer occupies the office.

The court has not yet ruled on that question.

The uncertainty is the latest development in a series of disputes surrounding the FSM's first attempt to put into operation the Office of the Independent Prosecutor, an office created through amendment of the FSM Constitution.

The amendment, originating with the Fourth FSM Constitutional Convention and subsequently approved by voters, established an Independent Prosecutor and created procedures for filling the office. President Wesley Simina nominated Cupps, and FSM Congress subsequently confirmed him.

The constitutional provisions also establish an alternative appointment process under circumstances in which the President does not make a required nomination. That process assigns a role to the Chief Justice. The FSM has been without a permanent Chief Justice for some time, but according to the Department of Justice official, an Associate Justice acting as Chief Justice possesses the same authority for purposes of appointing an Acting Independent Prosecutor following a vacancy.

Cupps' nomination and congressional confirmation were not the source of the dispute that eventually reached the Supreme Court.

Instead, difficulties arose over funding

for the newly created office and how an Independent Prosecutor could comply with national government financial accountability requirements without compromising the confidentiality and independence of criminal investigations.

FSM Congress appropriated \$250,000 for the Office of the Independent Prosecutor. The Department of Finance and Administration, however, required the office to comply with the FSM Financial Accountability Standards before releasing those funds.

Those requirements included submission of Project Control Documents for funding requests.

Cupps argued that applying the normal financial procedures to an independent criminal prosecutor could compromise the very independence the constitutional amendment was intended to establish. He maintained that providing information about expenditures associated with investigations could reveal to officials in other branches of government whom his office was investigating and what it was investigating, potentially providing opportunities to interfere with those investigations.

Cupps instead sought release of the office's entire \$250,000 appropriation into an imprest account under his control. He proposed that a local FSM accounting firm account for the expenditure of those public funds, with reporting sufficiently general that financial accountability could be maintained without disclosing confidential investigative information.

The national government maintained that appropriated public funds could not be released without compliance with established financial accountability requirements.

The disagreement left the new office without access to its appropriated funding and eventually resulted in litigation involving Cupps, Nakanaga, President Simina and other national government officials.

Cupps also remained outside the FSM after his confirmation. He said he feared for his safety if he returned following his appointment as Independent Prosecutor.

As those disputes continued, a separate question emerged concerning whether Cupps had taken the oath constitutionally required before exercising the authority of the office.

The FSM Constitution requires public officials to take an oath to uphold, promote and support the Constitution and laws of the FSM upon assuming office.

Cupps argued that existing statutory oath provisions had not been amended to specifically include the newly created Independent Prosecutor and that legislation establishing the office did not separately prescribe an oath.

The Supreme Court rejected that argument.

William found that although the Independent Prosecutor is not specifically named in the existing oath statute, the prosecutor is nevertheless a public officer and the head of a national government office and therefore subject to the Constitution's mandatory oath requirement.

The court also found that the oath Cupps did take was invalid.

Cupps took the oath in the presence of a Kansas City notary public. The court found that the notary lacked authority under FSM law to administer an oath of office to an FSM official and that the oath was taken outside the territorial jurisdiction of the FSM. The court concluded that the oath was therefore a nullity.

The court further rejected application of the de facto officer doctrine, a legal principle that can under some circumstances preserve official actions taken by a person exercising the functions of an office despite a defect in that person's legal qualification to

hold it. William found that the doctrine could not overcome the absence of the constitutionally required oath.

Cupps' resignation on the day of the ruling has now shifted the immediate question from whether he could continue exercising the powers of Independent Prosecutor to what happens to the office—and the litigation—without him.

Saimon's notices ask the court to continue calendaring the cases while an Acting Independent Prosecutor is selected. In the Nakanaga case, he argues that the underlying concerns do not disappear merely because Cupps resigned.

But that is Saimon's position, not yet the court's determination.

The Acting Independent Prosecutor, once appointed, could also take a different view and decide not to continue the litigation Cupps initiated. Meanwhile, the court must determine whether Cupps' resignation has rendered any of the pending issues moot or whether legal questions concerning the office remain appropriate for judicial determination.

The result is that two questions now hang over an office that has yet to become fully operational: who will be appointed Acting Independent Prosecutor, and which, if any, of the legal battles begun during Cupps' tenure will survive his departure.

Those answers could play a significant role in determining how the constitutional office envisioned by FSM voters will function in practice.



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Naoero and FSM seal landmark air partnership, charting a bold new course for Pacific connectivity

The Government of Republic Naoero

August 11, 2026

Naoero - The governments of the Republic of Naoero and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Honolulu, 29 July, formally cementing a new era of commercial and financial cooperation between the two nations, anchored by strengthened air services on the Majuro-Pohnpei route.

The signing brings together two proud Pacific nations with a shared vision of closer connectivity, stronger trade, and greater opportunity for their people following the recent termination of the Australian North Pacific Connector.

Building on the momentum of existing Nauru Airlines services linking Naoero, Majuro and Pohnpei, the MOU establishes a framework for collaboration across commercial aviation, financial partnership, and route development, unlocking a pipeline of new commercial opportunities in trade, tourism, logistics and investment

across the wider Micronesian and Central Pacific region.

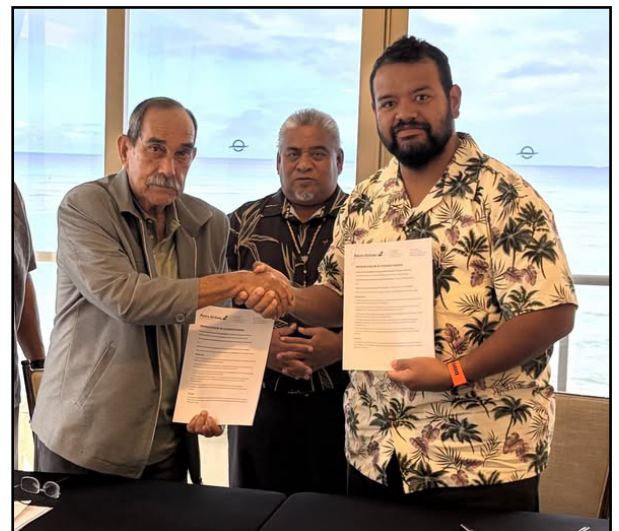
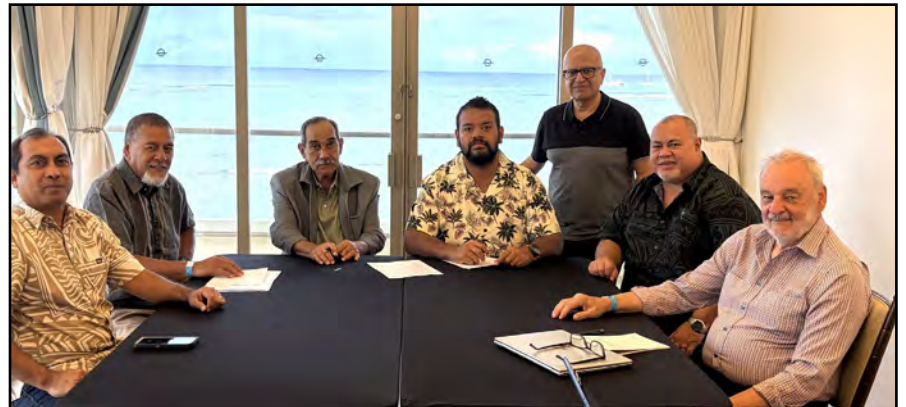
"Today we're not just signing an agreement — we're opening a new chapter for our people," Minister for Nauru Air Corporation Asterio Appi said.

"This MOU with the Federated States of Micronesia reflects exactly the kind of bold, forward-looking partnership Naoero is committed to. Stronger air links mean stronger trade, stronger families, and a stronger Pacific. We are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with FSM as we build the connections our region deserves."

Senator Peter Christian of the FSM Airline Task Force, echoes those sentiments.

"The Federated States of Micronesia has long understood that our future in the Pacific depends on how well we connect with our neighbours. This MOU with Naoero is a milestone moment — it's a vote of confidence in what our two nations can achieve together. Majuro and Pohnpei are more than points on a map; and today we've made those enhanced opportunities for generations to come."

Further announcements on route enhancements and investment initiatives will follow.



President Simina vetoes Congressional Acts No. 24-119 and No. 24-103

FSM Information Services

August 6, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — President Wesley W. Simina has vetoed legislation that would place new limits on presidential authority and emergency spending during declared emergencies, along with a separate measure that would establish monthly housing stipends for exempt employees of the FSM National Government.

Both measures have been returned to the 24th FSM Congress for further consideration.

The first, Congressional Act No. 24-119, would amend portions of Title 41 of the FSM Code dealing with emergency powers and presidential authority, including the use of emergency funding during a declared state of emergency.

Simina said the measure could restrict the Executive Branch's ability to respond quickly during major emergencies, mobilize resources and provide timely assistance to affected states and communities.

He also raised concerns about the separation of powers and about a proposed \$200,000 limit on emergency funding, saying the limit might not provide enough flexibility to respond effectively to a large-scale disaster requiring immediate national action.

The second vetoed measure, Congressional Act No. 24-103, would establish a monthly housing stipend for exempt employees of the National Government and exempt those employees from existing housing regulations.

Simina acknowledged the measure's intent to support government employees but said further consideration is needed because of concerns about its fiscal impact, implementation and equitable application across the public service.

In announcing the vetoes, the President said his decisions were part of his constitutional responsibility to review legislation before it becomes law and to ensure that enacted measures are consistent with the FSM Constitution and serve the country's long-term interests.

The Simina-Palik Administration said the President remains committed to working with Congress to address the concerns raised in his veto messages and develop legislation that serves the national interest.

Under Article IX, Section 22 of the FSM Constitution, the President has authority to veto legislation passed by Congress. Both measures have now been returned to the 24th FSM Congress for further consideration.

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Sixteen Indo-Pacific Maritime Forces commence 25th SEACAT exercise

Lt.Cmdr. Andrew Bertucci
U.S. Navy

August 4, 2026

Singapore – Maritime forces from 16 Indo-Pacific partner nations, including the U.S. Navy, and personnel from non-governmental and international organizations, kicked off the 25th iteration of Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) in Singapore Aug. 4, 2026.

SEACAT 2026 is a multilateral exercise designed to enhance maritime cooperation among the participating nations and to provide mutual support in addressing maritime crises, contingencies, and illicit activities. The exercise's shore phase in Singapore includes the newly integrated Maritime Operations (MAROPS) Forum, combining previous operations and intelligence workshops to enhance realism and collaboration, where participants will share best practices, refine integrated maritime processes, and prepare for the at-sea phase.

Concurrently, a revised Senior Leader Forum (SLF) engages senior military leaders from participating nations to share lessons learned on collective maritime challenges, improve understanding of integrated maritime operations, and participate in a capstone tabletop exercise alongside operational commanders and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operators.

“This year’s SEACAT marks a significant evolution in how we train and cooperate, highlighting the strength of the enduring partnerships we’ve built and our collective capability to work side-by-side in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific,” said Capt. Aaron Taylor, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific/Task Force 73. “By combining our operations and intelligence workshops into the new Maritime Operations Forum and enhancing our Senior Leader Forum, we are building a



highly integrated maritime team. This enables us to collectively address modern, complex threats, ranging from unmanned systems attacks to maritime sovereignty incursions, ensuring our partners remain ready to defend regional security, protect critical sea lanes, and uphold international law.”

During the SEACAT sea phase, participating nations will practice tracking and intercepting simulated vessels sailing through Southeast Asian waters. Participating nations will work to provide real-time sensor cueing and vessel contact information to partner Operational Centers (OPCENs), Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA), and surface assets. By exercising these complex scenarios in real time, which include critical regional challenges such as search and rescue, illegal fishing, contraband smuggling, and maritime sovereignty incursions,

SEACAT participants enhance their collective capacity to detect, deter, and counter modern maritime threats in accordance with international law.

SEACAT demonstrates shared commitments to maritime partnership, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific. The Sixteen nations participating in SEACAT 2026, includes Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, UK, Vietnam, and the United States.

7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

FSM backs Pacific-led fund for climate and disaster resilience

FSM Embassy in Fiji

August 3, 2026

Suva, Fiji – Mr. Ricky F. Cantero, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) arrived in Fiji on August 1, 2026 to attend the Forum Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting and associated events scheduled for August 3-7, 2026.

On the occasion of the visit, Secretary Cantero took the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on the Honorable Baron Waqa, Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, to

formally deposit the Federated States of Micronesia’s Instrument Ratification for the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) Treaty, on behalf of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The deposit of the Instrument of Ratification marks FSM's commitment to the Pacific Resilience Facility, a Pacific-led financing mechanism established to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island countries and communities through locally-driven investments in climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, and long-term sustainable development.

With the opportunity, Secretary Cantero reaffirmed the Federated States of Micronesia's steadfast commitment to Pacific regionalism and collective action, and underscored FSM's support for a stronger and more united Pacific at a time when regional cooperation is increasingly vital to addressing shared regional priorities.

The courtesy call was attended by His Excellency Carson Sigrav, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia



based in Fiji and First Secretary Rophino Roby.

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ABOUT THE FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY (FFA)

The information offered in this package is for information only and does not form part of the employment contract.

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) traces its origins to the South Pacific Forum meeting in Port Moresby in 1977 which adopted a Declaration on the Law of the Sea and the establishment of a regional fisheries agency and outlined its functions. In recent years FFA has been mandated to concentrate on the management and development of the tuna fishery in the Central and Western Pacific Ocean. The Agency is responsible for assisting its 17 members to coordinate sustainable tuna fishery management policies in their exclusive economic zone waters, and for promoting the development of their tuna fishery resources.

The 16 country members and 1 territory member of the FFA are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Under the 1979 FFA Convention, the FFA consists of the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) which is the governing body, and a Secretariat. The Secretariat, with a current establishment of approximately eighty-five positions, is organised into four divisions: Fisheries Management, Fisheries Development, Fisheries Operations, and Corporate Services. FFA is led by an executive management unit headed by the Director-General. In order to provide greater ministerial oversight of the fisheries sector the FFC Ministerial Meeting was established and was elevated to the highest policy making organ of the FFA.

Vision

Our people enjoying the greatest possible economic and social benefits from the sustainable utilisation of offshore fisheries resources.

Mission

Empowering FFA Members to take national and collective action to maximise the long-term economic and social value of their offshore fisheries resources.

The work of the Agency is delivered through programs that support Members with their challenges in: Fisheries Management, Fisheries Development, and Fisheries Operations.

The Fisheries Management program assists FFA members to refine and maintain effective policy and legal frameworks to support the sustainable management of their tuna fisheries resources. Appropriate technical services are also provided under this program to support regional and sub-regional fishery management.

The Fisheries Development program assists FFA members with long term social, economic and development planning for the fisheries sector, in response to the Forum Leaders' call to identify ways to ensure greater returns from the sustainable use of fisheries resources.

Fisheries Operations involves administration of the regional Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), development of regional compliance policy, training and capacity development, and coordination of multilateral compliance operations.

The core operations of the Agency are funded by member and donor contributions from Member Governments. The Agency also receives funding from a variety of non-member donors and from cost recovery for services.

FFA is an equal opportunity employer with professional staff currently employed from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the USA, with staff attachments from Japan and Australia.

Your Next Opportunity

As our next Director of Corporate Services, your key responsibility will be to lead the Corporate Services Division by providing oversight to the essential functions that support the Agency's strategic objectives. Reporting to the Deputy Director-General, you will implement policies and procedures that ensure the efficient and effective use of resources while also ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.

Your key responsibility areas will include:

- Leadership and effective management and coordination of the Corporate Services Division activities
- Agency business planning and Annual Work Program and Budget
- Policy and technical advice
- Oversee the management of all HR management and development functions
- Oversee the management of all functions
- Oversee the management of administration, property, facilities and contracts
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework
- Effectively contribute to the strategic and operational development of FFA as part of the Executive Team
- Higher Duties

What You'll Bring to the Team

To be considered for this position, you will hold a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Business, HR or Public Administration in a similar or relevant field, further post relevant graduate training or qualifications, as well as a minimum of ten years of senior executive leadership experience at the national level in public service, or operational experience in corporate and support services within an organisation of 100+ staff, regional or international organisations, or equivalent private sector experience.

You will also have an excellent awareness of fisheries issues and challenges in the region and knowledge of appropriate protocols for engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.

Our ideal candidate will have a strategic mindset, with highly developed communication skills that enable them to disseminate information to audiences with and without a technical skillset. An understanding of systems implementation and change management, as well as a familiarity with Organisation Performance Management Systems, will be critical to successfully performing this role.

Benefits on offer

The position attracts a competitive salary package based on current levels of experience and qualifications, of between USD \$99,066 - \$139,858 excluding COLDA, 7.5% superannuation, and Location Allowances - TAX-FREE for citizens of most countries!

You will also have all reasonable medical, dental, and optical expenses covered for yourself and any dependents you may have. Insurance coverage is also available for personal accidents, life, medical and repatriation.

If you have any dependent children, we will reimburse 75% of their tuition fees . If your dependent child is studying overseas, paid school travel may be available for you or your child to visit each other once a year.

Relocation expenses will be paid, with an establishment grant paid on arrival in Honiara. Accommodation assistance is also available, paying the majority of rental costs for a quality house.

Conditions apply to all allowances and benefits.

To apply for the position all candidates must submit the following to the email recruitment@ffa.int

1. Cover Letter addressed to the Manager Human Resources and Administration
2. Application Form
3. Curriculum Vitae



COM-FSM PRESIDENT APPOINTED AS ACCJC COMMISSIONER

On July 23, 2026, President and CEO of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), Dr. Mac Powell confirmed the appointment of Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono as an ACCJC Commissioner. Dr. Koroivulaono was nominated by the Pacific Post-Secondary Education Council (PPEC) to represent the US-affiliated, Pacific Islands' and the University of Hawaii community colleges.

Former PPEC representative, Dr. Rosevonne Pato ended her term as Commissioner on June 30, 2026. President of the University of Guam and Chair of PPEC, Dr. Anita B. Enriquez stated in her reply to President Powell, *"We are excited to have Dr. Koroivulaono embark on her tenure as PPEC representative with ACCJC and looking forward to fruitful engagements."*

In her response to the appointment, Dr. Koroivulaono stated, *"I am deeply humbled. I thank ACCJC for accepting my nomination and look forward to serving alongside highly qualified and experienced educators who are directly focused on student achievement."*



"Furthermore, Dr. Koroivulaono added, "My appointment would not have been possible without the support and confidence of my PPEC colleagues to whom I am deeply grateful. I am also keenly aware of the inordinately 'large shoes' Dr. Pato has left behind. She served with distinction and integrity, an exemplary colleague and passionate educator. I wish her well with her next journey and thank her for the unwavering commitment and dedication exemplified during her term as Commissioner."

Dr. Koroivulaono will serve as a Commissioner from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.

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The College of Micronesia-FSM Endowment Fund was established by the college and maintained for the purpose of generating income for the support of the future of the college. The fund was established in 1993 through a contribution of \$150,000 from the FSM Telecommunications Corporation.

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Advancing gender equality across Micronesia

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

August 5, 2026

Pohnpei - The 2026 Micronesia Ministers for Women Conference brought together leaders, policymakers and advocates from across the region to strengthen dialogue and collective action on shared gender priorities.

The conference provides an important platform for exchanging experiences, identifying solutions and advancing opportunities for women and girls across Micronesia.

"Women are custodians of culture and

tradition, carrying forward knowledge and values while helping guide future generations toward new opportunities," said Chargé d'Affaires Ms Sarah McCarthy.

"Women's knowledge, participation and leadership are essential to building stronger, more sustainable and prosperous communities across Micronesia," said President Simina

Australia is proud to support regional efforts that strengthen women's leadership, amplify their voices and advance a more inclusive future for all.



Tatiana Proskuryakova appointed World Bank Group Director for the North and South Pacific

World Bank Group

July 27, 2026

Suva - Tatiana Proskuryakova has been appointed World Bank Group (WBG) Division Director for the North and South Pacific, effective July, 2026. Ms. Proskuryakova will oversee the World Bank Group's engagement in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Naoero, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

"The Pacific is at the forefront of some of the world's most pressing challenges, but also has enormous opportunities," said Ms. Proskuryakova. "I look forward to working closely with our

government partners, the private sector, development partners and communities to help create jobs, build stronger economies and deliver lasting benefits for Pacific people."

Ms. Proskuryakova will oversee a portfolio of WBG support that is helping Pacific countries create jobs and strengthen resilience through better health services, digital connectivity, climate-resilient transport, and stronger financial systems. These investments, together with wider WBG budget support and knowledge products, across the North and South Pacific aim to improve services, open new economic opportunities and build a more resilient future for communities.

Ms. Proskuryakova previously served as the World Bank's Regional Director for Central Asia. She brings more than three decades of World Bank Group experience across Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.



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, 27 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.

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Four new members sworn in to the Pohnpei Sports Commission

Pohnpei Public Information

August 10, 2026

Pohnpei — August 10, 2026 — Four new members of the Pohnpei Sports Commission officially took their oaths of office on Friday, August 7, 2026, from Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick during a ceremony held at the Governor's Conference Room in Pei Lapalap.

Congratulations to the newly sworn-in commissioners representing their respective municipalities:

- Henderson Booth – Representing Sokehs
- Anderson Ponapart – Representing Nett
- Jerome Silbanuz – Representing Madolenihmw
- Toshio Akinaga – Representing Kolonia Town

The Pohnpei Sports Commission serves a vital role in directing athletic programming, supporting youth development, and promoting sports initiatives throughout the state. Adding these commissioners strengthens local representation and strategic leadership for the upcoming September 11 Liberation Day Games and sports development programs.



FSM Supreme Court issues mandate in Chuuk gubernatorial election appeal

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 3, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei - The FSM Supreme Court Appellate Division has formally returned the long-running Chuuk gubernatorial election appeal to the Chuuk State Supreme Court following its June decision dismissing the case for lack of jurisdiction.

In a mandate ordered July 29 and entered July 30, the FSM Supreme Court directed the Chuuk State Supreme Court Appellate Division to place the FSM court's June 23 dismissal on its docket and take any further action consistent with that ruling.

The mandate is the latest procedural development in the legal challenge brought by Mark Mailo and Joe

Enlet following Chuuk's March 2025 gubernatorial election. The case named the Chuuk State Election Commission, Governor Alexander Narruhn and Lieutenant Governor Mekioshy William as appellees.

The document recounts that the Chuuk State Supreme Court Appellate Division dismissed Civil Appeal No. 004-2025 on April 15, 2025, with the decision memorialized in writing on April 21. The state appellate court found that Mailo and Enlet's election complaint had not been properly filed and was therefore subject to dismissal.

Mailo and Enlet subsequently sought review by the FSM Supreme Court Appellate Division.

On June 23, the FSM Supreme Court granted a motion to dismiss that appeal,

finding that it lacked jurisdiction because the underlying election complaint had not been timely filed. The ruling did not decide the substantive allegations concerning the conduct or outcome of the election.

The new mandate does not reconsider or alter that June ruling. Instead, it formally communicates the appellate court's judgment to the Chuuk State Supreme Court and returns authority over any proceedings consistent with the ruling to the state court.

"Therefore, you are hereby commanded to cause such Order Granting Motion to Dismiss to show of record on your docket and you may take such other and further action as may be consistent with our order entered on June 23, 2026," the mandate says.

The mandate was signed by FSM Supreme Court Associate Justice Chang B. William, Yap Chief Justice Cyprian J. Manmaw sitting by special assignment, and Pohnpei Associate Justice Robert P. Nakasone, also sitting by special assignment. It was ordered July 29 and entered by the Clerk of Court the following day.

The litigation has been one part of an extended series of challenges arising from the 2025 Chuuk gubernatorial election. Narruhn and William were sworn in for their second terms on April 15, 2025.

The mandate closes the FSM Supreme Court appellate proceeding arising from the state appellate court's dismissal, while leaving the Chuuk State Supreme Court to take whatever further action, if any, is consistent with the June 23 order.

Humanitarian Warehouse site cleared and ready for the next step

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

July 28, 2026

Pohnpei - This week marks an important milestone for the Pacific Humanitarian Warehouse in Palikir, as Mr. Ben McMahon and Mr. Kyle Andrew from the Tetra Tech Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) team completes its site clearance work.

Over recent weeks, the team has been carefully surveying and clearing the area to ensure the site is safe and ready for construction. Their expertise and commitment to safety has been critical in preparing the ground for this important regional infrastructure project.

The Pacific Humanitarian Warehouse Program is a multi-donor partnership with the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM), and the Pacific Community (SPC).

"Australia is proud to be a part of this initiative that will strengthen disaster preparedness and humanitarian response efforts across the FSM and the wider Pacific region. We thank the Tetra Tech team for their commitment to ensuring the site in Palikir is safe and ready to commence construction," said Second Secretary Josh Critchley-Evans.





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PICRC engaged with Dmakeiukl women's group on MPA monitoring efforts

PICRC

July 29, 2026

Palau - The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) participated in the Dmakeiukl Women's Group meeting organized by The Nature Conservancy that was held at Ngatpang Community Center on April 2, 2026. The meeting brought together the community and conservation partners to discuss biodiversity and climate resilience within the four Dmakeiukl States of western Babeldaob.

During the meeting, PICRC presented on the monitoring efforts within the Protected Area Network Marine Protected Areas (PAN MPAs). The briefing provided the Dmakeiukl Women's Group with essential updates on what marine resources researchers are currently tracking to ensure the health and sustainability of Palau's vital marine resources.

The meeting was necessary because it provided an opportunity for a face-to-face discussion with the community groups within the Dmakeiukl States about ongoing scientific monitoring efforts. The members of the community also provided vital feedback that included traditional knowledge in survey design and results interpretation. The presentation included a series of guided questions on different marine resources presence and trends across years, and was targeted to identify ongoing aquaculture, seeding and restoration interventions operated by the community.

The Dmakeiukl Women's group were engaged in the conversation and shared their knowledge on ongoing sea cucumber seeding projects within Olterukl MPA, in Ngatpang State.

This collaborative engagement was made possible through the support and coordination of several key partner agencies dedicated to conservation in Micronesia. PICRC would like to recognize the Micronesia Challenge Trust, The Nature Conservancy and KIWA Project, for their partnership in facilitating these important community dialogues.

By creating opportunities for scientists and community groups to discuss marine resource monitoring, PICRC and its partners aim to strengthen local management of MPAs and foster a deeper connection between research and traditional stewardship.



Nauru officially changes name to Naoero

ABC Australia

July 3, 2026

Nauru - Nauru has officially changed its name to Naoero, the Micronesian nation's government has announced.

A constitutional amendment to rename the country passed parliament in May, following a proposal tabled by President David Adeang in January.

Mr Adeang said at the time that the name Nauru had been recognized internationally since the island's independence, the proposed change sought to "more faithfully honor our nation's heritage, our language, and our identity".

However, a national referendum was expected to follow to complete the constitutional procedures.

"The Republic of Naoero is the new official designation for what was previously known as Nauru. The abbreviated form will be Naoero, with the code updated to NRO, and the people will be referred to as dei-Naoero," the government said in a statement.

It added that Mr Adeang delivered his opening message to parliament on July 20 and addressed the decision to return the country to its traditional name, Naoero, "following extensive discussions".

"It is already the identity of the people, is on the national coat of arms, and spoken in the community; and importantly is allowed by the Constitution.



"While a referendum is intended to determine the will of the people, the name Naoero has never been lost, but rather waiting to be fully embraced."

The government said a bill to amend the constitution to allow the name change was tabled in January. It was followed by a layover period of 90 days and the unanimous vote in favour by the members of parliament.

Speaker Marcus Stephen certified the amendment on May 13 to enact the name change.

"International organisations and countries have formally been notified of the change and have begun making the transition," the government statement said.

"Naoero is the beginning of renewed national pride, and a new chapter founded on unity, responsibility, patriotism, better health, education, and sustainable development.

The United Nations said Nauru had informed it about changing its name to Republic of Naoero on June 26.

President Simina joins the people of Kitti for inaugural Kitti Memorial Day commemoration

FSM Information Services

July 27, 2026

Kitti, Pohnpei — President H.E. Wesley W. Simina and Madame First Lady Ancelly Simina joined the people of Kitti in commemorating Kitti Memorial Day, honoring the 179 men who were sent from Kitti to Kosrae during World War II and reaffirming the Federated States of Micronesia's enduring commitment to peace, unity and liberty.

Speaking before traditional leaders, community members, and the families of those remembered, President Simina said the annual observance is both a tribute to those whose sacrifices shaped Kitti's history and a reminder of the values that continue to unite the nation.

"Though born from a difficult chapter in our history, that journey reminds us how deeply connected our islands have always been," he said. "The histories of Pohnpei and Kosrae, like those of all our states, are intertwined. Our nation has long been bound together not only by geography, but also by our shared history and the resilience of our people."

President Simina noted that he was pleased to accept the personal invitation of the Luhkenmoanlap of Kitti to attend the commemoration, emphasizing that events preserving local history are of national importance.

"Because this day is important to Kitti - it is therefore important to the Federated States of Micronesia. Our communities, municipalities and villages all around our islands are rich with stories and history like the one we commemorate today".

The President reflected on the words enshrined in the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia: "Having known war, we hope for peace." He said the experiences of the 179 men, along with countless other Micronesians whose lives were shaped by World War II, remind the nation that peace must never be taken for granted.

"The hope expressed in our Constitution is a responsibility," President Simina said. He emphasized that preserving peace is a shared responsibility carried not only by governments, but also by traditional leaders, families, churches, educators, and every citizen who chooses unity over division.

Concluding his remarks, President Simina reaffirmed the nation's commitment to honoring the legacy of those remembered by building a future founded on peace, unity, and respect for the dignity of every person.

The Kitti Memorial Day observance serves as an enduring reminder of the sacrifices made by previous generations and reinforces the nation's shared commitment to ensuring that the lessons of history continue to guide the Federated States of Micronesia toward a peaceful and united future.



President Simina administers oath of office to Vincent M. Tafileluw, completing FSM Social Security Board membership

FSM Information Services

August 9, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, administered the oath of office to Vincent M. Tafileluw as Yap State's representative on the FSM Social Security Board during a ceremony held at the Office of the President on August 4, 2026.

Mr. Tafileluw's swearing-in completes the membership of the Social Security Board, with all members now in place to carry out the Board's responsibilities.

Mr. Tafileluw was renominated to continue serving as Yap State's representative on the Board, reflecting continued confidence in his service and experience. He currently works as a private contractor and consultant for the Woleai Atoll Development Authority and brings experience in public service and community development.

President Simina congratulated Mr. Tafileluw on his appointment

and encouraged him to carry out his responsibilities with integrity, professionalism, and a strong commitment to serving the people of Yap State and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Mr. Tafileluw expressed his appreciation for the confidence placed in him and pledged to do his best in carrying out his responsibilities and serving the people of Yap State and the Federated States of Micronesia.

President Simina also extended the Simina-Palik Administration's appreciation to the FSM Congress for its continued partnership and confirmation of Mr. Tafileluw's nomination. He emphasized the importance of cooperation between the Executive and Legislative branches in advancing the nation's priorities and maintaining effective government operations.

The Simina-Palik Administration welcomes Mr. Tafileluw to the FSM Social Security Board and looks forward to the Board's continued work

in strengthening the administration of the people of the Federated States of Social Security and serving the interests of Micronesia.



President Simina receives credentials of New Zealand Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia

FSM Information Services

July 28, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei - On July 22, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, formally received the credentials of His Excellency Stuart Horne, Ambassador of New Zealand to the Federated States of Micronesia, with residence in Honolulu, Hawaii, during a ceremony held at the Office of the President.

In his remarks, President Simina welcomed Ambassador Horne and conveyed the appreciation of the Government and people of the Federated States of Micronesia for New Zealand's continued friendship and cooperation as fellow members of the Pacific Family.

President Simina acknowledged New Zealand's contributions through development grants, educational

scholarships, and partnerships in advancing climate action. He noted that these areas of cooperation continue to support the development priorities of the FSM and strengthen relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Horne expressed his appreciation to President Simina for the warm welcome and reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to its friendship and cooperation with the Federated States of Micronesia. He further affirmed New Zealand's continued support for educational opportunities for students from the FSM through the New Zealand Scholarship program.

Ambassador Horne further highlighted New Zealand's support for the hydroponics project at the College of Micronesia-FSM as an example of practical cooperation in the areas of education, food security, and sustainable development.

During the courtesy call that followed the presentation of credentials, President Simina and Ambassador Horne discussed the shared challenges posed by climate change, recognizing the similar impacts experienced by Pacific Island countries. Their discussions also included preparations for the upcoming Pre-COP meetings and COP31, as well as opportunities for continued collaboration and coordinated advocacy on shared climate priorities.

President Simina and Ambassador Horne also exchanged views on the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Palau, the role of the Pacific Islands Forum in advancing regional priorities, and the Review of Regional Architecture (RRA), including its importance in ensuring

that regional institutions remain responsive to the needs and priorities of Pacific countries.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong and friendly relationship between the Federated States of Micronesia and New Zealand, founded on mutual respect, shared Pacific interests, and a common commitment to sustainable development and climate resilience.



Japanese students visit Pohnpei

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

the children.

August 5, 2026

Pohnpei - From July 30 to August 4, under the Children Exchange Program with Micronesian Islands, a delegation of 16 children from across Japan and 8 accompanying members, including the head of delegation, visited Pohnpei State of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). On the day of arrival, Ambassador Kagomiya welcomed the delegation and provided an overview of the FSM's history, culture, and natural environment. That evening, the Ambassador attended the welcome reception hosted by the Pohnpei State Government, offered welcoming remarks, and engaged with

At the farewell reception held prior to their return, the Ambassador encouraged the participants to value their experiences and apply them to future learning and growth. The children performed Japanese songs, including a joint performance with children from Pohnpei who had visited Japan in June.

During their stay, the group visited the World Heritage site of Nan Madol, engaged in nature-based activities, and gained life experience and cultural exchange through visits to Nahlap island and homestays.



Courtesy call by Chinese Ambassador Wu Wei on Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick to discuss multi-purpose gymnasium in Kitti

Pohnpei Public Information

August 6, 2026

Pei Lapalap, Pohnpei – Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick received a courtesy call from His Excellency Wu Wei, Chinese Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), to discuss plans for the construction of a new multi-purpose gymnasium in Kitti Municipality, Pohnpei State.

During the meeting, Ambassador Wu Wei and Acting Governor Movick exchanged views on how to advance a long-standing community priority for Kitti: the development of an indoor facility that can serve as both a sports venue and a community gathering space. The proposed gymnasium is envisioned as a multi-purpose facility that can accommodate basketball and other court sports, cultural events, and public meetings for the people of Kitti and surrounding communities.

Ambassador Wu Wei briefed Acting Governor Movick on preliminary concepts and funding parameters for the project, including options for:

- A simpler, cost-effective

gymnasium design similar to existing facilities in other municipalities; and

- A more comprehensive, modern multi-purpose facility, potentially including seating areas, sound systems, and other enhancements, depending on the final budget and design agreed by both sides.

Acting Governor Movick welcomed the proposal, stressing that Kitti is currently the only area in Pohnpei without such a multi-purpose indoor facility and noting that the project has been a long-held aspiration for the community. She expressed appreciation for China's willingness to explore support for the gymnasium and affirmed Pohnpei State's commitment to work closely with municipal leaders and other stakeholders to move the project forward.

As part of the next steps, Acting Governor Movick will:

- Consult with Kitti Municipal Government and traditional leaders to confirm community needs and priorities for the gymnasium's design and functions.
- Coordinate with relevant land and community authorities to secure



the proposed site and ensure proper land arrangements.

- Consolidate local requirements into a preliminary concept and sketch for the facility, to be shared with Ambassador Wu Wei and Chinese government counterparts in the coming weeks.

This consolidated plan will guide further technical discussions and enable the Government of the People's Republic of China to review the proposal in Beijing.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment



to working collaboratively to deliver a facility that will benefit youth, students, and the wider community in Kitti, and deepen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Pohnpei State and the People's Republic of China.

PICRC publishes New Climate-Smart Framework to strengthen coral reef restoration in the face of climate change

PICRC

July 31, 2026

Palau - The Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) is pleased to share its latest publication, The Climate-Smart Adaptive Management Framework for Coral Reef Restoration and Rehabilitation in Palau. The framework provides a practical blueprint for coral restoration as coral reefs face the growing impacts of climate change. It outlines science-based approaches to enhance coral adaptation to climate change threats, strengthen the resilience of communities that depend on healthy reef ecosystems, and support adaptive governance for reef restoration.

While Palau's coral reefs have historically demonstrated remarkable resilience, climate projections indicate that by 2030, extreme marine heatwaves are expected to occur more frequently



and with greater intensity in the Pacific. These events are likely to disrupt the natural recovery of reef ecosystems, making proactive management increasingly important.

The framework adopts a climate-smart, adaptive management approach built on the principle of "learning by doing." It integrates climate projections with ecosystem management, community resilience, and flexible governance, providing restoration practitioners with a structured process for planning, implementing, monitoring, and adapting restoration efforts as environmental conditions change.

"After extensive community meetings, consultation sessions with multiple reef stakeholders, the valuable contributions of numerous partners, especially the Palauan Governors Association and with strong scientific support of researchers from Newcastle University, we are delighted to release this framework to the public," said PICRC's CEO, Roxanne Blessam. "As climate pressures intensify, the climate-smart approaches laid out in this framework are essential for safeguarding reef ecosystems, livelihoods, and ocean governance."

Designed to be practical and accessible, this framework can be used by a range of stakeholders, from decision-makers and reef managers to restoration practitioners and community members, to guide climate-resilient reef conservation and restoration efforts.

"Palau is in the unique position of being able to take pre-emptive steps to

develop climate smart reef restoration strategies," stated Dr. James Guest, principal investigator of the Coralassist Lab of Newcastle University. "This framework uses the most up-to-date science on coral adaptation and restoration to propose a pathway for managing Palau's reefs in the face of warming oceans. We anticipate that the guidelines presented in the framework will also be relevant to reefs and communities across the region."

This project was funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation through the Resilient Reefs Initiative, PICRC, The Nature Conservancy, and Newcastle University. The Resilient Reefs Initiative is a collaboration between the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, UNESCO, The Nature Conservancy's Reef Resilience Network, Columbia University's Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes, Resilient Cities Catalyst, and AECOM, and is enabled by the BHP Foundation.

Opinion Editorial

The spikes and lags that draw out energy shocks in the Pacific

By Kanni Wignaraja and Munkhtuya Altangerel

When conflict in the Middle East disrupts global fuel markets, the shock reaches the Pacific late, and it does not leave quickly. Fuel and food prices rise once the disruption catches up with the region, and then stay elevated long after the initial shock has passed elsewhere.

Outside Australia and New Zealand, oil accounts for around 80 percent of the region's total energy supply, and almost all of it is imported. Most of that fuel reaches Pacific shores after it has passed through refineries in East Asia, which themselves depend heavily on crude shipped through the Strait of Hormuz. That causes a supply lag, but not a price lag.

A shock at the source travels through a chokepoint, a refinery, and a shipping route before it reaches a fuel depot in Nuku'alofa or Tarawa, and by the time it does, the anticipation of future stock-outs already has fuel prices rising. And when new supplies do reach these islands, the rest of the world's attention has often already moved on to the next story.

In April, Pacific Islands Forum leaders invoked the Biketawa Declaration, the region's highest-level crisis response mechanism. This was first established in 2000 to handle security emergencies, not energy shocks. Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands declared energy emergencies of their own. Several countries, including Solomon Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Vanuatu, the Cook Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, passed a series of national response measures.

By May, Forum Foreign Ministers had endorsed a regional response mechanism and established a taskforce to track the fallout across fuel stocks, and the shipping and aviation industries. That was not an overreaction. It is what happens when a region with almost no buffer against imported fuel volatility watches the ground shift beneath it, in real time, with some economies, including Tonga, the Cook Islands and Tuvalu, holding little more than a month's fuel supply in reserve

even before this year's shock hit.

The commentary on the Middle East crisis has understandably focused on the conflict itself and on the economies with the deepest direct exposure to it. What tends to get missed is the lag effect on these smaller economies at the end of the global supply chain.

The region's fuel import bill already runs to roughly six billion US dollars a year, and in individual Pacific economies that can mean anywhere from five to twenty five percent of GDP. And this is simply to keep the lights on and the boats running, even before a crisis hits. Analysts at Zero Carbon Analytics tracking this year's disruption estimate Vanuatu's import costs alone could rise by well over a hundred million dollars, and Tonga's by tens of millions more, figures that represent a significant share of each country's total GDP.

Months after the crisis fades from global coverage, Pacific governments and households will still be absorbing costs that keep them locked into a vulnerability of exogenous exposure that, today, is largely outside their control.

This is why energy security cannot be treated as a secondary concern. Rather, it is closely intertwined with climate resilience, economic security and human development progress.

A Pacific economy that generates much of its own power from the sun, winds and geothermal resources is not as exposed to a fuel shock ten thousand kilometers away. UNDP's analysis with Australia's University of New South Wales, suggests that replacing diesel generation with solar power and adequate battery storage across the region could save well over US\$400 million per year once the upfront investment is made. These are savings that could be spent on new infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure and social services, instead of the large extra spend on fuel every time a war half the world away drives prices up.

Energy independence is not just an emissions target. It is protection against the kind of external shock the region has just lived through, and will live through again, while the region's energy exposure remains high.

The moment calls for accelerating the Pacific's energy transition. This can be presented with a collective intent and determination at pre-COP and COP31. The message and means would resonate not only as climate ambition sitting alongside other worthy climate-related goals, but also as fundamental economic sovereignty.

Renewable energy programmes are well underway across the region, and these go beyond decarbonisation goals. In Vanuatu, the Government, Japan and UNDP are advancing a whole -of-island energy transition

through the green transformation of Pentecost Island, where 24-hour renewable power now reaches remote settlements and local youth are gaining certified green energy skills. In Fiji, the Government and partners such as Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom are backing the ambition to electrify hundreds of rural and maritime communities. These are not just infrastructure investments; they are a direct insurance policy against external shocks, while helping build the Pacific workforce needed to sustain the transition.

The headline numbers may appear modest by global standards, but in small island contexts they are transformative. On Pentecost Island renewable, reliable 24-hour electricity has been switched on for 26 settlements, reaching approximately 16 percent of the island's population while creating new opportunities for young ni-Vanuatu to participate in the renewable energy workforce.

For those communities, the impact is not measured in megawatts, but in functioning health facilities, children studying after dark, reduced fuel dependence, uninterrupted livelihoods, and greater household resilience when external shocks disrupt supply chains or drive up energy costs.

The Pacific did not create the conditions behind this year's fuel shock. What the region can control is how it responds to reduce exposure to the next one. An accelerated energy transition is the only version of energy security that does not depend on someone else's war and someone else's timeline.

Kanni Wignaraja is UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific and Munkhtuya Altangerel is the Resident Representative of UNDP's Pacific Office in Fiji.



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Rutgers Food Systems researchers complete community-led food security policy initiative across the Federated States of Micronesia

*Rutgers University
Office of Public Outreach
and Communication*

July 30, 2026

FSM - A Rutgers University food systems research team has completed a series of in-person stakeholder review meetings in Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) during April and May 2026, marking the completion of the first full cycle of community-led food security policy co-development across all four FSM states.

This milestone work, funded through the Green Climate Fund's SAP020 project "Climate-Resilient Food Security for Farming Households Across the Federated States of Micronesia" and administered by the Micronesia Conservation Trust, delivered evidence-based, state-specific Food Security Policy Action Items to local stakeholders, not as top-down mandates, but as co-authored frameworks built from the voices and data of the communities they serve.

Building on Years of Collaborative Partnership

The April-May 2026 policy review meetings are the culmination of multi-year participatory action research that began in 2022 when the Rutgers team, led by James Simon, Distinguished Professor of Plant Biology in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS), was contracted to conduct the baseline assessment for the Green Climate Fund food security project. Since then, the food systems science team—an interdisciplinary research group based at SEBS, representing disciplines spanning agriculture, marine science, agribusiness, ethnobotany, nutrition, climate modeling, anthropology, environmental engineering and science communication has partnered with local NGOs and community organizations to survey more than 1,500 farming families and stakeholders across the FSM's four states: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

The team has partnered with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Micronesia Conservation Trust since 2021 and has worked on six



food security related major projects, including the Green Climate Fund GCF SAP020 baseline assessment; FSM's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the US Economic Development Administration Food Systems Solutions project; and Pohnpei State's Food Security Policy and Food Production Master Plan.

The FSM, a Pacific island nation of 607 islands, faces an urgent food security crisis driven by climate change and a decades-long dependency on imported foods that replaced its once self-sustaining traditional food systems. The Rutgers team's approach has centered community voice, cultural relevance, and indigenous knowledge at every stage of data collection and policy development. The 2025 Pohnpei State Food Security Policy, developed by the Rutgers science team in close partnership with the Pohnpei State's Department of Resources and Development, served as a model for the state-specific frameworks now prepared for Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae. All four state policies are structured around nine strategic goals encompassing local food production, food processing and supply chains, food safety and water security, technical training, neighboring island food security, nutrition and cultural awareness, food production policy management, import and investment policies, and community management.

Significance of the Work

The completion of state food security policy reviews across all four FSM states represents one of the most comprehensive, participatory, and evidence-based food policy development efforts yet undertaken for a Pacific island nation. The convergence of more than 1,500 mixed methods surveys, focus group and repeated in-person community convenings has produced an unprecedented body of original empirical evidence returned to

the communities who generated it.

"So many people in our community have food related diseases like diabetes and heart disease. We started growing our own vegetables because we wanted healthy food for our children and we could not find it in the stores. Now we are growing for our family and for the community and we cannot keep up with demand," said Carmen Muguy, a farmer in Yap State.

"At the national level, it is our responsibility to address the needs of the communities we serve. We appreciate and value our long-term partnership with the Rutgers team and their approach to working at the local level with stakeholders in all our FSM states," said Elina Akinaga, FSM's Secretary of Resources and Development.

"This work exemplifies what it means to do research with communities in support of their environmentally and culturally based food production goals," said Simon, lead scientist for the Rutgers food systems research team in the FSM. "Data points in these policies came from FSM farmers, fishers, community leaders, and local organizations who generously shared their knowledge, aspirations, and lived experience. Our role is to ensure those voices shape the policies that will determine their food future."

The nine-goal framework structuring each state's Food Security Policy Action Items provides both comparability across states and sufficient flexibility to accommodate each community's distinct agricultural resources, cultural priorities, geographic constraints, and community aspirations. As the final action items are refined through stakeholder review and formally adopted by each state government, they will mark a pivotal step toward climate-resilient, culturally grounded food

sovereignty in the FSM and lay the foundation for the next phase of the partnership.

Building upon the four state food security policies, the Rutgers food systems science team is now developing the FSM National Agriculture and Food Security Policy and

Food Production Master Plan 2026-2031 in close collaboration with the FSM National Department of Resources and Development and all four state governments.

About the FSM National Agriculture and Food Security Policy and Food Production Master Plan 2026-2031 Currently under development, the FSM National Agriculture and Food Security Policy and Food Production Master Plan 2026-2031 builds directly upon and harmonizes the four state-level Food Security Policies following their formal state approval, translating their shared vision into a coordinated national program of action aligned with the FSM Sustainable Development Plan 2024-2043. The plan's operational centerpiece is the FSM Food Innovation Infrastructure Network: a nationally standardized, three-tiered system of Food Innovation Centers providing every FSM community with a structured entry point into the local food economy. Grounded in the same participatory action research approach, the national master plan addresses interstate food trade, national food safety certification, coordinated digital market infrastructure and the policy levers needed to attract the investment this transformation requires. The plan sets ambitious but community-validated five-year targets: a 50% increase in locally produced food available to FSM households, a 50% reduction in food import categories that can be produced within FSM, and hundreds of new food system jobs across all four states.

The community-led food system development model at the heart of this work reflects the same approach that has guided Simon's basil breeding program for decades: engaging directly with growers to understand their priorities

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United States and IOM strengthen food security and emergency preparedness in Pingelap

International Organization for Migration

August 11, 2026

Pohnpei — The United States Government, with implementation support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has installed solar-powered aeroponic towers in Pingelap, Pohnpei, to help improve food security and community resilience on the remote atoll.

As a low-lying island, Pingelap faces a high risk of typhoons and droughts, both of which contribute to putting stress on food sources.

The initiative, implemented under the Inclusive Mitigation and Preparedness in Action (IMPACT) project, includes the supply and installation of 20 solar-powered aeroponic tower systems, water reservoir and pumping infrastructure, solar control equipment, and protective shade structures. Based on consultations with the community, the U.S. Government also provided seedlings for a variety of produce, including cucumber, sweet corn, bell pepper, Chinese cabbage and other vegetables. These systems are designed to support local food production and reduce the community's vulnerability to disruptions caused by droughts, storms and other extreme weather events.

During a field visit in July 2026, IOM conducted training sessions with community representatives on system functionality, basic troubleshooting, maintenance procedures, routine cleaning and preventive maintenance and operational responsibilities to help ensure the sustainable use of the new equipment.

"For remote island communities like Pingelap, resilience begins with practical solutions that respond to local needs," said Ewa Naqvi, IOM Chief of Mission for the Coordination Office for the North Pacific. "Through this partnership with the United States Government and local stakeholders, IOM is helping communities strengthen food security, improve preparedness and better withstand the impacts of climate-related hazards."

The aeroponic towers are especially important for island communities like Pingelap, where remoteness drought and extreme weather can put food systems at risk. With El Niño declared across the Pacific, investing in local food production facilities is vital to help communities prepare, reduce risk and recover faster from climate-related shocks.



...Rutgers

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and challenges. Together, these efforts demonstrate how stakeholder-informed research can generate practical solutions that strengthen food systems, support livelihoods, and build resilience in the face of environmental and economic change.

The interdisciplinary Rutgers food systems research team working in the FSM is co-led by Dena Seidel and Ramu Govindasamy and includes, Oscar Schofield, Yariv Ben-Naim, AJ Both, Roland Hagan, Tori Rosen,



Lara Brindisi and Michael Balick (New York Botanical Gardens) and Iris Arbogast (University of Chicago). Additional Rutgers faculty supporting the development of FSM food security policies include James Shope, Dave Bushek, Nolan Lewin and Kevon Rhiney, and undergraduate students Lauren Koo, Olivia Finer, Ankora Sant'Angelo and Eamon Black.

About the Green Climate Fund SAP020 Project

The Green Climate

Fund's SAP020 project, "Climate-Resilient Food Security for Farming Households Across the Federated States of Micronesia," is the first comprehensive FSM national effort focused on increasing the resilience of the nation's subsistence farming families, in the face of climate change. The Micronesia Conservation Trust, a Direct Access Entity within the Micronesian Region, oversees the project's overall technical implementation. Rutgers University was contracted to conduct the project's baseline assessment and has remained a key technical partner throughout now supporting the development of state and national food security policies.

United States and IOM strengthen water security in walung, kosrae, during El Niño year

International Organization for Migration

Augusts 11, 2026

Walung, Kosrae — Three rainwater catchment systems, supported by the United States Government and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), were officially handed over to the Walung community leaders on 31 July 2026 to help improve access to water for communities in Walung, Kosrae.

Installed under the Inclusive Mitigation and Preparedness in Action (IMPACT) project, the systems are strategically located in Koasr, Panyacah and Leahp villages. Each site includes two 1,500-gallon tanks, bringing the total water storage capacity to 9,000 gallons. The catchments are designed to support household water needs, providing communities with a more reliable water source during periods of low rainfall.



“For communities such as Walung, practical investments in water security can make a real difference during dry periods,” said Ewa Naqvi, IOM Chief of Mission for the Coordinating Office for the North Pacific.

“Through the support of the United States Government and close collaboration with local leaders, IOM is helping communities strengthen preparedness and better withstand the impacts of climate-related hazards,” she added.

The support comes at a critical time as communities across the Pacific prepare for the impacts of El Niño, which can increase pressure on water availability, food production and household resilience. In

Walung, where geographic isolation, limited public infrastructure and reliance on local natural water sources make drought conditions especially challenging, the new catchments will help families reduce travel time to distant wells, store water closer

to their homes, and maintain access to water for essential household use and homestead gardening during dry periods.

During the handover, Walung Mayor Jacobz George and community members welcomed the installations, noting that the systems were placed in areas that are accessible to households and are already helping the community feel more water secure. Community members also noted that they have reduced dependence on their existing water sources including nearby streams and a groundwater well located far from many homes.

To support the sustainable use of the systems, IOM previously provided training to community members on basic maintenance and upkeep. Additional improvements, including solar power options and access to spare parts, are being considered to help reduce disruptions caused by power cuts and support long-term community management of the catchments.

Yap becomes tsunami ready



Embassy of the United States to the FSM

August 5, 2026

Yap - On July 27, Colonia Town and the Yap State Municipalities of Dalipebinaw, Fanif, Gagil, Gilman, Kanifay, Maap, Rull, Rumung, Tamil, and Weloy were formally recognized as Tsunami Ready at a ceremony hosted by the Yap Weather Service Office and organized by the Yap Disaster Coordination Office.

Dr. Laura Kong, Director of the International Tsunami Information Center, on behalf of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) presented the Tsunami Ready Recognition certificate to The Honorable Mr. Francis Itimai, Governor of Yap State. In addition to the Governor, DECEM Secretary Honorable Mr. Florian Yatilman, gave



congratulatory remarks.

“Today’s recognition reflects the dedication, leadership, and commitment demonstrated by the Government of Yap State, the Federated States of Micronesia

... Achieving Tsunami Ready recognition is not simply about meeting technical indicators; it is about protecting lives, preserving livelihoods, and ensuring that

[Click here for continuation](#)

IOM joins partners in FSM to mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

International Organization for Migration

August 11, 2026

Pohnpei – The International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Anti-Human Trafficking Services Division (AHTSD) and the U.S. Embassy Kolonia, joined community members in Pohnpei to mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons with an awareness session and community clean-up activity on 30 July 2026.

Observed globally each year on 30 July, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons raises awareness of human trafficking and the need to protect and support victims. This year's theme, "Trapped Behind the Scam," draws attention to trafficking through online scam operations, an increasingly digital and transnational crime affecting communities around the world.

Supported by the U.S. Government, the event in Kolonia brought together students, volunteers, government partners and community members for an awareness-raising session led by Alik Talley of the AHTSD on online safety, the warning signs of trafficking, and how young people and families can protect themselves from deceptive recruitment, false job offers and exploitation in their day-to-day use of social media and other digital platforms.

Assistant Secretary Lino Amor of the FSM Anti-Human Trafficking Services

Division opened the programme, followed by remarks from IOM North Pacific Chief of Mission Ewa Naqvi and Patrick Reidy, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy Kolonia.

"As the Pacific becomes more mobile and digitally connected, FSM citizens seeking opportunities abroad should be aware of, and protect themselves against, recruiters that can reach them directly through social media and other online platforms," said Ms. Naqvi, during the event.

Globally, IOM has warned that hundreds of thousands of people have been trafficked by criminal networks and forced to participate in online scams. Victims are often deceived by fake job advertisements promising legitimate work abroad, only to be trapped, coerced and forced into criminal activity.

IOM's global message for this year's campaign underscores that people forced to commit crimes inside scam centres are victims of trafficking and should be protected, not punished. Preventing this crime requires stronger awareness, early identification, survivor-centred assistance and cooperation across communities, governments and borders.

Following the awareness session, participants joined a community clean-up activity around the Kolonia Town multipurpose gym. Similar awareness and clean-up events were also held in Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap led by the respective Anti-Human Trafficking Division Offices.

...Tsunami

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communities are prepared to act quickly and effectively when warnings are issued," in remarks by the IOC delivered virtually by Juita Korovulavula of the IOC Tsunami Resilience Section.

Many agencies worked together over the past few years to conduct the tsunami hazard assessment, develop the evacuation map in

consultation with communities, engage in tsunami awareness and outreach to schools and the public, and confirm their tsunami response plans through exercises. Table top and communications exercises by the Yap WSO and DCO, and involving national agencies, used tsunami threat messages from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center to simulate tsunami warning and public safety decision-making.

Established in 2022 by the IOC/ UNESCO, Tsunami Ready is a voluntary, performance-based



programme that empowers communities to prepare for the next tsunami. The 12 indicators covering hazard assessment, preparedness, and response represent the global standard for tsunami readiness.

National and local warning and emergency management agencies, government authorities, scientists, non-government organizations, civil society collaborate with the community to achieve the indicators required for recognition.



University of Auckland and Pacific Community forge landmark partnership

University of Auckland

August 7, 2026

Auckland - Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland and The Pacific Community (SPC) have formalised a new partnership that will strengthen collaboration across research, education and innovation to address some of the Pacific region's most pressing challenges.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed at the University on 6 August by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Strategic Engagement Dr Erik Lithander and SPC Director-General Dr Paula Vivili, marks a significant step in bringing together two of the region's leading institutions.

The collaboration unites New Zealand's premier university with the Pacific's principal scientific and technical organisation, creating opportunities to expand Pacific-led research, strengthen community engagement, and develop new pathways for students and academics.

Dr Lithander said the partnership reflected the growing importance of collaboration in addressing increasingly complex global and regional challenges.

"One of the things that excites me about this partnership is that it embodies what is best about collaboration," he said.

"We have always known collaboration is the way through the world's problems, but that is more true now

than ever. If we look at the challenges facing our region and the wider world, if we don't do it together, we're not going to do it at all."

The agreement is founded on shared values including equity, partnership and a commitment to making a lasting impact for Pacific communities.

For SPC, which serves 22 Pacific Island countries and territories and is the region's leading scientific and technical organisation, the partnership is both timely and necessary.

Dr Vivili said the collaboration would be far more than a ceremonial agreement. "This will be more than a document," he said.

"It's about creating a genuine partnership between the Pacific's premier scientific and technical organisation and one of the leading universities in the Pacific region."

Dr Vivili described the signing as an important milestone, noting that Auckland is often referred to as the Pacific capital outside the region.

"We can't talk about Auckland being the Pacific capital outside of the Pacific and not have a strong relationship between the University of Auckland and SPC," he said.

The partnership is expected to support collaborative work in areas such as climate resilience, ocean governance, public health, education and sustainable development, while

helping to build a pipeline of future Pacific researchers, professionals and leaders.

Speaking after the signing, Dr Vivili said partnerships were essential to creating meaningful change. "The issues facing our communities are too significant for any one organisation to tackle alone," he said.

Established in 1947, SPC provides scientific, technical and development support to Pacific countries and territories across a wide range of sectors, including fisheries, climate change, health, agriculture, education, geoscience and maritime development. Today, the organisation has nearly 1,000 staff working across the Pacific.

University of Auckland Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific Fonoi'a Professor Jemaima Tiatia-Siau, alongside representatives from SPC, UniServices and the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific, attended the signing ceremony.

Both organisations see the agreement as the beginning of a deeper and more enduring relationship, one that will connect research excellence with community aspirations and help deliver solutions for the Pacific.

As Pacific nations navigate challenges ranging from climate change to ocean governance and sustainable development, the new partnership signals a shared commitment to ensuring Pacific knowledge, expertise and leadership remain at the centre of

shaping the region's future.

Fonoi'a Professor Jemaima Tiatia-Siau, Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific, said the agreement reflects a shared commitment to advancing Pacific priorities through authentic partnership.

"By working together, we can support Pacific-led research and develop Pacific-led solutions that respond to the realities facing our region."

"This partnership creates exciting opportunities for Pacific students, researchers and communities across the region," she said.

"When Pacific institutions work together, we strengthen our collective ability to respond to the challenges facing our people. By combining scientific expertise, community knowledge and Pacific ways of knowing, we can support research and innovation that is grounded in Pacific realities and delivers meaningful outcomes for Pacific communities."

Professor Tiatia-Siau said the agreement aligns with the University's commitment to supporting Pacific success and creating pathways for future generations of Pacific scholars and leaders.

"Partnerships like this help ensure Pacific voices, values and aspirations remain at the centre of the work we do. It is through collaboration that we can grow Pacific leadership, strengthen knowledge exchange and create lasting impact for our region."



Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation appoints Johnny Adolph as Chief Operating Officer

Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation

July 31, 2026

FSM — The Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (Vital FSMPC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Johnny Adolph as the Corporation's inaugural Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective immediately.

The appointment marks an important milestone in the continued evolution of Vital Energy as the Corporation strengthens its leadership capability to deliver safe, reliable and commercially sustainable energy services throughout the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Throughout his career with Vital FSMPC, Mr. Adolph has demonstrated outstanding leadership across enterprise governance, operational resilience, strategic planning, business continuity, organizational performance and corporate transformation. His work has helped strengthen the Corporation's operational capability while supporting

the development of a modern, accountable and customer-focused energy company.

As the COO, Mr. Adolph will provide executive leadership for the Corporation's operational businesses, ensuring the safe, reliable and efficient delivery of petroleum, aviation, electricity and other energy services across the nation. He will also lead the execution of the Corporation's operational strategy, asset stewardship, customer service delivery and continuous improvement initiatives.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jared Morris said the appointment reflects both Mr. Adolph's proven leadership and the Corporation's ongoing commitment to operational excellence.

"Johnny has consistently demonstrated the leadership, judgement and professionalism required to guide a complex national energy business. His appointment recognizes his ability to lead across the entire organization and

reflects the confidence that the Board and Executive Leadership Team have in his capability to deliver operational excellence."

Mr. Morris said the establishment of the Chief Operating Officer role is part of the Board's long-term vision to strengthen executive leadership and support the Corporation's continued growth.

"As we continue to evolve, we are building an executive structure that supports greater operational focus, stronger customer outcomes and disciplined execution of our strategic priorities. The COO will provide dedicated leadership across our operational businesses while ensuring we continue to deliver safe, reliable and efficient energy services that underpin the economic and social wellbeing of our nation."

Mr. Adolph said he was honored by the appointment and committed to building on the Corporation's strong operational

foundations.

"I am honored by the confidence placed in me by the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Our people are the strength of this organization, and I look forward to working alongside them to continue improving safety, operational performance, customer service and organizational capability. Together, we will continue

to deliver the reliable energy services that our communities, businesses and essential services depend upon every day."

Vital FSMPC remains the primary supplier of modern energy to the FSM, meeting approximately 96 percent of the nation's energy requirements. Through continued investment in its people, infrastructure, operational excellence and diversified energy solutions, the Corporation is committed to strengthening national energy security while supporting the country's long-term economic development.

Pohnpei Acting Governor meets with U.S. Navy Seabee leadership

Pohnpei Public Information

July 28, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei — Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick hosted representatives from the U.S. Navy Seabees and the U.S. Navy Liaison Officer from Guam for a courtesy visit at the Governor's Office today. The meeting focused on reaffirming the bilateral partnership and reviewing humanitarian infrastructure initiatives within the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The visiting delegation included Lieutenant (LT) Sean Worth, U.S. Navy Construction Battalion (Seabee) Officer-in-Charge and Liaison Officer (Outgoing), and Lieutenant (Junior Grade) (LTJG) Charles "Chuck" Ledbetter, U.S. Navy Construction Battalion (Seabee) Liaison Officer (Incoming).

The Navy Liaison Officer detailed current civic engagement efforts, including the deployment of a 14-member Seabee team in Chuuk State. The team is currently executing community infrastructure and humanitarian projects as part of a six-month mission, with similar future engagements planned for other FSM states. Specific areas of continued U.S. support for Pohnpei include improvements to schools and public facilities, as well as youth, education, and public health programs. These initiatives are part of a broader commitment to long-term community development and disaster preparedness.

"We are grateful for the continued friendship and support of the United States Navy," said Acting Governor Movick. "The humanitarian work of the Seabees reflects a shared

commitment to improving the well-being of our communities and strengthening the longstanding ties between our peoples."

Movick emphasized the Pohnpei

State Government's intention to maintain close coordination with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia. Collaborative efforts will continue to target infrastructure resilience, education, and public health across the state.

