

Proposed resolution would revoke Pohnpei's budget emergency declaration

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 3, 2026

PEILAPALAP, Pohnpei — A proposed resolution introduced in the Pohnpei State Legislature seeks to revoke Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick's October 1 emergency declaration, challenging the constitutional grounds for an order the administration said was necessary to keep essential services operating without an approved FY2027 budget.

Senator Ricky Carl introduced Resolution 191-26 on October 3. The proposal argues that the circumstances do not meet the constitutional requirements for an emergency, that the declaration's instructions are too vague, and that the order does not comply with statutory numbering and labeling requirements.

The document is a proposed resolution. Its provisions would revoke the declaration in its entirety upon adoption; its introduction alone does not revoke the order.

According to an earlier press release from the Pohnpei Governor's Office, the administration issued the declaration after the new fiscal year began without an approved budget. The release described a lack of operational funding and an immediate threat of a shutdown



of essential services.

The Governor's Office said Budget Bill 400-26 reached its second reading at approximately 7 p.m. on September 30 and arrived at the executive branch at 10:15 p.m., less than two hours before the fiscal year ended.

The administration said that timing did not provide sufficient opportunity for a thorough review in consultation

with others before midnight. It said it needed to complete that review before taking final executive action on the bill.

The release also said the Governor had submitted the proposed FY2027 budget no later than February 15, 2026, the

[Click here for continuation](#)

Court overturns rejection of Ioannis's congressional nomination

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 5, 2026

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The FSM Supreme Court has overturned National Election Director Ausen Lambert's decision rejecting Bellarmine Saimon Ioannis's nomination papers on residency grounds, ruling that the director acted beyond the authority granted to him by law.



The decision, announced verbally Friday, October 2, and issued in a 22-page written order Monday, October 5, gives Ioannis relief from the administrative rejection. However, the court did not determine that he satisfies the constitutional residency requirement for membership

in Congress.

Associate Justice Chang B. William ruled that the Constitution makes Congress the sole judge of the elections and qualifications of its members, and that the current national election law does not clearly delegate authority to the Election Director to make substantive determinations about a candidate's residency.

The court denied the government's motion to dismiss the case and Ioannis's motion for summary judgment, but granted partial declaratory relief and vacated the rejection of his nomination papers.

The ruling turns on the distinction between reviewing whether a candidate's documents are properly completed and deciding whether the candidate actually meets a disputed

residency qualification.

Under the existing law, the court said, the Election Director's authority concerning a candidate's residency affidavit is limited to checking that it is complete, signed, affirms the candidate's qualifications, and is submitted in the proper form.

"This is a ministerial task," the court wrote.

The law does not give the director substantive authority to judge the

[Click here for continuation](#)

U.S.-funded \$2.3 million health building opens in Palikir



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

October 2, 2026

Pohnpei—A new building for the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs opened in Palikir on September 25, providing space for the Department's daily operations and a facility that can be converted for quarantine use when needed.

According to a Facebook announcement from the U.S. Embassy to the FSM, a \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior funded the facility through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, commonly known as the CARES Act.

Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Amy Gradin delivered remarks



at the opening. ARM Buildings, Inc. constructed the multipurpose facility, the Embassy said.

The building serves two purposes: accommodating the Department's routine work and providing space that may be reconfigured as a quarantine facility. That arrangement allows the Department to use the building during normal operations while retaining an additional option for responding to public health needs.

The Embassy said the project represents U.S. support for the FSM health sector beyond funding provided through the Compact of Free Association. It described the facility as an example of cooperation between the two countries to strengthen health systems and support healthier communities.

The announcement did not provide the building's size, its potential quarantine capacity, the construction timeline, or details of the work required to convert it for quarantine use. It also did not identify other speakers or officials who attended the opening.

The Department of Health and Social Affairs did not notify The Kaselehlie Press of the opening ceremony.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Vital warns of further fuel increases as stabilization funding runs low

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 2, 2026

Pohnpei—FSM Petroleum Corporation, trading as Vital, has warned that further fuel-price increases may be necessary unless additional financing becomes available to sustain the mechanism that has absorbed part of the country's higher fuel costs.

Chief Executive Officer Jared Morris told The Kaselehlie Press that he had advised the Chief Executives Council in August that an increase of \$1 per gallon would be needed without support for the Stabilization Fund. He said a forthcoming update would provide a clearer understanding of the increase that may occur.

The warning has also entered national government discussions. A September 29 release from FSM Congress said President Wesley Simina raised fuel costs during a meeting with the congressional Committee to Wait on the President. According to the release, Petrocorp had informed the Executive Branch to anticipate an imminent increase.

Morris provided The Kaselehlie Press with Vital's Stakeholder Update #10, presented to the Chief Executives Council in Chuuk in August. He said the same update serves all stakeholders and that there had been no other communication to government.

The report describes a growing financing problem as elevated international fuel prices and shipping costs continue to strain the resources used to moderate

domestic prices.

Vital said its National Fuel Resilience Mechanism had maintained supplies and reduced the immediate impact of international price increases on households, businesses, and government. But it warned that corporate reserves, borrowing capacity, and supplier credit could not sustain that protection indefinitely.

The August update attributed the higher costs to the Israel-U.S.-Iran conflict and associated disruption of fuel markets and supply chains. Although prices had fallen from their highest levels, the report said the cost of supplying fuel remained substantially above pre-conflict levels.

At the time of the update, Vital estimated the combined additional burden from fuel products, market premiums, and supply-chain costs at approximately \$61,000 a day, equivalent to about \$22 million annually if sustained.

That figure represents the estimated additional cost burden compared with pre-conflict conditions, rather than an amount already passed on entirely to domestic customers.

Vital reported that a partial domestic price increase took effect in May. Its August summary estimated that this had added approximately \$27,000 a day to costs paid by consumers, businesses, and government, while the resilience mechanism was absorbing approximately \$34,000 a day.

The mechanism combines commercial procurement and inventory management,

credit facilities, stabilization funding, and a national government guarantee facility. The report listed approximately \$3.1 million in Japanese grant funding and a \$3 million contribution from FSM Petroleum Corporation for the Stabilization Fund.

It projected that the corporation's first-loss commitment and the Japanese grant funding would be substantially exhausted by September.

To extend the protection, Vital recommended mobilizing up to \$5 million in five-year loan financing backed by national government guarantees within existing legislative authorization. Its August summary anticipated needing that financing by September 10.

The report also estimated that approximately \$15 million would be needed to support a further 12 months of stabilization under its assessed price scenario. It described the mechanism as a temporary response to economic stress rather than a permanent fuel subsidy.

"The Foundation exists to support the Mechanism, not to permanently fund it," the report said of the corporation's underlying commercial resources.

Vital warned that prolonged reliance on its balance sheet would weaken the company's commercial viability and reduce its ability to maintain supplies and moderate future price shocks.

For state governments, the report proposed contingency planning for further increases of up to approximately 60 cents per gallon for gasoline and \$1.20 per gallon for diesel. It estimated that the

diesel scenario could add approximately eight cents per kilowatt-hour to electricity generation costs, depending on each utility's circumstances and tariff structure.

Those figures were planning scenarios in the August report, rather than confirmed new prices.

Vital urged governors to review how sustained higher energy costs would affect households, essential services, utilities, transportation, food security, businesses, and state government operations. It also asked states to consider contributing resources to the national Stabilization Fund or supporting a state-specific arrangement.

The report recommended policies to make electricity fuel-cost adjustments transparent and predictable, with consideration for vulnerable consumers and essential services.

While the financing outlook raised concerns, Vital reported that fuel supply agreements remained secure at the time of the August update, with cargoes secured for three months and inventory levels projected to remain stable. It said there had been no fuel rationing.

The report's supply assurances describe conditions in August. Morris said the next stakeholder update, expected in the coming week, would give him a better understanding of the possible price increase.

The amount, timing, and application of any further increase—and whether additional stabilization financing has since become available—remain to be clarified.

Chuuk Governor seeks temporary funding while reviewing FY 2027 budget

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 2, 2026

Chuuk—Governor Alexander R. Narruhn requested temporary funding to continue Chuuk State Government operations while he reviews the FY 2027 budget, citing concerns about changes, budget allocations, and provisions he said could affect the constitutionality of the legislation.

In a September 30 letter to Senate

President Arno H. Kony and House Speaker Lester D. Mersai, Narruhn transmitted a proposed continuing resolution to authorize government operations as the state entered the new fiscal year on October 1.

The Governor said his office received Act 18-19, the FY 2027 budget for local and federally funded operations, in the late afternoon of September 24.

Narruhn said he needed time for a thorough review because the

legislation included "some drastic changes, lopsided budget allocations, and questionable provisions which may affect the constitutionality of the Act."

The letter did not identify the allocations or provisions in question or explain the changes that prompted his concerns.

Narruhn cited Article V, Section 14(a) of the Chuuk State Constitution, which he said gives the Governor 30 days to sign legislation into law after receiving

notice of the Legislature's decision.

With the new fiscal year approaching, he asked the legislative leaders to act on the proposed continuing resolution so government operations could continue during that review.

The letter does not establish whether the Legislature subsequently approved temporary funding or whether the Governor has since taken action on the budget. It also does not announce a shutdown or an emergency declaration.

Simina becomes first sitting FSM President to address fisheries compliance committee

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 23, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — President Wesley W. Simina became the first sitting FSM President to address the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's Technical and Compliance Committee when he spoke at the opening of its 22nd regular session in Palikir on September 23.

Simina called for practical support to help countries implement regional fisheries rules, telling delegates that compliance efforts should combine accountability with cooperation. His participation drew appreciation from WCPFC Chair Dr. Josie Tamate, who said his presence demonstrated the importance of tuna fisheries to the FSM's development and the wider Pacific region.

The committee's September 23–29 meeting brought together delegates, both in person and remotely, to examine implementation of the Commission's fisheries measures and prepare recommendations for its consideration.

The opening ceremony included a traditional war dance by the Mwokillese Dancers midway through the program, following Simina's address and before Tamate's remarks. Tamate thanked the dancers for sharing their culture with participants and acknowledged those who had prepared the venue and organized the meeting.

Acting Senior Pastor Patrick J. Abraham of Pehleng Church delivered the opening prayer, and Shawn Walter served as master of ceremonies. TCC Chair Ilkang Na gave the opening remarks, followed by Simina, the dance performance, Tamate, and WCPFC Executive Director Rhea Moss-Christian.

In his address, Simina urged delegates to consider the difficulties countries face in meeting fisheries requirements and to find solutions together.

He said the committee should serve as a forum where partners help one another comply, while maintaining respect for agreed rules and accountability. Its discussions, he said, should produce practical improvements that members can take home and implement.

The President connected the committee's technical responsibilities to Pacific people

who depend on fisheries for food, employment, and national income. He welcomed scientific assessments indicating that the region's principal tuna stocks remain healthy but cautioned that their condition requires continued effort to protect what members have achieved.

Simina said growing requirements for data, monitoring, reporting, electronic systems, and verification place substantial demands on administrations, particularly in small island developing states with limited staff, finances, and technical resources.

He called for systems that remain practical, understandable, and efficient, supported by knowledge sharing, cooperation, and capacity building. Stronger national capacity, he said, benefits the entire regional fisheries management system because better information and implementation in one country strengthen the collective effort.

He also described science, management, monitoring, compliance, and reliable data as connected parts of responsible fisheries management. Those systems must adapt to new challenges, including climate change and its potential effects on the distribution and availability of highly migratory fish.

For the FSM, Simina said, the ocean's significance extends beyond its economic value.

"Our people have lived with and depended upon the Pacific Ocean for generations," he said. "It provides food, livelihoods and economic opportunities, but it also carries our cultures, traditions and identities."

He encouraged continued cooperation with regional organizations, including the Pacific Community, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, drawing on their expertise while respecting their respective mandates.

Moss-Christian said governments' investments in monitoring, control, and surveillance over the past two decades have strengthened the region's ability to monitor and manage fishing activities. Increased capacity has provided more and better information to support data collection and compliance.



She said partnerships sustain that work through shared assets, data, information, and joint surveillance operations. Those efforts require continued investment and commitment as fisheries management faces growing demands.

"But biological sustainability is no longer the whole story," Moss-Christian said. "New market requirements are created regularly, and markets are demanding stronger verification now."

She called for stronger independent monitoring through increased data collection and availability. Changes in market access, she said, also raise questions about who owns and manages the fisheries value chain and require the Commission to adapt to shifting priorities and expanding regional capacities.

Moss-Christian welcomed delegates to the home of WCPFC headquarters and thanked the FSM government for making the new convention facility available. She also acknowledged the College of Micronesia's support and the facilities that had served the committee over the preceding 20 years.

She thanked the FSM National Oceanic Resources Management Authority for its continuing role in organizing the annual meeting in Pohnpei and pledged the Secretariat's support for Na as he began his chairmanship.

Na thanked the FSM for its hospitality and acknowledged the work of members, the Secretariat, and observers in developing the Commission's monitoring and compliance arrangements.

At his first TCC meeting as chair, Na compared taking on the position to learning to swim, expressing confidence in the Secretariat's support and the shared efforts of delegates. He said the committee faced a long agenda and pledged to work with participants to complete its work.



Tamate acknowledged Simina's unprecedented participation and thanked the FSM for its continuing support as host of the WCPFC Secretariat.

She praised members' efforts to maintain healthy tuna stocks while recognizing that the Commission continues to face challenges requiring collective attention.

Tamate encouraged delegates to scrutinize issues needing action, particularly conservation and management measures under review and recommendations from working groups that meet between annual sessions. She said the Commission's workload continues to expand and that steady progress remains necessary, even when work must advance gradually.

Reflecting on her three years as Commission chair, Tamate thanked the committee for its contributions to the Commission's decisions. She said she looked forward to receiving its report and recommendations at the WCPFC's 23rd regular session in Port Vila.

Simina reaffirmed the FSM's support for the Commission and urged delegates to remember their shared responsibility to keep the region's tuna resources healthy, sustainable, and available for future generations.

GAO finds veterans in FSM still face gaps in care as VA pursues limited expansion

By [Bill Jaynes](#)
The Kaselehlle Press

October 2, 2026

FSM — Veterans living in the Federated States of Micronesia continue to face costly travel and limited access to health care while the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pursues a partial expansion of services without a timetable for implementation, according to a new U.S. Government Accountability Office report.

Released September 25, the report documents VA's decision in April 2025 not to use new authorities granted under the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024, followed by a change in direction toward implementing some of those authorities in 2026.

The proposed expansion would provide telehealth, delivery of medications and medical supplies, reimbursements for care, and travel benefits for eligible veterans with service-connected disabilities living in the FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. However, those plans remained subject to further U.S. government procedures and negotiations with the three countries when GAO completed its review.

The FSM government welcomed the renewed engagement but argued in



its written response that the proposed approach remains too narrow. It urged VA to provide comprehensive care for all eligible veterans, including treatment for conditions unrelated to military service.

The 2024 law gave VA discretionary authority to provide hospital care, medical services, and travel payments in the three freely associated states. That authority permits care for conditions regardless of whether they relate to a veteran's military service. Before delivering hospital care or medical services under the new provisions, VA must establish agreements with the countries.

GAO found that VA assessed implementation options between March 2024 and March 2025. Nevertheless, an April 2025 memorandum to the U.S. Congress said the agency would not exercise the new authorities, citing a

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...Emergency Declaration

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statutory deadline.

The emergency declaration directs departments, offices, and agencies responsible for public safety, health, utilities, and core administrative operations to take necessary measures to remain functional and maintain uninterrupted public services, according to the Governor's Office.

Carl's proposed resolution challenges both the basis for that declaration and the breadth of its instructions.

It cites Article 13, Section 9 of the Pohnpei Constitution, which authorizes an emergency declaration to preserve public peace, health, or safety during an extreme emergency caused by civil disturbance, epidemic, natural disaster, or an immediate threat of war.

The proposal argues that the situation described in the October 1 declaration does not meet that threshold. It also cites the constitutional provision allowing the Legislature to amend or revoke an emergency declaration at any time by resolution.

The proposal further argues that the direction to take necessary measures to maintain services is legally and

Congress reports approving end to national salary-step freeze

By [Bill Jaynes](#)
The Kaselehlle Press

October 2, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei—FSM Congress reports that it approved legislation to end the statutory freeze on annual salary-step increases for national Public Service System employees during its Fifth Regular Session, which concluded on September 25. Confirmation that the measure has become law was not available at the time of writing.

Congress included the salary measure among the legislation approved during the session in its published summary. The underlying proposal, Congressional Bill 24-116, was introduced by Senator Andy P. Choor on May 12, 2026.

The bill would amend section 509 of title 52 of the FSM Code by deleting the provision that freezes annual salary-step increases for all employees in the Public Service System.

Its policy statement says the purpose is to allow employees to receive pay or step-level increases based on merit and qualifications, with the aim of improving employee morale and productivity.

For employees covered by the national system, removing the statutory restriction would reopen the possibility of progression through salary steps. The bill does not specify a percentage increase or a uniform additional payment for every

constitutionally vague because it supplies no operational or financial directives, guidelines, or restraints.

Those assertions represent the position set out in the proposed resolution, rather than a court ruling on the declaration's validity.

The proposal also cites Section 1-102 of Title 8 of the Pohnpei Code. It says constitutional emergency declarations must be numbered sequentially and clearly labeled "Constitutional Emergency Order," and alleges that the October 1 declaration meets neither requirement.

The Governor's Office, meanwhile, said the declaration invokes emergency funding authority "to the minimum extent necessary" to sustain operations, protect public health and safety, and carry out



employee.

The proposed amendment retains the existing compensatory-time provisions in section 509. Those provisions generally credit employees with paid leave for authorized overtime work rather than overtime compensation. Removing the salary-step freeze would therefore leave that arrangement in place.

The bill's final section provides that the measure would become law upon the President's approval or upon becoming law without that approval. Congressional passage alone does not establish that the freeze has already ended.

As of October 2, The Kaselehlle Press had not confirmed a presidential approval, public law number, or other documentation establishing enactment. The available bill and Congress's session summary also do not establish when eligible employees would begin receiving step increases or how those increases would be implemented.

executive branch duties until legislative remedies are in place.

As an interim measure, the administration said it was proposing a continuing resolution to provide funding for essential operations while action on the annual budget continued. The earlier release did not establish whether that measure had been submitted or adopted.

The administration identified health, education, law enforcement, public safety, and essential infrastructure as priorities for continued service.

If legislators adopt Resolution 191-26, its terms would make revocation effective immediately upon adoption. Certified copies would then go to the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court, and the Pohnpei Public Auditor.

PUC reports three generators in service as fourth unit arrives

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

October 1, 2026

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation says three new generators are now operating and supporting Pohnpei's island-wide power system, following months of widespread outages during implementation of the World Bank-funded project.

In a public advisory posted on Facebook under the heading "Power Crisis Recovery," PUC said it had completed installation and commissioning of the three generators. Each has a capacity of 2.5 megawatts, providing a combined generation capacity of 7.5 megawatts.

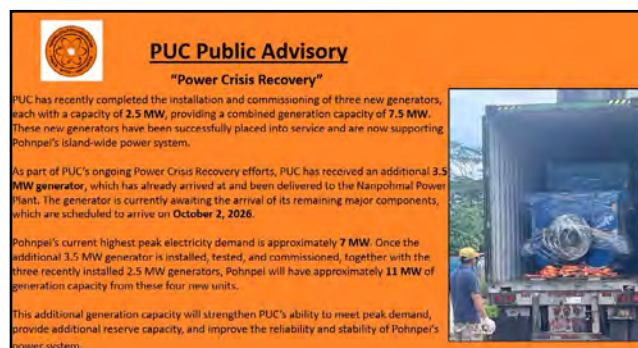
The announcement offers encouraging news for residents and businesses that have endured repeated disruptions to electricity service. Although the advisory says all three units are in service, it does not explicitly announce an end to outages or address whether

further interruptions will be necessary.

PUC also announced that an additional, larger generator had arrived at the Nanpohnmal Power Plant. The fourth unit has a capacity of 3.5 megawatts but is awaiting delivery of its remaining major components, which the advisory said were scheduled to arrive on October 2, 2026.

The advisory does not identify the funding source for the fourth generator, its purchase and installation costs, or the expected date it will begin supplying electricity. It also does not explain whether the additional unit is part of the World Bank-funded project or a separate purchase.

Delivery of the remaining components will precede installation, testing, and commissioning. PUC provided no timetable for completing those steps.



According to the advisory, Pohnpei's current peak electricity demand is approximately seven megawatts. The combined rated capacity of the three operating generators therefore exceeds that figure by about half a megawatt.

Once the fourth generator is installed, tested, and commissioned, the four new units will have a combined generation capacity of approximately 11 megawatts, PUC said. That would place their combined rated capacity about four megawatts above the peak demand reported in the advisory.

PUC said the additional generator would strengthen its ability to meet peak demand, provide reserve capacity, and improve the reliability and stability of Pohnpei's power system.

The distinction between equipment arriving and becoming operational remains significant. While PUC reports that the three smaller generators have completed commissioning and entered service, the fourth unit still requires components and further work before it can contribute to electricity supply.

For now, the advisory reports completion of the three-generator installation and the arrival of another unit intended to provide additional capacity. Questions about the fourth generator's financing, cost, and installation schedule remain unanswered in the announcement.

...Veterans

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desire "to ensure equity with all U.S. veterans."

VA and freely associated state officials confirmed to GAO in June 2026 that communication on implementation had stopped following that decision.

In July, VA officials told auditors they intended to renew engagement. By August, the agency had submitted a draft memorandum to the U.S. Department of State to begin the process necessary to authorize formal international negotiations. Officials from the freely associated states confirmed that communication with VA resumed that month.

As of September, however, VA could not provide estimated implementation dates. It also did not provide GAO with updated budget plans or anticipated changes to internal regulations.

The report describes substantial barriers under existing arrangements. There are no Veterans Health Administration facilities or providers in the three countries, and veterans there cannot access VA telehealth services.

The Foreign Medical Program provides a limited avenue for reimbursement of local care, generally for service-connected disabilities or conditions that aggravate those disabilities. But shortages of local services reduce the program's usefulness.

Veterans who need care at VA facilities must travel to U.S. states or territories. Under the regulations and policies described in the report, veterans residing in the freely associated states cannot receive reimbursement for travel between their home countries and the United States, although eligible travel within U.S. areas may qualify.

GAO's July 2026 search of United Airlines fares found that the lowest round-trip seat price exceeded \$1,000 on every route examined between the three countries' capitals and VA facilities in Guam or Honolulu. Those figures were a snapshot of available fares, rather than a measure of every veteran's travel costs.

The obstacles extend beyond transportation. VA's assessment found that specialty services such as oncology, cardiology, and advanced imaging remain largely unavailable locally and usually require off-island

referrals. Mental health services are also limited, with insufficient providers to address veterans' particular needs.

Officials estimated that up to approximately 1,100 veterans live across the three freely associated states, but the population remains difficult to measure. Veterans sometimes leave their home countries for extended periods to obtain care, complicating data collection.

VA identified 462 known veterans residing in the three countries as of March 2025. Of those, 144 had enrolled in Veterans Health Administration services during fiscal year 2024.

According to the report, officials said some veterans see little incentive to register or attend outreach events because enrollment does not necessarily provide practical access to care where they live.

VA's earlier analysis estimated that full implementation would cost approximately \$26 million annually for currently enrolled veterans, rising to a projected \$200 million if all 1,100 potentially eligible veterans fully participated. These were planning estimates for full implementation across all three countries, not approved

funding or estimates for the narrower approach now under consideration.

In a September 18 response included with the report, FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky Cantero supported broader implementation. The FSM urged VA to establish a delivery model covering all medically necessary care for eligible veterans, regardless of service connection.

The response also called for bilateral agreements, clear milestones, implementation timelines, and dedicated funding. It described continuing gaps between the benefits veterans understood they would receive through military service and their ability to obtain those benefits after returning home.

GAO's report records renewed movement toward expanded services, but it does not establish that the proposed benefits are available. For veterans in the FSM and the other freely associated states, the scope of future care and the date it will begin remain unresolved.

The full report, GAO-26-109152, is available at <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-109152>.

Congress approves \$16.2 million grant for Kosrae runway rehabilitation

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 23, 2026

PALIKIR, Pohnpei — FSM Congress approved acceptance of a \$16.2 million U.S. Federal Aviation Administration grant for rehabilitation of Kosrae International Airport's runway on September 23.

Congress's official resolutions register records adoption of Congressional Resolution 24-178, approving the grant and its terms and conditions for the project identified as "Rehabilitate Kosrae Runway 05/23."

The approval comes as the national Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure has been conducting procurement for runway rehabilitation work in Kosrae.

The department's website lists a second construction package posted for

bidding on July 2, with bids scheduled to close on July 29. It also lists a separate invitation to supply hot-mix asphalt in Kosrae, posted August 13, with an October 21 closing date.

Those notices document procurement activity, but the information reviewed does not establish which contracts the newly accepted grant will finance or whether a construction contract has been awarded.

The resolutions register does not specify a construction start date, completion timetable, or arrangements for maintaining airport operations during the work.

Congress's September 23 action confirms acceptance of the FAA assistance. Further details on the work schedule and any effects on flights remain to be confirmed.

...Ioannis

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underlying factual truth of the candidate's residency, the court found. It also does not provide sufficiently clear standards to guide such a determination.

The dispute concerns Article IX, Section 9 of the FSM Constitution, as amended in 2023. Among other qualifications, that provision requires a member of Congress to be domiciled in the state from which the person is elected and to have been residing in the FSM for at least five years before election day.

The court explained that domicile and residence are separate requirements under the amended provision. Domicile generally concerns a person's permanent home, while residence can have different meanings depending on the law and circumstances involved.

William found that the phrase "residing in" remains ambiguous, leaving unresolved how physical presence, temporary absences, and other circumstances should be evaluated.

The order noted that the national statutory qualifications for congressional candidates have not been amended since the 2023 constitutional change. Congress has also not supplied reasonable definitions or boundaries for the Election Director's discretion in deciding residency questions.

"The result is that the Election Director is left without guidance or any reasonable way to determine whether a candidate is a bona fide resident," the court wrote.

The court's reasoning does not prohibit every delegation of authority from Congress to an executive official. Instead, it says such a delegation must include understandable standards identifying the policy, the agency responsible for applying it, and the limits of that agency's authority.

The existing election law falls short of those requirements for a substantive residency determination, the court concluded.

William expressly limited the ruling's application to the residency qualification. The order distinguished that issue from checks involving a candidate's age or criminal history, which can be established through birth certificates, court judgments,

and other official records.

The court also addressed Ioannis's argument that the 2023 amendment should operate prospectively rather than retroactively.

It found that the amendment's text did not express an intention to apply retroactively and that the Constitutional Convention record contained no discussion establishing such an intention for congressional qualifications. The order contrasted that omission with the dual-citizenship amendment adopted at the same time, which expressly provided for retroactive application.

Absent an express intention to the contrary, the court concluded that the residency amendment operates prospectively.

However, William declined to turn that legal conclusion into a determination that Ioannis qualifies. The court said it would be inappropriate to tell Congress how to decide the substantive question of his residence.

The government had argued that the dispute involved a political question outside the court's jurisdiction. William agreed that the Constitution reserves decisions on congressional membership qualifications to Congress, but found that the court could still review whether the Election Director had acted within his lawful authority.

That administrative decision directly affected both the right to seek public office and voters' corresponding right to choose their candidate, the order said.

Applying the Administrative Procedures Act, the court found that Lambert's residency decision was made without properly delegated authority. It therefore declared the rejection unlawful and beyond the director's statutory powers.

The written order expressly vacates the administrative decision denying Ioannis's nomination papers for lack of residency. It does not itself decide whether he meets the residency requirement or whether he would be entitled to take a congressional seat if elected.

Ioannis was represented by attorney Salomon Saimon. Assistant Attorney General Josef Rold represented Lambert and the FSM Government.

The case is Civil Action No. 2026-027 in the FSM Supreme Court Trial Division in Pohnpei.

WHAT DOES POHNPEI REALLY NEED FOR HAPPY AND HEALTHY HUMANS AND ANIMALS?



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Wylie welcomes closer U.S.–FSM cooperation at Pohnpei reception

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlle Press

Pohnpei—New U.S. Chief of Mission Andrew Wylie pledged to deepen cooperation between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia during a dinner reception that brought more than 80 guests to the U.S. Chief of Mission Residence in Pohnpei.

Guests included President Wesley W. Simina, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky Cantero, representatives of the national and Pohnpei State governments, members of the diplomatic corps, international organizations, the business community, and the broader community.

Wylie, who serves as Chargé d’Affaires, told guests that he and his family had arrived from Sweden six weeks earlier and would call Pohnpei home for two years. He thanked community members

who had already welcomed him into their homes and said he was pleased to return their hospitality.

“I am both humbled and honored that so many of you in our community here in the FSM have come to share this evening with me,” he said.

Wylie said he had already traveled to communities in Chuuk affected by Typhoon Sinlaku. He planned to leave for Yap the following day and hoped to visit Kosrae before long. He also described a recent visit to Nan Madol as part of his introduction to the FSM’s culture and heritage.

Although the reception provided an opportunity to meet people, Wylie said it also offered guests a chance to renew their existing friendships and connections. He described the evening as “formally informal,” encouraging

everyone to relax, enjoy the food, and spend time in conversation.

Turning to the relationship between the two countries, Wylie said their ties extend beyond the FSM’s founding to the Trust Territory period and earlier. He said the partnership serves both countries and the wider region, with democracy and freedom among their shared principles.

He noted that the United States was celebrating its 250th anniversary of independence this year and that the FSM would soon celebrate its 40th.

Wylie described the Compact of Free Association as a strong foundation for the relationship and said he welcomed opportunities to expand security, defense, and economic cooperation. He looked forward to working with President Simina, Secretary Cantero,

and others to strengthen those ties.

Acting Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs Kehlen Halbert welcomed Wylie on behalf of President Simina, describing the partnership as one built on friendship, mutual respect, and a long history of cooperation. He said connections between the people of both countries also help sustain the relationship.

Halbert welcomed Wylie’s family to the island community and offered a lighthearted warning about Pohnpei’s weather.

“It is either currently raining or it is about to rain,” he said.

He expressed hope that Wylie’s time in the FSM would bring meaningful connections, shared achievements, and lasting memories.



President Simina signs executive order establishing interim Compact Fund monitoring measures

FSM Information Services

October 5, 2026

PALIKIR, Pohnpei — October 5, 2026 — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), on October 2, signed Executive Order No. 10-28, titled “Implementing on a Temporary and Transition Basis Interim Subrecipient Monitoring and Compact Fund Accounting Measures.”

The Order puts into effect temporary measures for Compact fund accounting and subrecipient monitoring, to be implemented by the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA). These measures are intended to ensure continued compliance with Compact requirements, strengthen financial accountability and oversight, and prevent disruptions to Compact-funded programs pending legislative action.

These interim measures are particularly

important in safeguarding Compact assistance that supports essential public services throughout the FSM, especially in the health and education sectors. Compact funding supports the salaries of teachers, healthcare professionals, and other public servants, as well as the procurement of medicines, vaccines, medical supplies, and educational programs. The Order aims to help ensure the continued delivery of these vital services to FSM citizens while a permanent legislative framework is being pursued.

The Order comes as proposed legislation to establish a permanent framework for Compact fund accounting and subrecipient monitoring remains pending before Congress. The bill is supported by Resolution No. 3, adopted during the Fifth Chief Executive Council Meeting in Chuuk, which endorsed the agreed procedures for Compact grant subrecipients and the necessary legislation.

The Simina-Palik Administration remains committed to working with Congress to enact the proposed amendments to Title 55 of the FSM Code, which would establish a permanent framework for Compact fund accounting and subrecipient monitoring.





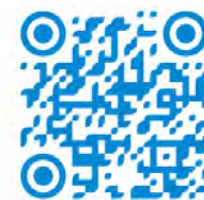
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Pohnpei high schools receive equipment for vocational training

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlle Press

September 25, 2026

Pohnpei—Pohnpei's three public high schools have received vocational equipment through a World Bank-financed project to expand practical training and prepare students for employment and further education.

According to a September 25 press release from the FSM Department of Finance and Administration, the handover at Pohnpei Island Central School included equipment for PICS, Nanpei Memorial High School, and Madolenihmw High School.

The Skills and Employability Enhancement Project combines equipment with 18 new career and technical education curricula, teacher

development, and improvements to training facilities.

A four-year teaching model is being piloted this school year in Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap. Students begin exploring trades in Grade 9 and develop their skills throughout high school.

President Wesley Simina delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the need for skilled workers and several pathways for young people to succeed.

The National Department of Education implements the project across all four states. It continues through June 2027.

The release did not specify the equipment supplied or its cost.



Acting Governor declares state of emergency after flooding damages Pohnpei roads and bridges

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlle Press

September 28, 2026

POHNPEI, FSM — Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick has declared a state of emergency following heavy rainfall that caused severe flooding, landslides, and damage to roads and bridges in Kitti, Madolenihmw, and Nett municipalities.

Emergency Declaration 2026-02, signed September 23, says the damage has disrupted transportation and access to affected communities and requires immediate repairs, damage assessments, and other emergency measures.

No casualties had been reported at the time the declaration was issued, but the Acting Governor said damaged bridges, flooded and landslide-affected roads, and resulting transportation disruptions continued to pose risks to public safety, emergency response, resident mobility, and access to essential services.

Among the most serious damage identified in the declaration is to the Olopei Bridge in Kitti, which sustained major damage following the heavy rainfall. The declaration says immediate repairs are required to restore safe access.

The Kepine Bridge, also in Kitti, sustained extensive damage, including damage to nearby power lines and water supply pipes and sources. The declaration

calls for immediate assessment and repairs to restore essential services and transportation access.

Nintok Road in Kitti was completely blocked by landslides and fallen trees, preventing normal passage and cutting access to affected communities. The declaration calls for clearing and stabilization of the road as well as repairs and restoration work.

In Madolenihmw, the Lehd Pah Bridge sustained extensive damage, including washed-out culverts and deterioration of the roadway and crossing. The declaration says conditions have made the area unsafe for vehicles and calls for assessment, restrictions on unsafe passage, and emergency repairs.

The Enipoas Bridge in Madolenihmw also sustained major damage that the declaration says compromised the structural integrity and safety of the crossing and created hazardous conditions for vehicles and pedestrians.

In Nett, severe flooding along Nanpil Road caused substantial deterioration and damage to the roadway, creating unsafe conditions for vehicles and pedestrians and threatening continued access to affected communities.

Movick issued the emergency declaration under Article 13, Section 9(1) of the Pohnpei Constitution, which authorizes

the Acting Governor to declare a state of emergency and issue appropriate decrees to protect public peace, health, or safety during extreme emergencies.

Under the declaration, State agencies, municipal governments, and emergency personnel were ordered to take immediate measures to protect residents, including restricting or controlling access to damaged bridges, landslide areas, and other locations considered unsafe.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, Pohnpei Transportation Authority, Pohnpei Utilities Corporation, and affected municipal governments were directed to coordinate efforts to restore transportation access as quickly and safely as possible, with priority given to routes needed for emergency response, essential services, and resident mobility.

Agencies were also ordered to conduct detailed assessments of the Olopei and Kepine bridges, Nintok Road, Lehd Pah and Enipoas bridges, and Nanpil Road. Those assessments are to identify immediate repair requirements, equipment and personnel needs, estimated costs, and any additional hazards.

The declaration authorizes agencies and affected municipalities to mobilize available personnel, equipment, materials, and other resources for emergency stabilization, repairs, reconstruction, debris removal, and restoration work.

An emergency response and recovery task force was directed to meet at 8:30 a.m. each working day for the remainder of the week to review conditions, coordinate assignments and resources, identify unresolved needs, and report progress on restoring access, assessing damage, and recovering infrastructure.

The declaration also requires participating agencies to maintain records of emergency work, personnel and equipment deployed, expenditures, damage assessments, and recovery needs.

Although the declaration specifically identifies Kitti, Madolenihmw, and Nett, its provisions can be extended to additional public infrastructure or communities found through continuing assessments to have been materially affected by the same rainfall event.

The state of emergency took effect immediately upon Movick's signature and will remain in effect until it is terminated or modified in accordance with applicable law.

Copies of the declaration were ordered transmitted to the FSM President, Pohnpei's delegation to FSM Congress, the Speaker of the Pohnpei Legislature, the Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court, the chief executives of Kitti, Madolenihmw, and Nett, and other relevant government agencies and officials.

China Pilot Farm representatives meet FSM state delegation in Zhejiang

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 24, 2026

YIWU CITY, CHINA — Representatives associated with the China Pilot Farm in Pohnlangas, Pohnpei, met with an FSM state delegation in Zhejiang Province during its ongoing trade promotion seminar in China, according to a press release from the Pohnpei Governor's Office.

Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, who is leading the delegation, met with Hunan International Engineering Construction Company Ltd. General Manager Liu Xiaofeng, Project Manager Xiao Nan, and other



members of their team.

According to the Governor's Office, the company representatives represent the China Pilot Farm project in Pohnlangas and traveled more than four hours to meet with the delegation in Yiwu City.

The release said Joseph thanked the representatives for making the trip and discussed continued cooperation between the Pohnpei State Government and the China Pilot Farm project. The two sides also discussed the farm's

ongoing operations in Pohnpei.

Joining Joseph for the meeting were Pohnpei Department of Resources and Development Director Mark Kostka, Chief of Staff Patterson K. Shed, Aspen Apis, Garvy Spencer, and FSM Department of Foreign Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Calvin Ehmes.

The meeting took place during a visit to China by representatives of the FSM states for a trade promotion seminar. According to the Governor's Office, the seminar is intended to strengthen economic ties and explore opportunities for cooperation between the FSM and China.

Pohnpei seeks renewed cooperation with Zhejiang on food, energy and transportation

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 21, 2026

HANGZHOU, CHINA — Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph called for renewed cooperation between Pohnpei and China's Zhejiang Province during a meeting that included discussions on food security, renewable energy, infrastructure, training, and transportation, according to a press release from the Pohnpei Governor's Office.

Joseph met with Zhejiang Executive Vice Governor Xu Wenguang on the margins of the Trade Promotion Seminar for the Federated States of Micronesia in Hangzhou.

During the meeting, Joseph recalled a sister-state relationship established between Pohnpei and Zhejiang in 1997, when the late Pohnpei Governor Del Pangelinan signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese province. According to the release, Joseph said there had been no subsequent follow-up on the agreement and expressed interest in reviving the relationship.

"We hope to reinvigorate our relationship and find common areas to collaborate," Joseph said. "We value the information and lessons learned from this seminar and will take them home to advance our economy."

Joseph also discussed the FSM's relationship with China, which established diplomatic relations in 1989, and potential areas for further cooperation.

"We are often referred to as small island nations, but we are a big ocean nation, the same size as the United States, with vast resources that we are only beginning to understand," Joseph said.

Food security was among the areas Joseph identified for potential cooperation. He discussed Pohnpei's reliance on imported food and efforts to increase local agriculture and aquaculture production.

"So, when the ship doesn't come, there is no panic because we have all we need on our land," Joseph said.

The Governor also identified sea cucumber and giant clam cultivation as possible areas for economic development and discussed challenges involving infrastructure, electricity, and transportation to Pohnpei's outer islands.

According to the Governor's Office, the Pohnpei delegation raised the need for a vessel to serve the outer islands. The release said the request was "acknowledged favorably" and would be pursued through diplomatic channels. It did not provide details about the type or cost of vessel sought or



indicate that any commitment had been made.

Xu discussed additional training opportunities for Pohnpei and asked Joseph to prepare a list of areas in which assistance or training is needed, according to the release.

"There is no limit on the list," Xu was quoted as saying.

The Governor's Office said Xu also offered Chinese assistance in addressing Pohnpei's energy needs, particularly through solar energy, although the release did not identify a specific project or funding commitment.

Xu spoke about China's economic development and encouraged Pohnpei to make use of its natural resources and population in pursuing its own development goals. He also invited Joseph to return to Zhejiang.



Joseph, in turn, invited Xu to visit Pohnpei.

Joseph was accompanied at the meeting by Chief of Staff Patterson K. Shed, Department of Resources and Development Director Mark Kostka, Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture Administrator Jorg Anson, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Calvin Ehmes, and Public Affairs Officer Patrick Pedrus.

The meeting took place during the FSM state delegation's participation in the trade promotion seminar in Zhejiang Province.

Palik urges continued international investment in Pacific education

FSM Information Services

September 23, 2026

NEW YORK—The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), delivered remarks at the High-Level Financing Campaign Event for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), held on the margins of the 81st United Nations General Assembly.

Vice President Palik emphasized the

importance of country-led education systems that reflect the unique identities, cultures, and priorities of the Pacific Island nations. He welcomed GPE's growing partnership with the Pacific, highlighting more than \$152 million in education grants and regional investments benefiting 10 Pacific countries.

Calling for continued international support, Vice President Palik said, "To all donors here today, our message is

simple: investment in GPE works. It respects country ownership. It strengthens regional solidarity. And it reaches children in some of the world's smallest and most remote island communities."

The Vice President expressed appreciation to donors and development partners, particularly Australia, for

their continued support for education in the Pacific, and recognized Italy and Nigeria for their leadership in advancing access to quality education.

He reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to working with GPE and its partners to strengthen education systems and expand learning opportunities for children across the Pacific.

Eighth annual Micronesia Clean Up Day recognizes environmental efforts

The Kaselehlle Press

September 14, 2026

FSM—The eighth annual Micronesia Clean Up Day observance included an environmental fair, recognition of schools and partner organizations, and a video featuring religious leaders discussing environmental protection, according to a release provided by the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM).

This year's national government activities encouraged public participation in efforts toward "Clean Islands for Healthier Communities in the FSM."

At an environmental fair on September 14, organizers recognized school environmental clubs, government environmental partners, and the 2026 FSM Environmental Youth Champion for their efforts to promote environmental protection.

The ambassadors from Australia, Japan, and China attended the fair. Fijian artist Warwick Marlow also attended.

Display booths featured waste materials turned into useful items, promoting the "3Rs" of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

The schools recognized were Our Lady of Mercy High

School, Pohnpei Catholic School, Pohnpei Island Central School, and the College of Micronesia-FSM. Other recipients included the Pacific Community, Catholic Relief Services, JICA Micronesia, Ritsumeikan University students, and SGI with Noriko Lopez.

DECEM Secretary Yatilman also presented Xavier Gilsowuth of Yap with the 2026 FSM Environmental Youth Champion award.

As part of the observance, Micronesian Productions developed a video featuring religious leaders responding to the question, "What does the bible teach about protecting the environment?"

Father Francis X. Hezel, Pastor Herman Sado, and Pastor Perry Killion contributed to the video.

The Micronesia Clean Up Day Planning Committee thanked the participants and, on behalf of Secretary Yatilman, encouraged the public to join efforts to protect the environment and keep FSM communities clean.



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Pacific students join online challenge to develop climate solutions ahead of COP31

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlle Press

University and vocational students from the Pacific, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union are taking part in an online competition to develop practical climate solutions ahead of COP31, the United Nations' annual climate summit.

According to a September 29 press release from the Delegation of the European Union to the Pacific, organisers expected hundreds of students to participate in Climate Hack-tion, which began on October 2 and runs through October 4.

Teams of three to five students must develop a working prototype or realistic mock-up addressing one of five climate priorities: electrification, zero waste and methane reduction, resilient cities and buildings, green industrialisation, or climate awareness.

The EU Delegation to Australia developed the initiative with its

counterpart missions in New Zealand and Fiji. Participants include university and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) students.

EU Ambassador to the Pacific Barbara Plinkert said the competition would connect students across the participating regions and support their efforts to respond to climate change.

"Climate change is an existential threat to the Pacific, and the region's youth are leading the way with profound resilience and innovation to address this challenge," Plinkert said in the release. "Through Climate Hack-tion, the European Union is proud to connect bright minds across the Pacific, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe to transform urgent climate priorities into tangible solutions."

Australian professionals from academia, industry, energy transition, and finance are mentoring the teams. Organisers will announce the winners at a closing ceremony on October 12, with a total prize pool exceeding A\$10,000.

The competition comes ahead of the Pre-COP Leaders' event, which the release said Fiji and Tuvalu will host from October 5 to 8. The release also said Australia is serving as President of Negotiations for COP31.

Plinkert described the student initiative as part of the EU's broader cooperation with Pacific Island countries.

"This initiative reflects our deep, enduring partnership with Pacific Island nations as we work together to elevate the region's voice and drive meaningful global action ahead of COP31," she said.

Further information about the competition is available at the Climate Hack-tion website.



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Choor meets Yapese students following FSM Congress session

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 28, 2026

PALIKIR, POHNPEI — FSM Senator Andy P. Choor met with members of the Yap Student Organization at the College of Micronesia–FSM National Campus on September 25 following the adjournment of the Fifth Regular Session of the 24th FSM Congress, according to a release from the Yap State Government.

Choor, chairman of the FSM Congress Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, was joined by staff of the Yap Congressional Delegation.

According to the release, Choor provided students with updates on matters addressed during the recently concluded congressional session.

Students raised questions and concerns about issues affecting Yap State, higher education, and the experiences of Yapese students attending college away from home.

The release did not provide details about the specific issues raised by the students or Choor's responses to their questions.

The Yap Student Organization said the meeting provided its members an opportunity to communicate directly with their elected representatives and discuss government priorities and concerns affecting students.





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Pohnpei delegation studies integrated farming system during China visit

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 28, 2028

HUZHOU, CHINA — A delegation from the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia, led by Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, visited an agricultural heritage site in Huzhou, China, as part of an ongoing trade promotion seminar, according to a release from Pohnpei Public

Information.

The delegation visited the Huzhou Mulberry-Dike and Fish-Pond System, an integrated agricultural system that combines mulberry cultivation, silkworm production, and fish farming. The system has been recognized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.

In the system, mulberry trees are planted along the dikes surrounding fish ponds, with their leaves used to feed silkworms for silk production. Waste from silkworm production and nutrient-rich sediment from the ponds are returned to the dikes as fertilizer, while the ponds are used for fish production.

According to Pohnpei Public Information, the system demonstrates

how different agricultural activities can be combined to recycle nutrients, reduce waste, improve soil fertility, and provide farmers with income from multiple products.

The release said the visit provided the delegation an opportunity to consider whether principles used in the Huzhou system could be adapted to conditions in Pohnpei and elsewhere in the FSM.

Pohnpei Public Information pointed to agriculture, agroforestry, and fisheries as areas where such approaches could potentially have relevance, particularly in addressing food security, land and water management, and climate resilience.

Officials and private-sector representatives also discussed possible applications of integrated farming and aquaculture practices to local food production, business development, conservation, and tourism, according to the release.

The delegation was also briefed on the role of community management, environmental stewardship, and local knowledge in maintaining the Huzhou agricultural system.



Palik, IOM Chief discuss migration, disaster response and FSM needs

FSM Information Services

September 25, 2027

NEW YORK — Vice President Aren B. Palik met with Ms. Amy Pope, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the margins of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

During their discussion, Vice President Palik expressed appreciation for IOM's continued presence and support in the FSM, particularly its role as an implementing agency

for U.S.-funded disaster response and recovery efforts, including the ongoing response to Typhoon Sinlaku. He also sought IOM's assistance in developing programs to further support the needs and well-being of FSM citizens. The Vice President highlighted the adoption of the FSM's National Migration Policy, developed with technical support from IOM.

The meeting reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to strengthening its partnership with IOM to address migration challenges, enhance disaster resilience, and advance the well-being of FSM citizens at home and abroad.



Yap health team provides screenings and NCD outreach on Fais

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 29, 2026

YAP, FSM — A five-member health team provided screenings and health education to 81 people on Fais during a four-day outreach focused on non-communicable diseases and preventive care, according to a release from the Yap State Government.

The September 14–17 outreach reached 46 women and 35 men, including 14 homebound patients who received screening services.

The team included representatives of the Diabetes, Tobacco, and Cancer programs, JICA, and COM-CRE. The outreach was sponsored by the Waab Healthy Lifestyle Coalition, a nonprofit organization that works with the Yap NCD Program.

Health workers conducted cardiovascular disease risk assessments, including reviews of personal and family histories of high blood pressure, diabetes, and kidney disease. Participants received blood pressure and blood sugar testing as well as height and weight measurements used to calculate body mass index.

The assessments also covered tobacco and alcohol use and dietary habits, including consumption of fiber, sugary drinks, salt, and high-fat foods.

Cervical cancer prevention and screening were also part of the outreach. Four students received their second dose of the Human

Papillomavirus vaccine, while health workers followed up with women who had previously undergone HPV primary screening to provide results and information about their next screenings.

The team also compiled a list of women between 30 and 65 who had not yet received HPV screening to assist with future cervical cancer screening efforts on Fais.

According to the release, health workers established a screening station outdoors and invited community members to use the free services during the visit.

The Yap Comprehensive Cancer Control Program thanked Fais Dispensary Health Assistants Alfonso and Barbara for assisting with the outreach and the Fais community for supporting the visiting team.

The outreach is part of continuing efforts by the Yap NCD Program and partner organizations to expand preventive health services and awareness of non-communicable diseases in Yap State.



ADB road project includes gender-based violence training in Yap

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 26, 2026

YAP, FSM — The Asian Development Bank and the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure conducted two days of training in Yap on gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment as part of the ADB-supported Sustainable and Resilient Road Improvement Project, according to a release from the Yap State Government.

The September 21–22 training focused on awareness and prevention of gender-based violence and SEAH and appropriate responses when people affected by violence or abuse seek assistance.

According to the release, an ADB representative identified only as Emma and staff from the national Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure led discussions during the first day at the Small Business Development Center.

Participants included representatives of the Yap Women's Association, Division of Civic Affairs, Anti-Human Trafficking, Project Management Office, SMEC, and Shandong Inc.

The first day's discussions addressed risks and impacts associated with sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment, including

how to recognize potential risks, provide support, and connect affected people with appropriate services and authorities.

The second day was held at the Yap Women's Association Conference Room and included representatives of the Neighboring Island Women's Association, Yap Women's Association, Division of Civic Affairs, Anti-Human Trafficking, Project Management Office, and SMEC.

Discussions included domestic and gender-based violence and procedures for responding to cases, supporting people affected by violence, and identifying agencies and other resources available for assistance.

According to the Yap Government, the training was intended to improve understanding of gender-based violence and coordination among government agencies, community organizations, and organizations involved in the road project.



Pacific Winds performs for St. Mary's students in Yap

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 25, 2026

YAP, FSM — Pacific Winds, the U.S. Coast Guard band, performed for students at St. Mary's Elementary School on September 17 as part of a musical outreach and cultural exchange, according to a release from the Yap State Government.

Six Coast Guard musicians performed for students across all grade levels on

flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn, euphonium, and percussion.

The program gave students an opportunity to hear a live musical performance and learn about the different instruments played by the visiting musicians.

According to the Yap Government, the visit was part of a musical and cultural outreach effort intended to strengthen connections between the United States and the FSM.

Students, faculty, and staff participated in the program.



FSM state delegation visits vehicle, port and tuna operations in Ningbo

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 23, 2026

NINGBO, CHINA — An FSM state delegation led by Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph visited vehicle manufacturing, port, and tuna-processing operations during two days of activities in Ningbo, China, according to a press release from the Pohnpei Governor's Office.

The visits on September 22 and 23 were part of the Seminar for Trade Promotion for the Federated States of Micronesia in Zhejiang Province. They followed meetings between Joseph and Zhejiang Vice Governor Xu Wenguang.

On September 22, the delegation toured a Geely vehicle factory, where it was shown production lines using robotic automation alongside human workers to manufacture electric and gasoline-powered vehicles.

According to the Governor's Office, the delegation was told the facility produces more than 500 vehicles per day. Discussions also included possible avenues for sales cooperation.

The delegation later visited the former Ningbo Port Authority site, also known as the Ningbo Guild Museum, where members were briefed on the history and development of Ningbo as an international port. Joseph was also interviewed by a Ningbo news outlet following the visit.

On September 23, the delegation toured Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, where it observed automated and remotely controlled port operations. According to the release, the delegation was

briefed on the use of those systems to improve efficiency and reduce safety risks.

The Governor's Office said the port handles the highest cargo tonnage in the world.

The delegation also visited Ningbo Today Food, a state-owned tuna-processing company. According to the release, company representatives told the delegation that the facility can process as much as 300 metric tons of tuna per day.

Of particular relevance to the FSM, the delegation was told that between 20,000 and 30,000 metric tons of tuna processed by the company in 2024 were sourced from Micronesia. The release did not further identify the geographic area included under "Micronesia" or specify how much, if any, was sourced from FSM waters.

The company produces frozen tuna loins, canned tuna, fish oil, fish oil capsules, and cat food. The delegation was told that its processing operations can produce two containers of canned tuna per day.

According to the Governor's Office, most of the company's tuna is sourced from the central and western Pacific and includes skipjack, bigeye, and yellowfin.

The Governor's Office said the Ningbo visits provided the delegation with examples of transportation technology, automated port operations, maritime safety systems, and value-added fisheries processing that could be considered in relation to development in Pohnpei.

The trade promotion seminar is continuing in China, with representatives from all four FSM states participating.



FSM state delegation explores AI and trade during China visit

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 26, 2026

YIWU CITY, CHINA — A delegation from the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia, led by Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, took part in sessions on artificial intelligence, trade, and private-sector development during a visit to Yiwu City, China, according to a release from Pohnpei Public Information.

The visit was part of an ongoing trade promotion seminar attended by the delegation in China.

According to the release, the delegation attended lectures on the application of artificial intelligence in trade and the economy. The sessions addressed the use of AI in areas including supply chains, market analysis, and economic efficiency, and provided examples of how the technology is being used in Yiwu, a major Chinese trading center.

The delegation later visited ZT Import and Export Co. Limited, where General Manager Maggie Feng briefed members on the company's operations and business model.

Pohnpei Public Information said the company's use of integrated logistics and direct relationships with manufacturers provided the delegation with examples of business practices that could have applications for the FSM private sector.

The release said similar approaches could potentially help FSM businesses reduce costs and improve their competitiveness in Asian markets.

It also said exposure to the use of artificial intelligence in trade and to different business structures could help FSM entrepreneurs and private-sector representatives better understand opportunities in international markets.



FSM state delegation examines trade and renewable energy opportunities in China

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 25, 2026

YIWU CITY, CHINA — A delegation representing the four FSM states continued a series of trade-related engagements in Yiwu City, Zhejiang Province, with briefings on international trade, renewable energy, and business services, according to a press release from the Pohnpei Governor's Office.

Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph is leading the delegation, which is participating in the Trade Promotion Seminar for the FSM. Pohnpei First

Lady Dr. Helentina Garstang, Kosrae Lt. Governor Arthy Nena, and the Second Lady of Kosrae were among those participating in the Yiwu engagements.

According to the release, the delegation attended briefings and tours and participated in business-to-business exchanges. No formal speech was delivered during the engagements.

Briefings included discussions of China's entry into African markets and Yiwu's role as a trade gateway. The delegation also received information on integrated trade services offered by YAKI, including hardware, appliances,

water heating systems, photovoltaic energy storage, and other products.

Renewable energy discussions covered applications involving vehicles, household products, tools, and solar energy, according to the Governor's Office.

The release said members of the delegation also presented information about services and potential opportunities in the FSM to their Chinese counterparts.

The Governor's Office said the renewable energy and trade discussions

could have potential relevance to Pohnpei in areas including reducing dependence on imported fuel, expanding electricity access in rural and outer-island communities, agricultural water pumping, and household energy costs.

The release also identified possible applications involving solar-powered equipment and transportation, construction, utilities, small businesses, and trade logistics.

The Governor's Office said additional information would be released as the trade promotion seminar continues.



Palik urges AOSIS to make methane reduction a climate priority

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026

NEW YORK — FSM Vice President Aren B. Palik called for accelerated efforts to reduce methane emissions during a meeting of leaders of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in New York, arguing that near-term reductions could help slow warming while vulnerable island communities adapt to climate impacts already underway.

Palik participated in the 2026 AOSIS Leaders' Meeting on September 25 during the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week, joining

heads of state and government from Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The meeting reviewed progress since the 2025 AOSIS Leaders' Declaration on the Special Circumstances of SIDS and considered priorities for several upcoming international processes. Those include COP31, the first Conference of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, commonly known as the BBNJ Agreement, and the 2027 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

According to FSM Information Services, Palik told the meeting that climate change is already a lived reality for Micronesia and other island nations.

He cited sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, coastal erosion, and increasing threats to food and water security, saying their effects extend beyond the environment

to the culture, security, and long-term continuity of island peoples.

Palik urged AOSIS to continue pursuing long-term international climate negotiations while placing greater emphasis on measures that can have an impact in the nearer term.

In particular, he advocated methane mitigation as a practical means of slowing warming over the coming decades while countries continue working toward deeper and sustained reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions.

Palik said every fraction of a degree of warming matters to vulnerable island states and called for faster reductions in methane emissions through existing measures in the fossil-fuel, waste, and agricultural sectors.

According to the FSM release, such reductions could give island communities additional time to strengthen their resilience and adapt to climate impacts already affecting homes and livelihoods.

Palik also called for a unified AOSIS position on methane mitigation, arguing that such a position could strengthen the organization's advocacy for climate measures that can be implemented immediately.

The FSM said it is prepared to work with other AOSIS members and international partners to elevate methane mitigation as a component of the group's climate advocacy leading into the next Conference of the Parties.

The government said the FSM would continue advocating climate action aimed at protecting the habitability, sovereignty, and sustainable future of Small Island Developing States.



Palik, Guterres discuss UN presence in Pohnpei and climate resilience

FSM Information Services

September 21, 2026

NEW YORK — FSM Vice President Aren B. Palik met with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres at UN Headquarters in New York ahead of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, according to FSM Information Services.

The meeting covered the Federated States of Micronesia's partnership with the United Nations, regional cooperation, the UN's presence in the North Pacific, and climate resilience.

According to FSM Information Services, Palik expressed the FSM's appreciation for Guterres' leadership and his support for establishing the UN Multi-Country Office in Pohnpei, which expanded the organization's presence in the North Pacific.

Palik discussed progress made

through the Multi-Country Office and welcomed new UN Resident Coordinator Mamadou Kane. He also discussed the FSM-UN Country Implementation Plan 2025-2027, signed in November 2025 by the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs and the UN Country Team.

The plan aligns the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with the FSM's national growth and climate-resilience priorities.

The two also discussed plans for a permanent "One UN House" in Pohnpei. According to the release, the proposed carbon-neutral and climate-resilient facility is intended to reflect Micronesian heritage and UN principles while providing a permanent base for the organization's work in the North Pacific.

Palik reiterated the FSM's commitment to the UN Charter and discussed

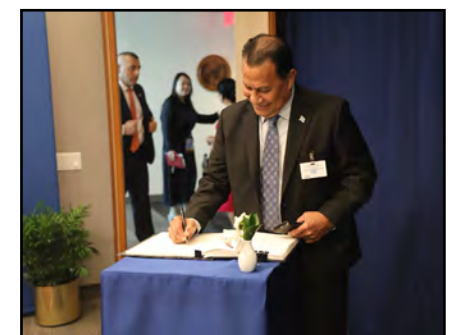
regional cooperation following the recent 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Palau.

Climate change was also among the issues discussed. Palik welcomed Guterres' emphasis on reducing methane emissions, which the FSM views as an important near-term measure for addressing climate change affecting Micronesia and other Small Island Developing States.

Palik thanked Guterres for his role in expanding the UN's presence in the North Pacific and invited the Secretary-General to visit the FSM if he attends the Pre-COP. The Vice President said such a visit would provide an opportunity for Guterres to see the UN's work in the sub-region firsthand.

Palik was accompanied by Second Lady Adelita A. Palik, Secretary of Resources and Development Elina P. Akinaga, Secretary of Justice Leonito

Bacalando Jr., FSM Permanent Representative to the United Nations Jeem Lippwe, and Assistant Secretary Herman Semes Jr.



Simina, World Bank Pacific Director discuss FSM development and financing priorities



FSM Information Services

September 21, 2026

PALIKIR, Pohnpei — President Wesley W. Simina met with Tatiana A. Proskuryakova, Regional Division Director of the World Bank for the Pacific Islands, to discuss the Federated States of Micronesia's development priorities and opportunities to further strengthen the FSM–World Bank partnership.

President Simina expressed appreciation for the World Bank's continued support for FSM,

particularly in areas including energy, infrastructure, digital development, resilience, human capacity, and sustainable economic development. The President also discussed the FSM's priorities under IDA21 and the country's transition toward blended financing.

Following the meeting, President Simina and Director Proskuryakova attended a handover ceremony at PICS for vocational equipment provided through the World Bank supported Skills and Employability Enhancement (SEE) Project.

The equipment will support Career and Technical Education at PICS, Nanpei Memorial High School, and Madolenihmw High School, where students are beginning a new four-year progressive CTE model.

"The equipment we are handing over today represents something much greater than the equipment themselves – an investment in the skills, capabilities, and future of our young people," President Simina said.

The President emphasized that strengthening technical and vocational education is an important investment in FSM's human capacity and long-term development.

President Simina thanked the World Bank for its continued partnership and expressed his commitment to continued collaboration to advance sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development and expand opportunities for young people across the FSM.

Yap NCD program provides free screenings for World Heart Day

By Bill Jaynes

The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026

YAP, FSM — Forty-five people received free health screenings at Yap State Hospital during a World Heart Day observance organized by the Public Health Non-Communicable Diseases Program, according to a release from the Yap State Government.

The September 29 event was held from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease and stroke, and encourage preventive health measures.

Community members and hospital staff received weight and height measurements, body mass index calculations, blood pressure checks, blood sugar screenings, and health education.

Participants were provided information about reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease through measures including avoiding tobacco, reducing salt intake, eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, and limiting alcohol consumption.

The NCD Program also encouraged routine blood pressure and blood sugar screening, noting that hypertension and diabetes can develop without noticeable symptoms.

The theme for World Heart Day 2026 was "Don't Miss a Beat," emphasizing preventive measures and awareness of signs and symptoms that may require medical attention.

People whose screening results indicated a need for additional evaluation were referred to the NCD Clinic for follow-up care, with appointments arranged when necessary.

The program also encouraged people previously diagnosed with high blood pressure, diabetes, or other non-communicable diseases to maintain regular follow-up care through the clinic.



Palik calls for accessible climate financing for island nations

FSM Information Services

September 23, 2026

NEW YORK — FSM Vice President Aren B. Palik called for climate financing that is accessible and predictable for Small Island Developing States, telling a high-level event in New York that climate resilience and the transition away from imported fossil fuels are inseparable for island nations.

Palik spoke during the High-Level Event on Climate Action and the Just Transition, held on the margins of the

81st United Nations General Assembly.

He pointed to FSM investments in renewable energy and energy security, along with efforts involving coastal protection, food and water security, and community-led climate resilience.

“For Micronesia, climate change and just energy transition are not separate agendas. They are the same struggle for survival,” Palik said. “Our resilience depends on breaking our dependence on imported fossil fuels, and our energy transition is only just if it strengthens

our communities and protects our islands.”

Palik called for climate financing, including adaptation funding, that is accessible, predictable, and responsive to the particular vulnerabilities faced by Small Island Developing States.

He said that while the FSM is pursuing climate and energy initiatives domestically, greater international support is needed to ensure that financing, technology, and capacity-building reach island communities on the front lines of climate change.



Yap diarrheal outbreak reaches 228 cases as daily numbers decline

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026

YAP, FSM — The number of documented cases in Yap's diarrheal disease outbreak has reached 228, although daily case counts have remained in the low single digits since mid-September, according to a release from the Yap State Government.

As of September 23, Yap Memorial Hospital reported three pediatric patients who had recently presented

to the Outpatient Department with diarrheal illness. The patients were two 1-year-olds and one 15-year-old. One of the 1-year-old patients was admitted for further treatment.

Two pediatric patients remained hospitalized at the time of the report. Since the outbreak began, 12 patients have been admitted to the hospital, with 10 subsequently discharged following treatment.

No new outpatient hydration cases were reported.

Laboratory testing continues to identify several pathogens among patients. Rotavirus remains the predominant pathogen detected, while Sapovirus, E. coli, Giardia, Salmonella, and Adenovirus have also been found.

Recent testing detected Adenovirus in a 1-year-old girl who was also infected with Enteropathogenic E. coli (EPEC).

According to the release, health authorities have found co-infections involving multiple enteric pathogens

among a majority of patients tested.

The latest epidemiological data show a decline in reported cases, with daily case counts remaining in the low single digits since mid-September. Health authorities said the trend indicates the outbreak is showing signs of tapering off.

Authorities continue to monitor the outbreak and are encouraging residents to practice proper hand hygiene and safe food and water practices to reduce the spread of diarrheal disease.

Yap leaders raise community concerns over proposed military projects

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026

Yap—Community concerns about proposed military projects in Yap were among the subjects discussed when Governor Francis Itimai and members of his cabinet met with visiting U.S. diplomatic and military representatives on September 28.

According to a September 30 release from the Yap State Government, the delegation included U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew J. Wylie and Joint Task Force–Micronesia Commander Admiral Lasky. The meeting took place in the Governor's Conference Room.

Following introductions, Itimai invited YUMO Task Force Chairman Thomas

G. Tun to address community concerns and questions about the proposed projects.

The release said Lasky told participants he was working with the U.S. Embassy and the YUMO Task Force to address those concerns. He also announced plans to hold smaller meetings within communities to provide more information and answer questions about the projects.

The announcement did not identify the specific concerns raised, describe the projects discussed, or provide dates and locations for the planned community meetings.

Itimai welcomed the visiting representatives and offered assistance during their stay. The discussion brought together U.S. representatives, state officials, and task force members to consider questions surrounding the proposed military projects.

Other participants included Planning and Budget Director Julius Liyon Tun, Resources and Development Director Bernard Gorong, Health Services Director Theo Thinnifel, Assistant Attorney General Antonio Barinisavu, and Acting Youth and Civic Affairs Director John W.K. Fillmed. Staff from those offices and the YUMO Task Force also attended.



Opinion Editorial

Mwoalen Wahu Ileile en Pohnpei calls for return of traditional lands

The people of Pohnpei and the wider Federated States of Micronesia should be informed of a recent resolution adopted by the Council of Mwoalen Wahu Ileile en Pohnpei, representing the traditional leadership of the island kingdoms of Pohnpei.

The resolution reaffirms the Council's position that traditional lands within the five island kingdoms of Pohnpei belong inherently to the traditional leadership as recognized through centuries of custom, tradition, and the Pohnpeian way of life. The resolution further states that periods of foreign colonial administration did not extinguish or transfer these traditional rights and that such rights remain inalienable.

In the resolution, the Council declares to governments, international embassies, and the world community that traditional lands should be returned to what it identifies as their rightful owners, the traditional leaders of Pohnpei. The Council also calls for the closure of the Pohnpei State Board of Land Trustees and any affiliated entities that, in the Council's view, operate outside the constitutional and traditional framework of the Pohnpeian kingdoms.

Additionally, the resolution affirms that all land ownership in Pohnpei is held in trust by the rightful traditional leaders for the benefit of current and future generations of Pohnpeians.

This resolution addresses issues of profound cultural, historical, and political significance. Regardless of individual perspectives, it represents an important statement from Pohnpei's traditional leadership regarding land stewardship, ancestral heritage, and the continuing role of customary authority in the governance of traditional lands. Public awareness and respectful dialogue on these matters are

essential as our communities consider the relationship between traditional institutions and modern governmental structures.

Respectfully submitted,
H.E. Herculano Kohler

Editor's note

The Council of Mwoalen Wahu Ileile en Pohnpei adopted a Resolution Regarding Traditional Land Ownership on August 12, 2026. The document bears signatures under the titles of the Nahnmwarkis of Madolenihmw, Uh, Kitt, Nett, and Sokehs.

In an August 19, 2026, transmittal letter addressed to Pohnpei Governor Joseph A. Stevenson and Legislature Speaker Marvin Yamaguchi, Herculano Kohler, Nahnmwarki of Sokehs, forwarded the resolution on the Council's behalf. He wrote that all five Nahnmwarkis had reviewed and signed it. The letter requests that the Governor transmit the resolution to the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs and relevant United Nations agencies to formally inform the international community of the Council's position.

The resolution asserts that tribal lands within Pohnpei's five island kingdoms belong inherently and exclusively to their respective traditional leaders through custom and tradition. It maintains that foreign colonial occupation did not transfer, diminish, or extinguish those rights and declares the Council the legitimate and paramount authority over the management and stewardship of Pohnpei's natural resources and ancestral domains.

The Council calls for the immediate return of all traditional lands to the traditional leaders and the immediate closure of the Pohnpei State Board of Land Trustees and any affiliated entities it describes as operating outside the constitutional and traditional framework of the Pohnpeian kingdoms. It also affirms its position that all land ownership in Pohnpei is held in trust by the rightful traditional leaders for present and future generations.

These statements set out the Council's position and requested actions. The accompanying documents do not include a response from the Governor, the Legislature, or the Board of Land Trustees, or indicate that the requested actions have been taken.

Russia's War on Ukrainian Trade Is a War on Global Food Security

By the Ambassador of the European Union to the Pacific, H.E. Barbara Plinkert

When nearly 80% of the world faces hunger, blocking one of the world's major breadbaskets is neither an accident nor merely a military tactic – it is a direct assault on global stability.

Russia is systematically strangling Ukraine's agricultural exports across the Black Sea, the Danube River, and overland corridors. By targeting shipping, ports, and warehouses, Moscow is weaponising food against millions of vulnerable people across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and, indirectly, the Pacific.

This crisis is engineered for maximum damage. As Ukraine moves through its harvest season, missile and drone strikes have trapped grain inside the country, cutting exports in half. Over 9 million tonnes could rot by November due to destroyed storage, triggering agricultural



shortages and driving up global prices well into 2027.

The shockwaves reverberate far beyond Europe. Today, an estimated 645 million people face hunger globally, and vulnerable communities are the least able to absorb another artificial supply shock.

Before the invasion, Ukraine supplied 15% of global corn exports, 10% of wheat, and 50% of sunflower oil, making it a vital supplier to regions such as North Africa and the Middle East.

These disruptions also ripple across the ocean to the Pacific Islands. Due to their physical remoteness, Pacific communities rely heavily on imported essential goods, including food and fuel, making Pacific households uniquely exposed to the effects of global flashpoints – particularly the supply shocks that drive up global prices.

Rising prices quickly filter down into grocery bills, transport costs, and household budgets, straining food security, nutrition, health, and wellbeing. Compounded by climate change and intensifying natural disasters, these pressures further erode Pacific resilience. This invasion must not be allowed to become a force multiplier for instability, draining the resources Pacific nations need to confront their own existential challenges.

Geographically, Ukraine and the Pacific are oceans apart, but the geopolitical stakes are identical. Universal principles of peace, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are core to the Pacific way of life and guided the historic Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration.

Pacific leaders have long made it clear: global disputes must be resolved through dialogue, in pursuit of long-lasting peace and security.

The European Union (EU) is working to mitigate the impact. Through its "Solidarity Lanes," the EU has opened alternative land routes to move Ukrainian grain to global markets. However, land routes are a temporary band-aid. They cannot replace safe navigation in the Black Sea, which handles 90% of Ukraine's agricultural trade.

An immediate arrangement is required to allow the safe passage of vessels. The international community cannot accept a situation where millions far from the battlefield pay the price.

Ukraine has consistently demonstrated its readiness for peace, calling for an unconditional ceasefire since the early days of the invasion, yet Russia continues to escalate its aggression.

The EU greatly values the Pacific countries that stand up for international law and consistently voice their support for Ukraine's sovereignty on the global stage. Distance does not diminish solidarity: their moral leadership sends a powerful message that regional security and global stability are inseparable.

The EU will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine for as long as it takes. But an unconditional ceasefire leading to just and lasting peace requires collective pressure.

The EU calls on its Pacific partners to keep standing with it. Ending this war protects Ukrainian lives – and helps preserve the predictable global trading conditions that underpin economic resilience across the Pacific.

Palik leads FSM delegation as UN General Assembly debate opens

FSM Information Services

September 22, 2026

NEW YORK — FSM Vice President Aren B. Palik and members of the Federated States of Micronesia delegation attended the opening of the General Debate of the 81st United Nations General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York on September 22.

The opening began a week of high-level meetings and speeches by leaders from around the world, with the FSM delegation participating in events addressing issues including climate change, sustainable

development, and concerns of Small Island Developing States.

Opening-day speakers included UN General Assembly President Khalilur Rahman and UN Secretary-General António Guterres, followed by national leaders including Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and U.S. President Donald Trump.

Brazil traditionally delivers the first national address during the General Debate, followed by the United States as host country.



the opening session came as the FSM prepared to use the annual gathering to present its positions on climate resilience, sustainable development, energy, and other national and regional priorities.

The General Debate brings together heads of state, heads of government, ministers, and other senior representatives of the UN's 193 member states. It provides countries with an opportunity to

address international issues and present their governments' priorities before the General Assembly. His attendance at General Assembly.

Palik brings FSM priorities to United Nations General Assembly

By **Bill Jaynes**

The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026

NEW YORK — FSM Vice President Aren Palik used the Federated States of Micronesia's address to the 81st United Nations General Assembly to call for stronger international action on climate change, ocean protection, renewable energy, development financing, health, migration, and reform of the United Nations.

Speaking during the UN General Debate in New York on September 26, Palik said the session's theme, "Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all," directly reflects the challenges confronting small island countries.

"We need the benefits of digital innovation, artificial intelligence, energy transition, and institutional reforms," Palik said. "At the same time, we recognize the challenges of climate change, ocean degradation, pollution, and growing inequality."

Climate change featured prominently throughout the FSM statement, with Palik describing its effects not simply as an environmental problem but as a security issue.

"Today's security landscape is shaped not only by conflict but by climate-driven fragility," he said. "Extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and resource degradation are eroding stability across vulnerable regions, especially the Pacific."

Those pressures, he said, are increasing humanitarian needs, disrupting food and water systems, and straining governments.

"For Micronesia, climate impacts are a national security concern."

Palik called for science-based emissions reductions, stronger national climate commitments, a faster transition to renewable energy, and accessible and predictable grant financing for climate adaptation. He also called for the Loss and Damage Fund to be put into operation and for the international community to maintain the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The FSM also endorsed the proposed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Shift to renewable energy is an economic necessity," Palik said. "Solar, wind, and ocean-based technologies can reduce dependence on external fuel markets, strengthen energy security, and lower emissions in line with science."

He said instability in the Middle East and volatile fuel prices have demonstrated the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States to expensive fuel and unstable supplies.

Maritime security and protection of the Pacific Ocean were another major focus of the address. Palik said illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, transnational crime, and environmental degradation threaten both Pacific economies and the marine environment.

He called for greater international cooperation, technology sharing, and capacity-building "to ensure that the ocean remains a zone of peace, governed by international law."

"The ocean is the heart of Micronesian identity, livelihoods, and future prosperity," Palik said. "It faces mounting pressures from climate change, sea-level rise, pollution, and unsustainable exploitation."

Palik pointed to the FSM's involvement in implementing the Agreement on the Conservation



[Click here for continuation](#)

...Palik UN

[Click here to return](#)

and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, commonly known as the BBNJ Agreement. He said Micronesia, which was the first country to sign the agreement, is among six countries moving toward implementation and is working with GIZ and five co-leading states to develop area-based management tools and marine protected area proposals.

On deep-sea mining in the international seabed area, Palik said the FSM is taking a precautionary approach.

“We stress the need to consolidate comprehensive knowledge, data, and science about the marine environment before any decision is taken on proceeding with exploitation,” he said.

Palik said adjacent coastal states, Indigenous Peoples, and local Pacific communities must also be meaningfully consulted before any such decision.

Plastic pollution was also singled out as a growing threat to Pacific ecosystems and communities. Palik said marine debris, microplastics, and toxic substances are accumulating along island shores, placing disproportionate cleanup and economic burdens on small island governments.

He cited Chuuk Lagoon as an example of another form of marine pollution, saying oil leaking from World War II remnants continues to threaten livelihoods following an emergency declaration last year.

“Micronesia calls on the international community to match local action with global responsibility,” Palik said, calling for sustained funding, technology transfer, tighter controls on plastic production, an end to waste exporting, and completion of an international treaty addressing plastic pollution.



Palik also used the UN address to announce the adoption of the FSM's National Migration Policy, developed with technical support from the International Organization for Migration.

“Our people are the most valuable national resource,” he said.

The policy, he said, is intended to strengthen protection, engagement, and well-being for FSM citizens, including members of the diaspora. He also said the FSM aligns itself with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Health challenges received particular attention. Palik said increasingly frequent tropical storms, heat waves, and changing tidal patterns are affecting public health, while illnesses associated with marine life and vector-borne diseases, including dengue and Zika, are increasing.

At the same time, he said, non-communicable diseases continue to strain the health system and reduce workforce productivity.

“We are strengthening our national health capacity, increasing investments in diagnostics and life-saving medicine, expanding the use of tele-health to access specialist care and medical education, and partnering with neighboring countries to support regular medical exchange programs that augment our treatment capability in-country,” Palik said.

The Vice President also addressed the Sustainable Development Goals, warning that climate impacts are eroding development gains across the Pacific. Recent typhoons, severe flooding in FSM states, and increasingly frequent king tides on low-lying islands demonstrate that



such events are becoming recurring pressures rather than isolated emergencies, he said.

Palik called for implementation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index as a means of giving Small Island Developing States fairer access to concessional financing based on their structural vulnerabilities.

The address also covered gender equality and youth development. Palik said the FSM is working to address barriers to women's leadership, economic participation, access to justice, digital safety, and protection from violence, particularly in remote and outer-island communities.

He said young people are increasingly involved in community advocacy, climate stewardship, adaptation, mitigation, and public service, while the country needs to expand skills training, employment opportunities, youth participation in decision-making, and efforts addressing substance abuse and mental health.

Palik also addressed proposed reforms within the United Nations. He said the FSM strongly supports the UN80 reform initiative but stressed that the UN Multi-Country Office and Resident Coordinator system should remain in place because of the FSM's widely dispersed geography and remote communities.

“For countries defined by distance, dispersion, and vulnerability, reform cannot be an abstract exercise; it must strengthen the UN's ability to deliver where the needs are greatest,”

he said.

On reform of the UN Security Council, Palik said the FSM supports permanent membership for Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan, permanent representation for Africa, and a dedicated non-permanent seat for Small Island Developing States.

The Vice President also addressed digital transformation and artificial intelligence, saying both offer opportunities for improved public services, economic diversification, expanded market access, and climate-resilient development. However, he warned that without adequate investment, capacity-building, and governance, those technologies could increase inequality and exposure to cybersecurity threats, misinformation, and data privacy risks.

Palik concluded by arguing that the issues raised in the FSM statement ultimately test whether the United Nations can produce tangible results for countries such as Micronesia.

“For Micronesia, success must be measured not by declaration, but by tangible improvements in our people's lives, security, and dignity,” he said.

“We call for equitable partnership with small island developing States through accessible finance, technology transfer, stronger capacity, and meaningful voice in global decisions. In the spirit of KAMORALE, let us choose cooperation over division and build a peaceful, just, and sustainable future in which every nation can thrive.”

Forty goals, zero clouds, and one big comeback: the Canada champions league is off and running

Four matches, four sunny days, and one very serious shortage of footballs

By Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club

CCA 8, SDA 7.

October 2, 2026

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—The Canada Champions League opened with four sunny match days, 40 goals, and at least one result nobody saw coming.

Nett Quebec delivers a debut worth framing

On Tuesday, September 22, at Spanish Wall Park, Nett Quebec played the first match in its history—and celebrated with a 3–1 win over a rejuvenated PCS Toronto.

PCS clearly found the fountain of youth. Nett found the net three times.

Ohmine Vancouver remains the team to beat

The following day, Ohmine Vancouver defeated St Paul Winnipeg 9–1. St Paul, a relatively new team, had a tough introduction against a well-oiled machine coached by Paul Cantero. Ohmine ran so smoothly that nobody needed to check the oil.

Once again, Ohmine looks like a major contender for the cup.

Kolonia Montreal arrives short-handed and leaves five goals ahead

On Tuesday, September 29, at the Track and Field, Kolonia Montreal turned up missing several players but still secured an 8–3 win over Sekere Edmonton.

Sekere was the only team to hold last year's champions, making Kolonia's five-goal victory an impressive start.

CCA Ottawa and SDA Calgary deliver the comeback

On Wednesday, September 30, experienced side SDA Calgary, with a squad of more than 30 children, led newcomers CCA Ottawa 4–0 at half-time. The SDA bench was relaxed, and the scoreboard was happy.

Then CCA came back out.

Good coaching, a high defensive line, and efforts to contain SDA's best scorer turned the match around. The final score was

In its first competition, CCA delivered the comeback of the opening round.

All four winners have three points. Ohmine Vancouver leads on goal difference at plus eight, followed by Kolonia Montreal at plus five, Nett Quebec at plus two, and CCA Ottawa at plus one.

The great goalpost mystery

Spanish Wall Park is awaiting new metal goalposts donated by Vital in collaboration with Kolonia Municipality and the Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC).

Metal was chosen for a reason. The PVC goalposts PSAKC donated earlier disappeared piece by piece. Somebody out there may have a very strange collection.

With everyone's help, we can keep football and group activities going despite the damage.

A thank-you and a word about aluminum cans

PSAKC thanks Burt from the Pohnpei Department of Education for his help.

After an event at the Track and Field on Saturday, September 26, the pitch looked more like a dump than a football field. The goalposts were also broken in two.

That is a serious safety concern. Sharp-edged aluminum cans hidden in tall, uncut grass are hard to see and easy to step on. Children's feet deserve better.

A tidy pitch is the cheapest piece of sports equipment there is.

Coming up in Matchday 2

Tuesday, October 6: PCS Toronto vs St Paul Winnipeg at Spanish Wall Park.

Wednesday, October 7: Nett Quebec vs Sekere Edmonton at Spanish Wall Park.

Tuesday, October 13: Ohmine Vancouver vs CCA Ottawa at Spanish Wall Park.

Wednesday, October 14: Kolonia Montreal vs SDA Calgary at the Track and Field.

Breaking news—balls are missing

As schools prepare for Matchday 2, they lack the one thing every soccer team needs: footballs.

An institution promised balls last year, but none have arrived for PSAKC or the schools. PSAKC has donated almost every ball it owns, and the cupboard is now looking alarmingly bare.

Some parents asked local authorities for help and were told to ask the NGO.

So the NGO is asking you.

Please contact your senators and members of FSM Congress and ask them to help



CANADA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MATCHDAY 1 - FINAL SCORES

PCS Toronto	1	–	1	St Paul Winnipeg
Nett Quebec	3	–	1	Sekere Edmonton
Ohmine Vancouver	3	–	1	CCA Ottawa
Kolonia Montreal	8	–	3	SDA Calgary

MATCHDAY 2 - COMING UP

PCS Toronto	vs	St Paul Winnipeg
Nett Quebec	vs	Sekere Edmonton
Ohmine Vancouver	vs	CCA Ottawa
Kolonia Montreal	vs	SDA Calgary

CLASSIFICATION

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ohmine Vancouver	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kolonia Montreal	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nett Quebec	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CCA Ottawa	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDA Calgary	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PCS Toronto	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sekere Edmonton	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Paul Winnipeg	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

schools obtain footballs. A ball is a modest investment that can keep children happy, active, and fit.

Want to play? You're in!

Free training runs every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. for children aged 5–8 and 9–14.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of gender, skill, disability, ethnicity, language, or family income. If you can run, hop, wobble, or cheer, you belong.

Thanks to Marstella Jack, children from the Ohmine area also have free transport.

With 74 children attending each training session and 40 at each match, we see the enthusiasm for soccer in Pohnpei. We want to keep it going all year, not just in the lead-up to an event.

We are also seeking help to obtain goalposts for Nett School and fund a small gated bridge between Kolonia School and Daini Field, giving children safe access to play during recess and at other times. The Seabees prepared the project; we now need funding.

Help us keep the children playing.

FSM Moves to Strengthen Water Security with National Drought Plan Supported by Japan, IOM

International Organization for Migration

September 22, 2026

FSM - The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has taken an important step to strengthen drought preparedness and water security with the endorsement of its National Drought Preparedness and Response Plan (NDPRP). The Plan, officially endorsed on 22 August 2026 by the Government of FSM through the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM), provides a national framework for strengthening preparedness, response and resilience to drought events. Its development was facilitated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with support from the Government of Japan.

The NDPRP establishes FSM's first comprehensive national framework for coordinated drought risk management at the national and state level, including across the four states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. The Plan provides clear mechanisms for drought monitoring, early warning, preparedness, response, recovery, and coordination among national and state governments, municipalities, communities, and development partners.

FSM has experienced several major drought events over recent decades,

including severe droughts in 1983, 1998, 2015-2016, and most recently during the 2023-2024 El Niño event. These events significantly impacted water supplies, agriculture, public health, education, and livelihoods, particularly in outer island communities where fresh water sources are limited, and communities rely heavily on harvested rainwater.

"The endorsement of the National Drought Preparedness and Response Plan reflects FSM's commitment to proactive drought management and climate resilience," said FSM DECEM's Secretary Florian J. Yatilman. "By strengthening preparedness before drought emergencies occur, we can better protect our people, safeguard water and food security, and support our most vulnerable communities."

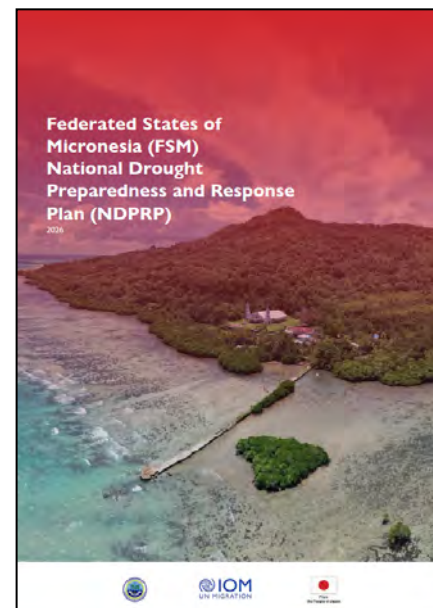
The Plan is built around three core pillars: strengthening early warning systems, improving vulnerability and impact assessments, and enhancing drought mitigation, preparedness, and response measures. It establishes clear mechanisms for coordination among weather services, disaster management authorities, water utilities, health and agriculture sectors, and community-based disaster management committees. It also supports community-led planning and localized early action, particularly for remote and outer island populations.

"The Government of Japan is pleased to support this important initiative, which will strengthen water security and climate resilience in FSM," said Nobuo Kagomiya, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia. "Strong preparedness and risk reduction measures are essential as climate-related challenges continue to affect the Pacific region."

The Plan's development was supported through the Climate Resilient Community Water Services in the North Pacific Project drawing on extensive consultations with national and state government agencies, utilities, technical experts, traditional leaders, communities, and development partners across FSM.

"IOM is proud to support the Government of FSM in strengthening drought preparedness and resilience," said Ewa Naqvi, IOM North Pacific Chief of Mission. "The National Drought Preparedness and Response Plan provides a practical roadmap for coordinated action that will help reduce drought impacts and improve water security for communities throughout the country."

The NDPRP prioritizes the needs of people and communities particularly vulnerable to drought impacts including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and households with limited resources.



Implementation of the Plan will support enhanced drought monitoring, stronger communication systems, improved water resource management, increased community preparedness initiatives, and more effective response mechanisms before, during, and after drought events.

As climate variability continues to increase drought risks across the Pacific, the NDPRP provides a roadmap for proactive action and coordinated decision-making. Through strengthened collaboration between government institutions, communities, and development partners, FSM is taking an important step toward a more resilient and water-secure future.

Grant meets Narruhn during farewell visit to Chuuk

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlle Press

September 29, 2026

CHUUK, FSM — Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant met with Chuuk Governor Alexander Narruhn during a farewell visit as she prepares to leave the FSM at the end of October, concluding her tenure as Australia's Ambassador to the country.

Grant thanked Narruhn for his cooperation during her tenure, while the Governor expressed appreciation for Australian support to Chuuk.

Their meeting included discussion

of Australian-funded outer-island electrification projects on Etten and Piis Paneu.

"These projects are on small outer islands but will provide significant benefits to the communities of Etten and Piis Paneu, allowing students to study and families to remain connected during the night-time hours," Narruhn said.

The meeting also covered Australian assistance following Typhoon Sinlaku, including a water and sanitation project for schools in Chuuk.

According to the Embassy, other areas of Australian support discussed

during the meeting included assistance to the Chuuk Women's Council, the Family Protection Program, and an upcoming visit by a Royal Australasian College of Surgeons surgical team.

The Embassy also pointed to recent investigative and police intelligence training facilitated by the Australian Federal Police.

Australia and Chuuk have additionally worked on efforts to reduce the risk of oil spills from World War II shipwrecks submerged in Chuuk Lagoon, according to the post.

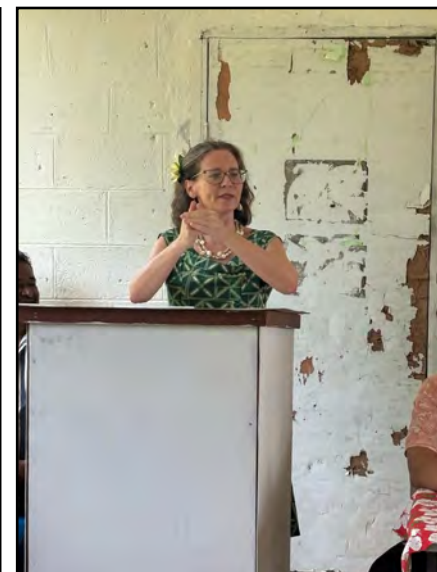


Australian-funded solar project to bring electricity to Etten

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026
CHUUK, FSM

— Australia has launched a solar electrification project on Etten in Chuuk that will provide new electricity connections to households and community facilities, according to a post by the Australian Embassy to the FSM.



Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant launched the project with Chuuk Governor Alex Narruhn, Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation CEO Kembo Mida, and representatives of implementation partners the Pacific Community and Utiligence.

Narruhn thanked the Australian Government for funding the project and said access to electricity would create new opportunities for Etten residents and support future development.

“We, the people of Chuuk and Etten, will support the completion of this project in whatever way we can,” Narruhn said.

The project will install a solar mini-grid and battery energy storage system and provide household wiring and power connections. Schools, the island dispensary, and church will also be connected to the new system, according to the Embassy.

Grant said reliable electricity would have practical effects on daily life for Etten families.

“For many families in Etten, reliable electricity will transform everyday life in ways both large and small. It will mean lights in homes at night, allowing children to study and families to spend more time together. It will mean safer homes and safer public spaces,” Grant said.

The Facebook post did not provide the project's cost, generating capacity, number of households expected to receive electricity, or anticipated completion date.

According to the Embassy, the project is intended both to improve access to electricity and to help the community adapt to climate change through the use of renewable energy.



Australian grant supports Utwe youth aquaculture and food processing project

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 24, 2026

KOSRAE, FSM — An Australian-funded project in Utwe is providing youth and women with opportunities in aquaculture, food processing, and preservation, according to a post by the Australian Embassy to the FSM.

Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant and Senior Program Manager Roan Cabacungan recently visited the completed project, which was supported through Australia's Direct Aid Program.

Project Manager Krystle Melander said the initiative provides

opportunities for youth and women in Utwe to participate in both onshore and offshore coastal aquaculture.

Participants are also learning food preservation and processing techniques, including drying fish, dehydrating taro and cassava, and producing flour for household use and baking.

“These techniques help strengthen food security, generate income, and support sustainable livelihoods for families in the community,” Grant said.

According to the Embassy, the Utwe Youth Group has previously carried out several projects supported through



Australia's Direct Aid Program, with a focus on economic opportunities for youth and women.

The Direct Aid Program provides Australian funding for small-scale community projects in the FSM.

Australia to fund water and sanitation repairs at Chuuk schools

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026

CHUUK, FSM — Australia will fund repairs to water and sanitation facilities at two schools on Weno damaged by Typhoon Sinlaku as part of a broader AUD 2.1 million investment in school water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities across the FSM, according to a post by the Australian Embassy to the FSM.

Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant visited Iras Demo Elementary School, where she met with Acting Vice Principal Sinia Sainash and inspected areas where gutters and water tanks damaged during the typhoon are

scheduled to be rehabilitated.

The work will be carried out in partnership with UNICEF and the Chuuk Education Directorate. According to the Embassy, the two schools were among those hardest hit on Weno.

The Embassy post did not identify the second school or specify how much of the AUD 2.1 million FSM-wide investment would be spent on the work in Chuuk.

"This important recovery work rehabilitating water and sanitation infrastructure destroyed in the typhoon will help Chuuk's children study in safer and more hygienic spaces," Grant said.



girls.

Grant was accompanied by Australian Embassy Second Secretary Josh Critchley-Evans and Cory Kustin of UNICEF. She also met with Chuuk Education Directorate representatives Eleanor Bisalen, Jayvina Assito, and Deanna Aizawa, who conducted assessments to identify the schools considered most vulnerable.

The AUD 2.1 million program supports water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities at schools across the FSM, according to the Embassy.

The project will also support repairs to school toilet and handwashing facilities and provide menstrual hygiene kits for

Australia reaffirms support for repairs to Chuuk Women's Council office

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

October 2, 2026

Chuuk — Australia's Ambassador to the FSM, Jenny Grant, reaffirmed her government's commitment to completing repairs to the Chuuk Women's Council office following damage caused by Typhoon Sinlaku, according to an Australian Embassy Facebook post published on October 2.

Grant met with Council President Gracelyn Poll-Serious and other members during her farewell visit to Chuuk.

Poll-Serious thanked Australia for supporting the Council's operations during the disruption caused by the storm.

"We want to thank you Ambassador Grant and the Australian Government for your continued support of our Council's operations, particularly during what has been a difficult period, following the damage to our office

caused by Typhoon Sinlaku," she said.

The Embassy said Grant thanked the Council for its work supporting women, families, and communities across Chuuk and reaffirmed Australia's commitment to ensuring that the office repairs were completed as soon as possible.

"Women are at heart of strong resilient communities, it has been a privilege to listen, learn and work with strong women leaders of Chuuk. I hope the Council can return back to normal operations as soon as possible," Grant said.

Australia's partnership with the Council includes an AUD\$1.5 million multi-year arrangement supporting women's empowerment, protection, and gender equality in the FSM.

The post did not specify the cost or scope of the office repairs, give a completion date, or explain whether the repairs are funded through that broader partnership.



Yap leaders raise community concerns over proposed military projects

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026

Yap—Community concerns about proposed military projects in Yap were among the subjects discussed when Governor Francis Itimai and members of his cabinet met with visiting U.S. diplomatic and military representatives on September 28.

According to a September 30 release from the Yap State Government, the delegation included U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew J. Wylie and Joint Task Force–Micronesia Commander Admiral Lasky. The meeting took place in the Governor's Conference Room.

Following introductions, Itimai invited YUMO Task Force Chairman Thomas G. Tun to address community concerns and questions about the proposed projects.

The release said Lasky told participants he was working with the U.S. Embassy and the YUMO Task Force to address those concerns. He also announced plans to hold smaller meetings within communities to provide more information and answer questions about the projects.

The announcement did not identify the specific concerns

raised, describe the projects discussed, or provide dates and locations for the planned community meetings.

Itimai welcomed the visiting representatives and offered assistance during their stay. The discussion brought together U.S. representatives, state officials, and task force members to consider questions surrounding the proposed military projects.

Other participants included Planning and Budget Director Julius Liyon Tun, Resources and Development Director Bernard Gorong, Health Services Director Theo Thinnifel, Assistant Attorney General Antonio Barinisavu, and Acting Youth and Civic Affairs Director John W.K. Fillmed. Staff from those offices and the YUMO Task Force also attended.



Pacific Islands Forum and CARICOM strengthen partnership through new MOU

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

September 23, 2026

New York - The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have formalised their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed on 23 September 2026 on the margins of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Signed by PIF Secretary General Baron Divavesi Waqa and CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett, the MoU establishes a framework for strengthened cooperation between the regions and provides a platform to advance shared priorities of Small Island and Low-Lying Coastal Developing States (SIDS).

Secretary General Waqa welcomed the

agreement as a foundation for a deeper and more structured Pacific-Caribbean partnership.

“Our voices are strongest when we advocate together on issues affecting our peoples and our future. Today’s signing marks the beginning of a stronger partnership between the Pacific and Caribbean, enabling us to advance shared SIDS priorities and ensure they remain visible, influential and action-oriented in global decision-making,” he said.

Speaking at the signing, Dr. Barnett said, “This MoU marks a pivotal moment in South-South cooperation between CARICOM and the Pacific Islands Forum. As regions comprised largely of Small Island and Low-Lying Coastal Developing States, we share common vulnerabilities, from the

acute impacts of climate change to the unique economic pressures facing our nations.”

She added, “By formalising our partnership today, we are strengthening our collective advocacy on the global stage, amplifying our shared priorities, and building practical frameworks for collaboration that will directly benefit the people of both the Caribbean and the Pacific.”

The MoU provides a basis for the two regions to strengthen collective advocacy, share knowledge and expertise, and pursue practical cooperation on issues of common interest, reinforcing the voice and influence of SIDS in international processes.

The Pacific Islands Forum is a regional bloc that brings together 18 member countries and territories, and is headquartered in Suva, Fiji. The Caribbean Community is a regional integration movement comprising 15 Member and 8 Associate Member States, with headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana.



Yap Youth Sports Day brings young people together for recreation

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2026

YAP, FSM — Young people gathered at the Yap Sports Complex on September 26 for a Youth Sports Day featuring table tennis, indoor soccer, and volleyball, according to a release from the Yap State Government.

The event was organized by the Division of Youth Services in collaboration with COM-CRE and the Youth Planning Committee and ran from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Youth Sports Recreational Officer Maphrick Ruweday welcomed participants and encouraged them to enjoy the activities while keeping safety in mind.

JICA volunteer Kenta Otsubo led participants through warm-up exercises before competition began.

Five teams competed in table tennis, while participants were divided into four teams for indoor soccer. Volleyball activities were held during the afternoon.

Winners in the sporting

activities were recognized during an awards presentation and received small gifts, including school supplies.

According to the Yap Government release, the event was intended to encourage physical activity while providing opportunities for young people to develop teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship.

COM-CRE and Oasis Bakery provided lunch and refreshments for participants.

The Division of Youth Services thanked COM-CRE, the Youth Planning Committee, Oasis Bakery, participants, and others who supported the event.



V6AI/KUTE restores online streaming for listeners in Yap and abroad

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 23, 2026

YAP, FSM — Yap public radio station V6AI/KUTE has resumed online streaming, making its programming available over the internet to listeners in Yap, the outer islands, and elsewhere in the world, according to a release from the Yap State Government.

The service was launched September 16 and provides another means of receiving V6AI/KUTE programming while work continues to restore the station’s AM service.

According to the station’s Chief of Media and Protocol, restoring online streaming had been planned as a way to expand access to the station and provide listeners with additional options.

V6AI/KUTE previously streamed online through a partnership with the FSM Telecommunications Corporation, but that service ended several years ago after the streaming equipment became inoperable.

The new service is available through the station’s streaming website and through the Listen2MyRadio mobile application by searching for V6aikute.

“With an internet connection, anyone can listen to the station from anywhere in the world,” the Chief of Media and Protocol said.

The online stream could be particularly useful for Yapese living outside the state. The Yap Government release said it also provides another way for residents of the outer islands to receive V6AI/KUTE programming while the station works to bring its AM service back online.

V6AI/KUTE broadcasts public announcements, job vacancies, local news, and other community information.

The station also plans to expand its online presence with blog posts and public event calendars.

According to the release, V6AI/KUTE researched available streaming platforms before selecting one capable of meeting its operational requirements and handling a large number of listeners. Because the service was only recently launched, the station said it had not yet received significant listener feedback.

Listeners can access the stream through V6AI/KUTE’s online streaming page or through the Listen2MyRadio app.

Island leaders call for climate finance that reaches their communities

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlle Press

September 28, 2026

Island Nations - More than 6,000 participants joined the eighth Virtual Island Summit, where island leaders and climate specialists called for financing and partnerships to support communities already developing responses to climate change, ocean pressures, and economic challenges.

According to a press release from organizer Island Innovation, the online summit ran from September 15 to 17, bringing together participants from the Pacific, Caribbean, Europe, Indian Ocean, Arctic, and other regions ahead of COP31, the United Nations climate summit.

Twelve sessions addressed coastal erosion, ocean governance, food and energy security, tourism, and climate finance. Discussions focused on adapting to change, transforming systems, and mobilizing action.

Climate adaptation funding featured prominently. Green Climate Fund Executive Director Mafalda Duarte said small island states receive just 0.2 percent of global international adaptation finance, although storms, floods, or drought have affected more

than 34 million islanders over the past decade.

"Islands are often described as being on the front line of climate change, and that is absolutely true, but they are also home to some of the world's deepest experience in adapting to change," Duarte said.

She said nearly a quarter of the Green Climate Fund's projects are in small island developing states. As an example of what targeted financing can achieve, she cited a \$36 million commitment to Tuvalu made a decade ago that helped secure another \$67.9 million from Australia, New Zealand, and the Asian Development Bank for resilience efforts.

Tuvalu Prime Minister Feleti Penitala Teo opened the summit and announced that his country would host a pre-COP leaders' side event on October 6. The event will feature the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project, which he said has reclaimed approximately 15.3 hectares of land on Funafuti.

Teo also called for adaptation efforts to draw on traditional knowledge and support the people who preserve and share it.

"We must therefore invest in the people

who carry that knowledge, connect generations and communities, and ensure that adaptation protects more than physical infrastructure," he said.

A session on ocean and climate finance examined how to secure greater attention and funding for ocean priorities at COP31. Rachel Kyte, the United Kingdom's Special Representative for Climate, called for all creditors to adopt mandatory clauses that pause debt payments following extreme weather events.

Salome Tukuafu of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme said the Pacific has accessed less than one percent of available climate finance. The session also cited an estimated global need of \$149 billion annually to address ocean priorities, according to the release.

Beyond financing, participants discussed efforts to rebuild local food systems and reduce dependence on imports. Examples came from communities ranging from the Pacific to Scotland's Outer Hebrides.

Discussions also addressed the role of indigenous languages in education, cultural continuity, and community resilience. Ocean governance sessions examined how technology,

policy, community participation, and institutional capacity can work together to protect marine resources.

Speakers included Guam Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero and Australian Assistant Minister for Pacific Islands Affairs Senator Nita Green, alongside leaders and specialists from other island jurisdictions and international organizations.

The summit also introduced "Island Blue Economies: Building Ocean Livelihoods That Last," a professional development program scheduled to begin October 13. Island Innovation said the program will provide practical skills and knowledge for people working to develop sustainable ocean economies.

Island Innovation CEO James Ellsmoor said the summit demonstrated the range of expertise within island communities.

"What they need is finance and partnerships that reach them, and with pre-COP and COP31 weeks away, that is the gap the world needs to close," he said.

The Virtual Island Summit began in 2019. Island Innovation said the annual free event connects participants from more than 500 islands and territories.

Pacific leaders unite to advance global ocean action and protect the Blue Pacific

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

September 22, 2026

Palau - As the world prepares for the largest annual climate summit in the coming months, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders have reaffirmed their collective commitment to protecting and sustainably managing the Blue Pacific Ocean, calling for stronger global action to safeguard the region's people, resources and future generations.

Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed the 2026 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Ocean Statement at the recent 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Koror, Palau, laying out a unified regional agenda to strengthen advocacy and coordinated engagement across international processes on oceans,

climate change, biodiversity, fisheries, pollution and sustainable development.

Guided by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Forum Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and underscored the importance of Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge in ocean stewardship.

"For Pacific peoples, the ocean is far more than a resource. It is our identity, our heritage and our future. The decisions taken by Leaders in Palau reflect a shared determination to ensure Pacific voices continue to



shape global action on oceans, climate and biodiversity," said Pacific Ocean Commissioner Dr Filimon Manoni.

Dr Manoni, who was reappointed by Forum Leaders to serve another three-year term as Pacific Ocean Commissioner, said Leaders were deeply concerned about the growing

impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, overfishing and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. He noted that Pacific countries continue to play a vital role in supporting global climate stability, food security and marine biodiversity conservation.

Recognising the critical links between ocean health, climate action, and biodiversity conservation, Leaders called for urgent global action to keep the 1.5°C temperature goal within reach, address the impacts of sea-level rise, and accelerate implementation of international biodiversity and ocean

Click here for continuation

Palau to host U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in May 2027

The Kaselehlie Press

September 29, 2026

Palau—Palau will host the 53rd U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in May 2027, bringing the gathering to the country for the third time, according to a press release from the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC).

Organizers announced the decision at the conclusion of the task force's September 2 business meeting in Washington, D.C. Palau previously hosted the task force's 14th meeting in November 2005 and its 42nd meeting in September 2019.

PICRC Director of Research Geraldine Rengiil represented Palau as its official point of contact at the 52nd meeting, which ran from August 27 through September 4 at the U.S. Department of the Interior headquarters.

The gathering brought together representatives of U.S. government agencies, states, territories, and the Freely Associated States to

discuss threats to coral reefs, review conservation priorities, and coordinate work across jurisdictions.

According to the release, discussions began with updates from the All Islands Committee and reviews of policies, jurisdictional challenges, and joint initiatives. Working groups on fisheries, enforcement, and coral restoration, disease, and disturbance also met to report on progress and discuss regional commitments.

Participants attended a NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training workshop, while Pacific delegates received an update on the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community.

The public business meeting on September 2 included reports on the All Islands Committee's priorities and work over the previous year, an international update, and presentations on coral reef conservation efforts.

Participants also received information on Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, which the release described as a highly



lethal disease affecting corals in the Atlantic and Caribbean that could spread to the Pacific. Other discussions addressed El Niño conditions and the risks of ocean warming and coral bleaching associated with marine heatwaves.

Task force co-chairs Angel A. Demapan, the Department of the Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular, International, and Ocean

Affairs, and Nicole LeBoeuf, Assistant Administrator of NOAA's National Ocean Service, attended the business meeting.

PICRC said hosting the 2027 gathering will give Palau an opportunity to strengthen coral reef conservation partnerships and share its work with participating jurisdictions and agencies.

Coral reef researchers visit Palau restoration and conservation sites

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 23, 2026

Palau—Representatives of coral reef research and conservation organizations visited Palau's coral nursery, marine lakes, and protected reefs on August 30 to learn about local restoration efforts and research into how corals respond to climate change.

According to a press release from the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), the center hosted representatives of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and the Coral Reef Research Foundation ahead of the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting.

The delegation included Great Barrier Reef Foundation Executive Director Theresa Fyffe and Dr. Kalara McGregor; Australian Institute of Marine Science CEO Professor Selina Stead, Dr. Manuel Gonzalez Rivero, and Amanda Brigdale; and the Coral Reef Research

Foundation's Gerda Ucharm.

PICRC CEO Roxanne Sual Blesam, Director Caryn Lkong Koshiba, and other center staff joined the visitors.

The tour began at PICRC, where Board Chair Surech Bells and staff welcomed the delegation. Guests toured the Palau Aquarium and research tanks, with Asap Bukurrou providing an overview of the facilities and ongoing work.

At Ucheliungs reef, the group visited a coral nursery that PICRC developed and manages in collaboration with Newcastle University's CORALASSIST team. Palau Aquarium researcher Dr. Cinzia Alessi explained the nursery's activities, and participants



discussed restoration approaches to support reefs as the climate changes.

The delegation then visited Ngermid Bay for a snorkeling session and an introduction to its role as a natural laboratory for studying coral responses and adaptation

to climate change. Alessi and Bukurrou discussed research in the bay and how findings from Palau's reefs can contribute to a broader understanding of coral resilience.

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Karen Wong joins PASAI to lead performance audit and stakeholder programs

PASAI

September 30, 2026

AUKLAND, New Zealand - The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) has welcomed another experienced performance auditor, Karen Wong, to its Secretariat team as one of its program directors.

After a week of inductions in Auckland, Ms Wong will be responsible for PASAI's performance audit and stakeholder management programs. She will also manage a portfolio of member audit offices that includes those of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau.

Ms Wong takes over these duties from Meegan Reinhard, whose secondment to PASAI from the Australian National Audit Office ended last week.

Ms Wong was most recently a manager at The Audit Office New Zealand. There she led the office's performance

audit methodology function, managed a team conducting performance audits of government agencies and co-coordinated the Pacific region's Working Group for Environmental Auditing.

This experience followed a variety of research and evaluation roles in such public sector agencies as Statistics New Zealand, the then Department of Labour, the Ministry of Education and the Families Commission. This work included designing and collecting information for large social surveys, evaluating the effectiveness of public programs and policies, and implementing evidence-based improvements.

PASAI Chief Executive, Esther Lameko-Poutoa, is pleased that Ms Wong has joined PASAI's cohort of program directors.

"Karen is already well known to many auditors from our member offices

having played prominent roles supporting them in global initiatives to assess the effectiveness of governments' climate change adaptation actions and whether they have appropriate structures, financing and policies to respond to climate change," she said.

In joining the PASAI Secretariat, Ms Wong expressed enthusiasm about supporting Pacific Island audit offices.

"Performance auditors play an essential role in helping people understand how well public organisations are serving their communities.

"They identify what's working well, highlight where change is needed and recommend practical improvements.

"In doing so, performance auditors can strengthen accountability and help public organisations deliver better services and greater value for citizens," she said.

Ms Wong has a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours in Statistics and a Master's degree in Social Science Research, both from Victoria University in Wellington.

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



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commitments.

To strengthen regional leadership, Leaders committed to a Pacific Ocean Ministerial Meeting ahead of the Fourth United Nations Ocean Conference.

They also tasked the Office of the

Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) to coordinate regional preparations for the first Conference of the Parties to the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) in January 2027.

Leaders also encouraged continued mobilisation of financial and technical resources to support ratification and implementation of the BBNJ

...Coral Conservation

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At Jellyfish Lake, Ucharm led the visit and explained the ecological importance of Palau's marine lake systems and the distinctive environments they support.

The final stop was the Ngerumekaol Marine Protected Area, which includes Ulong Channel. Alessi and Bukurrou discussed the site's conservation significance before the visitors entered the water to observe its reef ecosystem.

"Visits like this provide an important opportunity to connect

international expertise with the research and conservation work taking place here in Palau," Blesam said in the release. "Palau offers an exceptional living laboratory for understanding coral reef resilience, and partnerships such as these help strengthen our collective ability to respond to the challenges facing coral reefs around the world."

PICRC said the visit gave participating institutions an opportunity to exchange knowledge about coral research, restoration, and marine conservation. The center plans to continue developing partnerships to support research and the long-term protection of Palau's marine ecosystems.

access to Pacific-led ocean finance that supports resilient and sustainable blue economic development.

Pacific Leaders reaffirmed their collective commitment to the sustainable management of 100 per cent of the Blue Pacific Ocean and called on the international community to partner with Pacific nations to safeguard the ocean for current and future generations.