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Every fraction of a degree counts – Federated States of Micronesia

SPREP

November 12, 2026
Antalya **-** In April this year, Super Typhoon Sinlaku devastated the states of Chuuk and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), killing nine people and damaging homes, crops, water systems and essential infrastructure.

The super typhoon caused damages estimated at approximately USD 96 million dollars, roughly 18 percent of the FSM's national GDP.

"For a large economy, a disaster of this scale would be a major shock," Leaders attending COP31 in Antalya Türkiye were told. "But for a small island country, its consequences are felt in our homes, our national budgets, and our communities for years to come."

Addressing the first part of the High-Level Segment for Heads of States and Government at COP31 in Türkiye on Wednesday, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, delivered a passionate plea.

"Every fraction of a degree counts," he said. "Every day counts. Every year counts. And the actions we take in this decade will determine the conditions under which the Pacific lives for generations to come."

President Simina heads the FSM delegation in Türkiye where they have come to seek urgent and tangible climate actions, amplifying the One Pacific Voice on 1.5 to stay alive. They remain hopeful as negotiations get underway.



"We uphold 1.5°C as a threshold of fundamental importance for the future of island states," he said.
"The scientific picture is increasingly grave. As the world confronts an

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Audit finds persistent gaps in FSM plastics ban enforcement

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 28, 2026
FSM **-** Four years after an initial inspection identified weaknesses in the enforcement of the FSM's ban on certain single-use plastics and Styrofoam imports, a follow-up audit found that none of the five formal recommendations reviewed had been fully implemented.

The Office of the National Public Auditor credited the responsible agencies with making progress but classified three recommendations as partially implemented and two as not implemented. The October 16, 2026 report identified continuing gaps in training, storage, inventory management, and environmentally safe disposal of confiscated goods.

The report also renewed concerns about the absence of penalties for violations of Public Law 21-76, recommending that the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management work with congressional committees on legislation to establish them.

National Public Auditor Haser H. Hainrick issued the findings in Report No. 2027-01, following up on an inspection released October 14, 2022. The review examined actions by DECEM, the Department of Finance and Administration, and its Customs and Tax Administration.

One unresolved issue is what happens to prohibited goods after customs officers confiscate them.

Auditors found that some state customs offices retained items for more than a year, despite no evidence of pending appeals or other documented reasons for keeping them beyond the required 30-day period. Only two of the four state offices had handed confiscated goods to DECEM, while the other two coordinated with their respective environmental protection agencies.

DECEM, meanwhile, continued storing confiscated items in a warehouse shared with its Emergency Management Division.

"These conditions indicate that a consistent and coordinated system for the secure storage of confiscated items has not yet been established," the report stated.

In its response, DOFA maintained that customs offices provide adequate temporary storage during the 30-day appeal period and that permanent storage facilities at every field office are unnecessary if goods can be secured and transferred promptly afterward.

The department acknowledged that items remaining beyond that period required better coordination. It said DECEM should lead arrangements with state

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Government appeals Ioannis nomination ruling; December 7 argument set

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 16, 2026

FSM - The FSM government and National Election Director Ausen Lambert have appealed a court ruling that set aside the rejection of Bellarmine Saimon Ioannis's congressional nomination papers, placing the dispute over enforcement of candidate residency requirements before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division.

A November 6 scheduling order sets oral argument for December 7, 2026, at 2 p.m. The court established an expedited schedule, citing the need to resolve the matter before the December 27 administrative deadline for printing specimen ballots for the March 2, 2027 general election.

The appeal challenges an October 23 declaratory judgment by Associate Justice Chang B. William. That judgment formalized the trial court's conclusion that Lambert exceeded his authority when he rejected Ioannis's nomination papers on residency grounds.

The ruling was a significant victory for Ioannis, but it did not establish that he satisfied the constitutional residency requirement. The court distinguished between reviewing the legality of the Election Director's actions and deciding the underlying question of a candidate's qualifications. In its October 5 order, the Trial Division denied the government's motion to dismiss, denied Ioannis's motion for summary judgment, and granted partial declaratory relief. It vacated the Election Director's decision to reject his nomination papers.

The October 23 judgment declared that Congress is the sole judge of its members' qualifications and that substantive residency determinations fall outside the Election Director's authority without a clear delegation of power governed by adequate standards. The court found that the National Election Act did not clearly provide that authority.

The government's notice of appeal is dated October 23. Its subsequent statement of issues challenges both the trial court's interpretation of the Election Director's powers and its treatment of the residency provision added to the Constitution in 2023.

At the center of the dispute is the constitutional requirement that a congressional candidate be a domiciliary of the state from which elected and have been residing in the FSM for at least five years before election day.

The trial court found that the election statutes authorized the director to examine whether a candidate's residency affidavit was complete, signed, affirmed the candidate's qualifications, and submitted in the proper form. It concluded that those provisions did not authorize him to make substantive judgments about the truth of the candidate's residency claim.

The court also found insufficient guidance for making such determinations. Its order discussed the different legal meanings of residence, the distinction between residence and domicile, and the absence of clear statutory boundaries for the director's discretion.

The government disputes that reasoning.

In its statement of issues, the government argues that the residency qualification comes directly from the Constitution and that reviewing nomination papers is the administrative means of determining whether a candidate meets it. Under that interpretation, the director is enforcing an existing constitutional requirement rather than exercising legislative power delegated by Congress.

The government also argues that Congress's ultimate authority to judge the qualifications of its members does not eliminate the director's ability to make preliminary eligibility determinations before an election.

Another issue concerns the meaning of "residing in" the FSM. The government challenges the trial court's conclusion that the phrase is inherently ambiguous, pointing instead to Constitutional Convention materials which it says show that residency means physically living in the country.

The appeal also questions the trial court's treatment of whether the 2023 amendment applies retroactively. In its earlier order, the trial court concluded that the amendment operated prospectively, noting the absence of express language making it retroactive. It nevertheless declined to decide the substantive question of Ioannis's residence, which it held was committed to Congress.

Before filing the notice of appeal from the declaratory judgment, the government had sought permission to appeal the October 5 order and asked the Trial Division to stay proceedings.

In that October 7 stay motion, Assistant Attorney General Josef Rold argued that appellate review should occur before the election process advanced further. The government contended that proceeding without resolving the constitutional question could produce consequences that would be difficult to undo once ballots were printed and votes cast.

The government further argued that a temporary pause would not substantially harm Ioannis because his inclusion on the ballot could be addressed after the appellate court ruled. Those assertions are the government's arguments in support of its request; the supplied documents do not include an order granting or denying the stay.

Following a November 4 hearing on expedited procedures, Associate Justice Larry Wentworth issued the November 6 scheduling order. It required the parties to submit an agreed appellate record by November 10, set Ioannis's response brief deadline for November 24, and allowed a government reply by November 27.

Ioannis is represented by attorney Salomon Saimon. The government's filings are signed by Rold of the FSM Department of Justice.

The documents provided do not include an appellate decision. The December 7 argument is scheduled to address the merits of the government's challenge to the trial court's ruling.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON:

December 2, 2026

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:

Monday, November 30, 2026

PPA plan targets airport expansion, port upgrades and new transport links

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 13, 2026
Pohnpei - The Pohnpei Port Authority's Strategic Development Plan sets ambitious targets for expanding airport facilities, strengthening the seaport, attracting additional shipping lines and airlines, and improving the financial footing of the authority that manages the state's principal transportation gateways.

Among the plan's targets are delivery of an airport terminal expansion by 2027, reinforcement of the seaport wharf to accommodate larger vessels by 2028, and recruitment of five new international shipping lines and two airlines by 2029.

The plan also calls for securing $15 million in green financing for solar infrastructure at airport and seaport facilities. That amount is a fundraising target, rather than an announcement of financing already secured.

General Manager Grilly Jack presented an overview of the plan during a September 25 State Leadership Meeting in the PPA Conference Room. Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick and Assistant Attorney General Emma Sue Perman attended, along with Chairman Mason Albert, other board members, and PPA management.

The full plan, published in May 2026 and recently provided to The Kaselehlie Press, gives greater detail on the projects, performance targets, and organizational changes behind the presentation's five-year roadmap.

Its central aim is to move PPA from an organization focused primarily on daily operations toward one that measures its performance against defined goals for service, investment, financial stability, and public accountability.

The document identifies several obstacles. At the seaport, limited cargo-handling equipment constrains operations, while shallow areas and narrow entrance channels create difficulties for larger vessels. Airport challenges include aging equipment and facilities, along with exposure to rising seas and flooding.

PPA also identifies shortages of specialized technical and maintenance skills and a heavy dependence on outside funding for major infrastructure projects.

To address those problems, the plan prioritizes improvements to the access channel and navigational safety, modern container-handling equipment, and expansion or construction of an adequate domestic dock. It calls for a capital investment program coordinated with donor financing, particularly for safety, capacity, and climate resilience.

The plan proposes automated cargo-handling systems intended to reduce turnaround time by 30 percent. Other operational targets include digital vessel scheduling by December 2028 and a shared electronic system for real-time logistics coordination by 2028.

It also sets goals of reducing permit delays by half and cutting equipment downtime by 25 percent through maintenance that anticipates problems before failures occur.

Financially, PPA intends to broaden its income beyond its existing port charges. The plan targets a 20 percent increase in non-tariff revenue through commercial leasing, including retail and hospitality activities, and a 15 percent reduction in operating costs through energy-efficient infrastructure.

Additional proposals include three public-private partnerships for port retail areas by 2028 and recruitment of cold-storage logistics providers, with a goal of generating $2 million in new annual revenue.

Those figures are objectives established by the plan. They do not, by themselves, establish that investors, tenants, carriers, or financing partners have committed to participate.

The document recognizes the importance of transportation to Pohnpei's broader economy, including tourism, fisheries, and agriculture. More reliable facilities and services are intended to support both the movement of imported goods and opportunities for local businesses.



Climate resilience is another major component. The plan calls for assessments of sea-level and storm-surge risks, identification of priority adaptation measures, updated emergency response procedures, quarterly drills, and pollution-control measures. It also includes a target of net-zero emissions from port and airport operations by 2030.

For passengers and other port users, proposed improvements include upgraded waiting areas and Wi-Fi, a digital booking and service-tracking platform, and a customer service task force intended to resolve complaints within 24 hours.

The plan also calls for annual stakeholder forums and four community town halls each year to address concerns and discuss matters such as noise and emissions.

Implementation responsibilities are divided among the board, general manager, division managers, and staff. The presentation assigns the board responsibility for approving strategies and reviewing results, while the general manager is to lead implementation, allocate resources, and ensure accountability.

The manual calls for quarterly tracking of financial performance indicators and twice-yearly strategic progress reports to the board. Staff training, succession planning, cybersecurity, and continuity of operations are also included.

Jack's presentation emphasized that producing the document was only the beginning.

"Every action must have an owner," one closing slide stated. "Every owner must be accountable for results."

The next measure of the plan will be how those targets translate into financed projects, improved services, and results that PPA can demonstrate to port users and the public.



Interior announces more than $450 million in support for Freely Associated States

United States Office of Insular Affairs

November 12, 2026

WASHINGTON — More than $450 million in economic assistance will support the three freely associated states: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. The assistance is provided under the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023, which renewed and updated U.S. compact agreements with the three nations.

In September 2026, the Department of the Interior hosted the annual meetings of the Joint Economic Management Committee and the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee. Known as JEMCO and JEMFAC, these committees are established under the compact agreements, approve annual funding allocations and oversee the effective use of compact funds. The committees include appointed representatives from the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, respectively. Annual meetings include senior U.S. officials from the Departments of the Interior, State and Treasury; U.S. ambassadors to the freely associated states; and governors, cabinet members and other senior officials from those nations.

"The efforts and focus of this year's meetings reflect the Trump-Vance administration's commitment to strengthening national security, protecting American interests, countering malign influence in the Pacific and ensuring American taxpayer dollars are used in a fiscally responsible manner," said William W. Hague, assistant secretary for Insular, International and Ocean Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Discussions focused on strengthening development planning, aligning annual operating budgets with long-term priorities and establishing measurable performance indicators to track progress. Through these compact agreements, the United States supports economic growth, promotes self-sufficiency in the freely associated states and reinforces partnerships that support a free and open Indo-Pacific.

"The freely associated states, while independent, sovereign countries, are uniquely interwoven with the United States through a shared history, ongoing partnership and a common vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," Hague added. "The participation of senior officials from the United States and these Pacific nations underscores our shared commitment to cooperative planning, transparency and responsible management of these funds."

Fiscal year 2027 funding allocations include:

- Republic of Palau: More than $41 million to support health care, education, infrastructure projects, the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund and the Fiscal Consolidation Fund.
- Federated States of Micronesia: $140 million to support health, education, infrastructure, environmental programs, private sector development and capacity building.
- Republic of the Marshall Islands: More than $171 million to support payments to Kwajalein landowners, health care, education, environmental programs, capacity building, the U.S. Supplemental Health Fund and improved financial reporting and accountability.

Compact health and education grants fund nearly all annual operating costs for education and health care services in the Federated States of Micronesia and provide significant support for those services in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. Infrastructure grants support the construction of schools, hospitals, water and wastewater systems and other projects that promote economic development.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands will also receive $100 million as the final U.S. contribution to its Compact Trust Fund. The trust fund was renewed under the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023 to support the nation's long-term fiscal self-reliance. The Department of the Interior will continue to oversee compact assistance to promote accountability, responsible investment and improved public services across the freely associated states.

...COP31

Click here to return

unprecedented period of overshoot of 1.5°C, warm-water coral reefs face critical tipping thresholds and irreversible losses. For Micronesia, this has direct consequences."

To avoid such a scenario, President Simina said its imperative decisions made at COP31 contribute to slowing the rate of warming so there is more time for adaptation and to reduce the pressure on ecosystems.

He reminded that Pacific Leaders have collectively called on all countries to address short-lived climate pollutants, particularly methane, to prevent near-term warming.

"This is a shared Pacific commitment, and Micronesia is proud to have championed it," he said. "In an era of overshoot, rapid methane reductions, full implementation of the Kigali Amendment, greater energy efficiency and reduction in other super pollutants can help slow warming in the near term. These efforts must accompany an accelerated, just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels."

FSM also called for just transition to protect livelihoods and leave no island community behind.

On energy transition, Micronesia continues to show leadership by efforts on renewable energy, energy efficiency and reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels.

"Our national ambitions include universal electricity access and 70% renewable electricity generation by 2030, with a further goal of 80% renewable energy power generation by 2035; targets that depend on meaningful international support," said President Simina.

"The Pacific does not come to this conference merely to describe what we stand to lose. We come with solutions, with determination, and with a long tradition of looking after one another. We ask the international community to meet our leadership with action," the President of FSM said.

"For Micronesia, success will be measured in practical terms: a slower rate of warming, declining global emissions, stronger resilience, more accessible finance, greater energy security and reduced risk to our people."

The 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is taking place from 9-20 November 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye.

The Pacific Islands Parties to the UNFCCC are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Naoero, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

For further information on the Pacific at COP31 please visit: www.sprep.org/cop31



Q and A with Kidi Oangoahng

Q: If a breeding pair of dogs had 6 puppies every 6 months,how many dogs would there be in 5 years (assuming all animals survived)?



A: 28,418

ADB approves $5.6 million grant to ease FSM fuel costs

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 23, 2026
FSM — The Asian Development Bank announced October 23 that it had approved a $5.6 million grant to help the FSM cushion rising fuel prices and maintain essential public services.

The assistance supports the government's $20 million Crisis Response Plan, which includes a $15 million Fuel Stabilization Fund and temporary assistance for vulnerable households.

According to ADB, FSM Petroleum Corporation reported a 76 percent increase in daily fuel costs, draining price-stabilization reserves that were expected to run out by the end of October.

ADB attributed the increase to the Middle East conflict. It said higher costs had pushed electricity tariffs up nationwide, including by more than 32 percent in Kosrae. Health authorities had also reduced outer-island visits, affecting medicine deliveries and immunization services.

The response program aims to help at least 29,000 people in poor and vulnerable households. Plans include updating the national social registry to direct temporary cash assistance to those most in need.

Financed through the Asian Development Fund, the grant covers 28 percent of the government's projected crisis-response financing gap. ADB said it complements ongoing renewable-energy and infrastructure investments intended to reduce dependence on imported diesel.



President Simina acts on measures passed by the 24th Congress during its fifth regular session

FSM Information Services

November 4, 2026
PALIKIR, Pohnpei – His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), has completed action on measures transmitted by the 24th FSM Congress following its Fifth Regular Session, signing into law legislations aimed at supporting infrastructure development, public services, economic and social programs, government operations, and national development priorities throughout the FSM.

Among the measures signed into law was the Fiscal Year 2027 National Budget, providing the funding framework for government operations and public services. President Simina also approved legislation appropriating $2.1 million for public projects and social programs across Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae, as well as funding for the COM-FSM Endowment Fund.

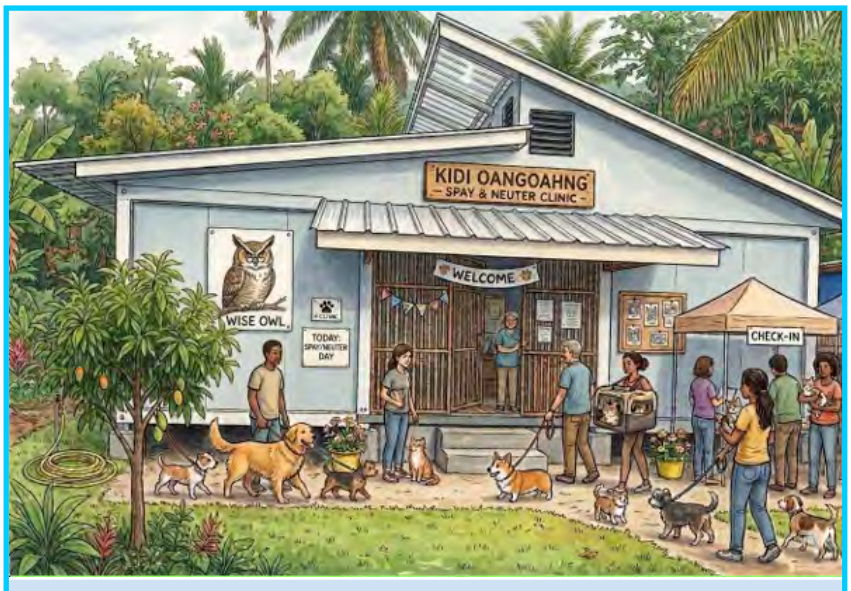
Several enacted measures amended previously appropriated project funds by extending lapse dates, modifying project purposes, or updating allottees to facilitate the continued implementation of infrastructure, community development, education, transportation, water, and other public initiatives across the four states.

President Simina also signed legislation lifting the statutory freeze on annual salary step increases for Public Service System employees, supporting efforts to retain and strengthen the National Government's workforce.

In addition, the President approved legislation proposing a constitutional amendment to establish six-year terms for Justices of the FSM Supreme Court. In accordance with constitutional requirements, the proposed amendment will be submitted to voters for consideration through a national referendum.

Other significant measures enacted include legislation aligning statutory jurisdictional provisions with the constitutional amendment granting state courts exclusive jurisdiction over cases involving interests in land, as well as amendments to election laws concerning voter residency requirements.

The Simina-Palik extends its appreciation to the 24th FSM Congress and reaffirms the importance of continued cooperation in strengthening government institutions, improving public services, and advancing the well-being of the people of the FSM.



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Mailo and Enlet seek another review of dismissed election appeal

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 26, 2026
Chuuk — Mark Mailo and Joe Enlet asked the FSM Supreme Court's Appellate Division on September 28 to allow a late petition for rehearing in their election dispute, arguing that the unexpected death of their lead attorney disrupted their ability to meet the filing deadline.

The motion, signed by attorney Maximo Mida of Ramp & Mida Law Firm, seeks an extension of time and a limited recall of the court's mandate so the justices can consider their proposed rehearing petition.

The case names the Chuuk State Election Commission, Alexander Narruhn, and Mekioshy William as the opposing parties.

According to the motion, the court decided to dismiss the appeal on June 17, 2026, and entered its order on June 23. The filing describes the dismissal as being for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction—the court's authority to hear the dispute—and says the order designated the dismissal "with prejudice."

Mailo and Enlet acknowledge that the ordinary 14-day period for requesting rehearing expired on or about July 7. They contend, however, that the circumstances warrant allowing their request to be considered after that deadline.

Their lead appellate attorney, Daniel J. Rescue Jr., died unexpectedly on June 8, nine days before the court decided the dismissal motions without oral argument.

In a supporting affidavit, Mida said Rescue managed the firm's Chuuk office and was principally responsible for Mailo and Enlet's election litigation. His death required the firm's two remaining attorneys, both based in Pohnpei, to take responsibility for his active cases while continuing to handle their existing clients' matters.

The motion says that transition involved reviewing and reconstructing the history of the appeal and at least six interrelated election proceedings. Mida said the firm also interviewed three potential additional attorneys, but none joined the practice.

"The delay was not intentional and was not undertaken for tactical advantage," the motion states.

The filing also raises questions about how notice of the dismissal reached Mailo and Enlet's legal team.

An affidavit from firm employee Jmerenda Sound states that she obtained a copy of the dismissal order on July 1 while at the FSM Supreme Court's Chuuk branch on an unrelated matter. By then, eight days had passed since entry of the order.

The motion points to an attached certificate documenting service of the dismissal order on attorney Salomon Saimon, counsel for Narruhn and William. It argues that the available certificate does not establish service on Mailo and Enlet or their law firm.

The candidates' attorneys expressly acknowledge that the rehearing deadline ran from entry of the judgment, rather than from the date they received it. They present the notice circumstances as an additional reason for granting an extension, rather than as automatically making their petition timely.

The court's mandate was entered on July 30, according to the motion and attached docket records. Sound's affidavit states that the firm's Chuuk office received it on August 3.

Because the mandate had already issued, Mailo and Enlet also asked the court to recall it for the limited purpose of considering the rehearing petition. Their motion emphasizes that granting that procedural request would not itself reverse the dismissal, grant rehearing, or resolve the underlying election dispute.

The motion identifies several matters the candidates contend warrant further review. Those include what event started the five-day period for an election contest, the significance of a March 20 verified election complaint and its presentation to competing election commissions, and whether a dismissal for lack of jurisdiction should have been designated "with prejudice."

Those are the candidates' arguments about issues they say the court overlooked or misunderstood. The proposed rehearing petition itself is referenced in the motion but is not included in the supplied document.

The filing acknowledges that the requested extension is substantial and that finality is particularly important in election litigation. It asks the court to weigh those concerns against the disruption caused by Rescue's death and the issues presented for reconsideration.

The September 28 motion and its supporting exhibits do not establish whether the court subsequently granted the extension, recalled its mandate, or acted on the proposed rehearing petition.

...Plastics Audit

Click here to return

environmental agencies for receiving, managing, and disposing of goods after customs relinquishes custody.

DECEM also agreed with the storage recommendation but said the meaning of "secure" needed clarification. It reported no problems with theft and said incoming and outgoing confiscated items were documented on log sheets.

Safe disposal remains another unfinished task.

The audit noted that Chuuk customs had previously worked with Chuuk EPA and Public Works to bury confiscated items at designated disposal sites. However, auditors concluded that the coordinated arrangements and procedures required for environmentally safe disposal had not been established or implemented.

DECEM had entered into an agreement with Catholic Relief Services to support disposal and repurposing of prohibited plastics. Auditors commended the organization's repurposing work but found that it handled only certain plastic types and that no disposal activities had been conducted under that arrangement at the time of the audit.

The report concluded that DECEM and state environmental agencies lacked the capacity and resources necessary to destroy confiscated items in an environmentally friendly manner. It recommended finalizing and implementing a pending agreement among the responsible national and state agencies.

Inspectors also still need technical training to distinguish recyclable and biodegradable products.

DECEM had requested funding for micrometers to measure plastic-bag thickness, related training, and public awareness work. Auditors classified that recommendation as partially implemented. A separate recommendation to request funding for specialist training on recyclable and biodegradable items had not been implemented, and the training had not occurred.

The new report directs DOFA to seek funding to equip customs inspectors with those skills. DOFA acknowledged the need and said it would work with customs and DECEM to identify training requirements and explore funding and technical assistance.

Auditors recognized progress in written enforcement procedures. DOFA had developed standard operating procedures covering seizure, documentation, storage, and handling after confiscation, including the respective responsibilities of customs and DECEM.

However, DECEM's National Waste Management Policy did not satisfy the earlier recommendation for inventory controls. The audit called for procedures to track confiscated goods, periodically reconcile stock records, and report inventories from all storage locations to national offices.

DECEM said it would develop its procedures in consultation with customs.

The absence of penalties was raised in the original inspection as a suggestion to Congress, rather than a formal recommendation, and therefore was not included in the five implementation ratings. The follow-up nevertheless found the issue important enough to warrant a new formal recommendation.

Overall, the auditor issued four new recommendations addressing penalties, inspector training, agreements for safe disposal, and inventory management.

Both departments generally agreed with the findings and outlined corrective actions. The report acknowledged their efforts while concluding that further work was needed to fully implement the ban's enforcement and handling requirements.

Strengthening El Niño raises drought concerns across FSM

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 14, 2026

FSM - As strengthening El Niño is expected to bring a longer and drier than normal dry season to much of Micronesia, prompting the National Weather Service to urge communities to prepare now for possible water shortages.

In a special November 13 update, the Weather Forecast Office in Guam said the likelihood of strong to very strong El Niño conditions continuing through January–March 2027 remained greater than 79 percent. The outlook anticipates rainfall well below normal for many locations, particularly from January through April.

Water shortages were already being reported on a number of islands and atolls across the weather office's western North Pacific forecast area as catchments began running dry. The update did not identify those communities individually.

"The coming dry season is anticipated to be longer and drier than normal," the report warned. "Take action now to reduce water shortage vulnerabilities."

At the same time, the weather service cautioned that the risk of late-season tropical cyclones remains elevated through the end of 2026 and into early 2027. That does not mean a particular island will experience a storm, but communities face the possibility of damaging weather even as seasonal rainfall declines.

El Niño develops as waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific become warmer than normal and the usual easterly trade winds weaken or occasionally reverse. Those changes shift rainfall patterns, often leaving the western Pacific drier.

The November update identifies 2026 as the onset year of the current event and 2027 as its offset year. In the western North Pacific, the onset year commonly brings wetter conditions and increased tropical cyclone activity, followed by an earlier, longer dry season.

Separate weather service information sheets for the eastern and western FSM explain how those changes can affect the four states. These describe typical El Niño impacts rather than specific rainfall forecasts for each island during the current event.

For Yap and Chuuk, rainfall generally begins declining around October of an El Niño year, with the largest deficits occurring in February and March of the following year. The eastern FSM guidance covering Pohnpei and Kosrae describes dry conditions developing around October and becoming strongest from January through March.

Both information sheets say rainfall usually returns to normal by August of the following year, although dry conditions can persist longer during some events.

The effects can extend well beyond drinking water supplies. Reduced rainfall can damage crops, including taro, stress terrestrial and marine habitats, and increase wildfire risk. Food shortages and reduced access to clean water can also create health problems.

The weather service's preparedness guidance encourages households and communities to reduce water use and develop rainwater catchment systems. Catchment containers should have sealed lids to keep mosquitoes out. Farmers are encouraged to consider crops requiring less water, while measures to stabilize stream banks and reduce runoff can help protect reefs.

El Niño can also temporarily lower sea levels around the FSM. The western FSM information sheet says severe events can bring declines of several inches to nearly one foot, with effects lasting more than a year. For Pohnpei and Kosrae, the eastern FSM sheet describes declines of several inches to nearly half a foot during very strong events.

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www.munroleyslaw.com

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...El Niño

Click here to return

Lower sea levels, combined with sediment washed onto reefs during storms, can damage coral and alter fishing habitats. The guidance also warns of effects on marine spawning and reproduction.

Despite the strength of the developing event, the weather service emphasized that seasonal outlooks do not guarantee a particular outcome for any community. Stronger El Niño conditions can increase the likelihood of certain weather patterns, but impacts vary between events and locations.

For the FSM, the immediate message is to prepare for reduced rainfall while continuing to monitor local forecasts for storms and other short-term hazards.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **4:00 p.m. (1600 hrs) Pohnpei Time on Monday, April 20th, 2026**

Shankarah Lessey
Interim Project Manager
Sustainable and Resilient Road Improvement
Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DTC&I)
Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Office: +691 320-2080
Email: pmu@tci.gov.fm
Web: www.tci.gov.fm

Carlson D. Apis
Secretary of DTC&I

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Drawing Date:
November 25, 2026

Court allows Konman's challenge over Chuuk election commissioner to proceed

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 14, 2026
FSM - The FSM Supreme Court's Appellate Division allowed Senator Perpetua S. Konman's challenge concerning Chuuk National Election Commissioner Frita J. Irons to proceed following an October 22 hearing, ordering the government to answer her petition.

Konman, who represents Chuuk Election District No. 3 in the FSM Congress, is seeking a court order barring Irons from participating in the administration of the March 2, 2027 national election in Chuuk because Irons' husband is a candidate in the same district.

The government sought dismissal, arguing that the case belonged in the court's Trial Division, that the particular remedy Konman requested was unavailable, and that Irons had already withdrawn from election duties.

In its October 22 memorandum and scheduling order, the court said it found "that jurisdiction was proper" and that it was not clear the petition should be dismissed. It ordered the government to file an answer by October 30 and scheduled a hearing on the merits for November 6 in Palikir.

That order did not decide whether Irons had violated the law or whether Konman was entitled to the restrictions she requested. The court said its reasons would be provided in a subsequent written order.

The dispute centers on whether administrative steps already taken to separate Irons from the election were sufficient, or whether a binding court order was necessary.

Documents attached to the government's dismissal motion show that National Election Director Ausen T. Lambert wrote to Irons on September 21 directing her to recuse herself from any involvement in the upcoming congressional election and placing her on paid administrative leave.

Lambert's letter followed a September 18 congressional oversight hearing concerning the potential conflict created by her husband's candidacy. It said earlier measures excluding Irons from responsibilities for District No. 3 did not eliminate concerns about her involvement in the election.

In a response dated September 21, Irons confirmed that she would recuse herself from any involvement in the conduct or administration of the March 2 election. She also acknowledged instructions to surrender government property to Dorian Burdon by October 2.

Irons expressly stated that her compliance should not be construed as an admission of wrongdoing, impropriety, or a violation of election law or other laws.

A separate September 22 letter designated Burdon as Acting National Election Commissioner for Chuuk, effective October 2. The designation was to continue until all transactions associated with the March 2 election were completed.

Representing Irons, Assistant Attorney General JK Kaminanga argued that these actions left no election duties for a court order to prohibit. The government's motion said Irons no longer had authority over District No. 3 or any other aspect of the upcoming national election in Chuuk.

The government also argued that a writ of prohibition—the remedy requested by Konman—is intended to restrain unauthorized judicial or similar decision-making powers, rather than provide general supervision of an executive official's administrative work.

Konman's attorney, Marstella E. Jack, disputed those arguments. In her opposition, Jack maintained that election commissioners exercise decision-making authority over matters including voter and ballot challenges and certification of results, making prohibition an available remedy.

Konman further argued that administrative leave and recusal did not resolve the dispute because Irons remained the appointed commissioner. Her filings contend that retaining the office left open the possibility of resuming its functions and that a formal judicial restriction was needed.

Her petition asks the court to prohibit Irons from supervising election activities, appointing election workers, handling ballots or results, and accessing election materials or offices connected with the national election in Chuuk.

Konman's filings also cite an August 17 Department of Justice memorandum which, according to the petition, advised that Irons should not participate in national elections in Chuuk if her spouse was a candidate.

Those assertions and the parties' competing interpretations of election and conflict-of-interest laws are arguments presented to the court, rather than findings established by the October 22 order.

The three-justice panel at the October hearing consisted of Acting Chief Justice Beauleen Carl-Worswick and Associate Justices Larry Wentworth and Chang B. William. Jack represented Konman, while Kaminanga represented the government.

Konman's attorney, Marstella E. Jack, confirmed that the November 6 hearing took place but said the court had not yet issued a ruling.

"The court has not issued a ruling yet from the Nov 6th hearing," Jack said. "We are just waiting for that now."

"At the hearing we asked the court to basically bar the Respondent from exercising any functions of that office until May 11, 2027...when new Congress swears in," Jack wrote.



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SPRING 2027 REGISTRATION AND KEY DATES

Early Registration	NOV 4 - DEC 11, 2026
Regular Registration	JAN 6 - JAN 8, 2027
First Day of Instruction	JANUARY 11, 2027
Last day of add/drop courses	JANUARY 13, 2027

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Please contact the Admissions Office or The Office of the Registrar at (691) 320-2480 extension 136 or (691) 320-1065.

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Dolphin takes top prize in Budweiser fishing tournament

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 24, 2026
Pohnpei - Vienna Spencer aboard Dolphin claimed the $600 first prize in the Pohnpei Fishing Club's Budweiser Fishing Tournament with three qualifying species weighing a combined 88.2 pounds.

The tournament's "Catch 4" format challenged boats to land billfish, tuna, wahoo, and barracuda. Placings depended on the number of those species caught, with combined weight breaking ties among boats landing the same number of species. Other species did not qualify.

The three placing boats each brought in tuna, wahoo, and barracuda, leaving their combined weights to determine the prize order.

Spencer's catch included a 59-pound yellowfin tuna, a 23.2-pound wahoo, and a six-pound barracuda.

Thomas Inatio aboard Lady Meereina took the $400 second prize with 49 pounds. His catch included a 29.4-pound wahoo, an 11.4-pound yellowfin tuna, and an 8.2-pound barracuda.

Calani Torres aboard Marlin earned the $250 third prize with a combined weight of 45 pounds. Torres landed a 22.2-pound yellowfin tuna, a 15.6-pound wahoo, and a 7.2-pound barracuda.

Under the club's tournament rules, winners of the top prizes are excluded from receiving lower prizes, leaving the individual species awards for other competitors.

Wilmar Aquino aboard August Reign brought in the largest individual fish listed in the results, a 201.6-pound marlin, earning the $200 billfish prize.

Solomon Frank aboard Don Kivem received the $200 yellowfin tuna prize for a 16-pound fish. O'neal Optaia aboard Sapwu earned $200 for a 17.2-pound barracuda, while Melvin Tenorio aboard Office 1 received the $200 wahoo prize for an 18.8-pound fish.

The tournament was restricted to trolling, with bottom fishing and drop stoning prohibited.

The club's marlin and yellowfin tuna jackpots were also available, offering $10,000 for a marlin weighing more than 450 pounds and $4,000 for a yellowfin weighing more than 140 pounds. Those jackpots remain to be claimed in the next tournament which is a casting and drop stone tournament that will be held on November 21.



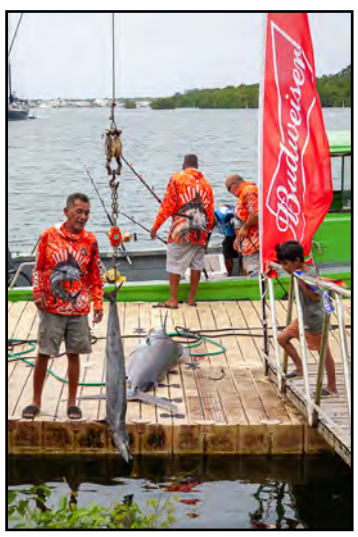


















Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts
Bank of the FSM currently maintains accounts for the following individuals & groups:

Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Agnes Francis	P.O. Box 1168	Weno	CHK
Agnes G. Fanechigiy ITF	P.O. Box 1626	Hanalei	HI
AMBER ROSE MALON	P.O. BOX 820	Weno	CHK
ANDREW NEDLEC	P.O. BOX 74	Weno	CHK
Annaleen K. Augustin	P.O. Box 1534	Kolonia	PNI
Anthony Kastor	P.O. Box 2	Kolonia	PNI
Antwone Clark	P.O. Box 2226	Kolonia	PNI
Arthur N Yolwa or Jocelyn Iluomar	P.O. Box 441	Colonia	YAP
Ben Kadguyed ITF Vanessa Kugum	P.O. Box 841	Colonia	YAP
Blantina Paulino	Wone	Kolonia	PNI
Bridget W Gapthey	P.O. Box 1505	Colonia	YAP
CALINUT ENERGY COLLECTIVE	P.O. BOX 1748	Kolonia	PNI
Catherine Francis	P.O. Box 340	Weno	CHK
Collin J Fagalchon	P.O. Box 675	Colonia	YAP
Cynthia K Chugrad or Cyril P. Chugrad	P.O. Box 952	Colonia	YAP
Cyril U Rebeuluch	P.O. Box 57	Colonia	YAP
Danby Manyer	P.O. Box 1661	Weno	CHK
Daoxing Pan	P.O. Box 1833	Kolonia	PNI
Demi R Bergen	P.O. Box K2602	Kolonia	PNI
Diantra Okomuro	DO NOT MAIL	Weno	CHK
Dickson Emwalu	P.O. Box 1083	Weno	CHK
Dj Helginpwi	P.O. BOX 1853	Weno	CHK
Dr. Felicia R Beardsley	P.O. Box 412	Wrightwood	CA
Einy Teiny	P.O. Box 70	Weno	CHK
Enimwahn Development Association (EDA)	P.O. Box 2391	Kolonia	PNI
Ernest A Phillip	P.O. BOX 914	Kolonia	PNI
Exselyna Wichep	P.O. Box 818	Kolonia	PNI
F S M Import Export Tech	P.O. Box 757	Kolonia	PNI
Francisco T Ikelap	P.O. Box 626	Weno	CHK
FSM Women's Council (FSMWC)	P.O Box 699	Kolonia	PNI
Gradley Hadley	P.O. Box K2501	Kolonia	PNI
Ham Daniel A. or	P.O. Box 559	Weno	CHK
Henry E Nowell	P.O. Box 171	Weno	CHK
Hernita Eram	P.O. Box 565	Weno	CHK
Jack E Yakana	P.O. BOX 503	Kolonia	PNI
Jack K. Jack	P.O. Box 281	Tofol	KOS
Jacquelin Ilemangibung	P.O. Box 722	Colonia	YAP
Jaden B. Dugchur	P.O. Box 662	Colonia	YAP
Janette Ronquillo	P.O. Box 163	Weno	CHK
Jean C Rubang	P.O. Box 687	Colonia	YAP
Jihe Wu	C/O P.O. Box 779	Kolonia	PNI
John Helgenberger	P.O. Box 546	Kolonia	PNI
John Moon	P.O. Box 153	Colonia	YAP
Jonathan Salle	P.O. Box 1295	Weno	CHK
Josefina M Estepa	P.O. Box 663	Weno	CHK
Joses Inek	P.O. Box 88	Weno	CHK
Julius Yen Wei Wong or Bridget W. Gapthey	P.O. Box 1505	Colonia	YAP
JUN HYUK LEE	P.O. BOX 1829	Kolonia	PNI
Justino Peter	P. O. Box 27	Weno	CHK
K.C Santiago	P.O. Box 1388	Kolonia	PNI
Karson Billy	P.O Box 70	Weno	CHK
KATCHUTOSY PAULUS	P.O BOX 25182	Barrigada	GU
Kaylona Letachiglam	P.O.Box 512	Colonia	YAP
Kenye C Timothy	P.O. BOX 1011	Tofol	KOS
Keske Marar	P.O. Box 148	Weno	CHK
KINTALY EMICH	P.O. Box 859	Weno	CHK
Kohei Shirakawa	P.O. Box 2285	Kolonia	PNI
Kohne K. Ramon	P.O. Box K3200	Kolonia	PNI
Kylene J L'awwereg	P.O. Box 594	Colonia	YAP
LATREEN MAIPI	P.O. BOX 1642	Weno	CHK
Leonardo Oloday	P.O. Box 1512	Weno	CHK
Lillian Simina	P.O. BOX 645	Weno	CHK
Linos Actouka	P.O. Box 1611	Kolonia	PNI
LORETA RANO	301 108th St. SW	Renton	WA
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Maileenq Edgar	P.O. Box 401	Kolonia	PNI
Mallun A Talley	P.O. Box 441044	Tofol	KOS
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Marcelino Umwech ITF Juan M Hurtado	P.O. Box 56	Weno	CHK
Marisha Nicho	P.O. Box 413	Kolonia	PNI
Markarita Dawe	P.O. BOX 481	Weno	CHK
Martina Pinios	P.O. BOX 421	Weno	CHK
Metfy Phillik	P.O. Box 1132	Weno	CHK
Micronesia Council United Church of Christ	P.O. Box 235	Tofol	KOS
MORTLOCKS POUN ALILISIN CHO	P.O BOX 727	Weno	CHK
Myvey Haimin	P.O. BOX 101	Weno	CHK
Natasha N. Isaac	1060 Kinau St. A2	Honolulu	HI
Natasha Suzuki	P.O. Box 508	Kolonia	PNI
Neut Association	P.O. BOX 927	Weno	CHK
Nixon Lengsi	P.O. Box PS41	Kolonia	PNI
Nobuyuki Suzuki	P.O. Box 898	Weno	CHK
Noel L. Liemam	2410 SE Lewellyn Avenue	Troudale	OR
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Osafeo & Lugolap Association	C/O Falalop Woleai	Colonia	YAP
Paul A Lane	864 Justa Lane	Lebanon	PA
Paula Lemaitul	P.O. Box 206	Colonia	YAP
Perry Peter Killion	P.O. BOX 909	Weno	CHK
Pingelap People Cooperative Association	P.O. BOX 1414	Kolonia	PNI
Pius Lubumad	P.O. Box 128	Colonia	YAP
Pohnpei Police Foundation	P.O. Box 1789	Kolonia	PNI
Pohnpei Utilities Corporation	P.O. Box C	Kolonia	PNI
Raphaela F Untun	P.O. Box 1134	Colonia	YAP
REKII ROMANUM ASSOCIATION	P.O. BOX 1500	Weno	CHK
Richard Meyan	P.O. Box 933	Colonia	YAP
Romeo Sacoco Rumusod	P.O. Box 76	Weno	CHK
Salvador Salvador	P.O. Box 645	Kolonia	PNI
SHIP/HOOPS	P.O. Box 1704	Weno	CHK
Simeon R Innocenti or Lourdes Innocenty	P.O. Box 446	Weno	CHK
Simion Kihleng	P.O. Box 1984	Kolonia	PNI
Sinia Souleng	P.O. Box 2096	Weno	CHK
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Swingly L Pretrick	P. O. Box 1044	Kolonia	PNI
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Teresa Falagrow	P.O. Box 422	Colonia	YAP
Tesiwo M. Liwy	P.O. Box 535	Kolonia	PNI
Thomas R. Walog	P.O. Box 268	Colonia	YAP
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Wilson A Kauka	P.O. Box 559	Weno	CHK
Winser Jessy	P.O Box 566	Weno	CHK
Xianglan Qu	P.O. Box K2935	Kolonia	PNI
Yoichiro Ohmoto	P.O. Box K3174	Kolonia	PNI
Young Po Kim	P.O. Box 757	Kolonia	PNI
Yourang Pelep	P.O. BOX 1552	Kolonia	PNI

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2027. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2026.

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Chuukese:
Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 2027, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2026 Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.

Yapese:
Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2027, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2026.

Pohnpeian:
E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2027. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2026 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.

MEMBER FDIC


2026
China Through My Lens
VIDEO COMPETITION
Hosted by: Micronesia-China Friendship Association & Chinese Embassy in the FSM
Competition Categories
The competition features five creative categories.
Cooperation and Development
People-to-People and Cultural Exchange
Green Development
Youth Perspectives
AI-Powered Visual Innovation
Period of Solicitation
October 13 - November 23
Awards
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Gold Awards
Silver Awards
Bronze Awards
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More Competition Requirements on Facebook
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Call for Your Entry!
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✓ Min. 1280×720 · MP4/MOV/AVI
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* Organizer holds final interpretation rights.
See full guidelines for details: >>
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CXqxhNwhu/

Five people rescued off Kiribati after drifting at sea for almost three months

By Evan Wasuka
ABC Australia

Kiribati - Five people, including two children, have been found alive after drifting an estimated 5,400 kilometres to a remote island in Kiribati, about three months after their boat went missing in Micronesia.

They were part of a group of nine who set off on July 30 on what was meant to be a routine one-hour crossing between the islands of Murilo and Ruo, in the Federated States of Micronesia, when they were caught in a storm.

The US Coast Guard in Micronesia suspended its search on August 9 after 10 days, covering 25,000 nautical miles with the help of US Navy and Air Force aircraft.

On Sunday, villagers on Fanning Island in Kiribati spotted the drifting boat and rescued the five people on board.

The member of parliament for the area, Kaotitaake Rakoroa, said they were taken in and cared for by the pastor of the local Uniting Church.

He said police on Kiritimati Island, the closest urban centre to Fanning Island, relayed news of the rescue to him in the capital, Tarawa.

"The group has already been treated by our medical officials on the island," he said.

He recommended they take the earliest flight to Kiritimati Island for further medical treatment.

Photos and videos of the five were posted online on Sunday, shortly after they were brought ashore.

The members of the group are yet to speak publicly about their ordeal and have asked for their privacy to be respected. Family members in the Federated States of Micronesia told the ABC they have been in contact with some of the group.

Chuuk State Governor Alexander Narruhn issued a statement on Sunday evening thanking God for their survival.

"There were nine people aboard the boat that went missing. Thanks be to God for his love and mercy that five of the nine people have been found.

"We continue to pray for their four companions."

Details of what happened to the other four people have not been revealed.

The governor said he had asked the Federated States of Micronesia's president to begin diplomatic talks with the Kiribati government to bring the survivors home.



Wanis Weita, Wboy Weita, Akinis David, Paul Paul (front row) and Tedwin Paul (behind) were rescued after months at sea. (Supplied: Dennis Patrick Tatireta)

The rescue is the latest of several in Kiribati waters.

Last week, 18-year-old Luka Rahan from Bougainville in Papua New Guinea was rescued between the islands of Tarawa and Maiana after drifting for 41 days. His cousin died during the ordeal.

The pair had set out on a fishing trip in northern Bougainville in September, but had engine trouble and drifted more than 2,000km to Kiribati.

Last month, three other Bougainvilleans returned home after drifting at sea for about 70 days. They were found near Kiritimati Island.

TETRA TECH
International Development

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Tender Prequalification for the Construction of a Humanitarian Warehouse – Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

AM-14261

The Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Program (PHWP) is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of a fit-for-purpose humanitarian warehouse facility for the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency (DECEM) in Pohnpei, FSM. The facility will support the storage and pre-positioning of humanitarian and emergency relief supplies.

This pre-qualification process is open to companies that meet the criteria detailed in the EOI documentation and can demonstrate the capacity to operate in FSM. Companies that prequalify will be invited to submit tenders for the construction of the Humanitarian Warehouse at a later date.

Those wishing to apply are requested to:

1. **Email** Procurement@phwp-isu.org to register their interest and obtain the full EOI documentation, including further details regarding the in-country briefing session.
2. **Complete** the required documentation in Word/Excel
3. **Submit** the required documentation by email to Procurement@phwp-isu.org before 2.00 pm Pohnpei time, **Friday 27 November 2026.**

For all queries, email: Procurement@phwp-isu.org

PACIFIC HUMANITARIAN WAREHOUSING PROGRAM
Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique
Australian Aid

Micronesia's captive industry has generated about US$338M in tax revenue, says MRA

Captive Insurance Times

October 29, 2026

FSM - The captive insurance industry in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has generated approximately US$338 million in corporate income tax revenue since the programme was established, according to Steven K. Baker, president of Micronesia Registration Advisors (MRA).

Baker reported the figure at a breakfast meeting between FSM president Wesley Simina, members of the presidential delegation, and members of the FSM Captive Insurance Council and the FSM Insurance Board. Baker also introduced members of the MRA team, including newly appointed staff, and gave an update on the captive insurance sector, its ongoing activities and future priorities.

Later the same day, Simina delivered the opening remarks at the 2026 FSM Captive Insurance Seminar in Tokyo, during an official visit to Japan. Representatives of the 24th FSM Congress also attended.

Addressing members of Japan's business and insurance communities, Simina noted that more than 20 Japanese-owned captive insurance companies are licensed or approved for licensing in the FSM, and thanked them for their continued confidence in the country.

Simina emphasised the FSM's commitment to building a reliable and competitive captive insurance domicile supported by sound regulation and long-term business partnerships. The president also reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the FSM Insurance Board and maintaining a stable, efficient and responsive regulatory environment that meets the needs of businesses.

The FSM also held captive insurance seminars in Tokyo in 2024 and 2025.

The seminar comes as Japan considers a domestic captive regime of its own. On 1 October, the Financial Services Agency's working group on the insurance system held its first meeting on a separate licence category for reinsurance captives, with a bill targeted at the next ordinary Diet session. A submission to that meeting from Foresight Risk Management counted 26 Japanese-affiliated captives formed in Micronesia, level with Bermuda and behind Hawaii and Labuan, in a tally of formations since 1974 across all domiciles.



Joseph calls for unity, shared responsibility on Constitution Day

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 9, 2026
Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph called on public servants and citizens to honor Pohnpei's Constitution through daily acts of integrity, fairness and accountability during the state's 42nd Constitution Day commemoration on November 9 at the Government Administration Building.

Speaking under the theme "One Constitution. One People. One Shared Responsibility for the Future of Pohnpei," Joseph reflected on the tate's constitutional beginnings, honored its founding leaders and emphasized the responsibility of preparing younger generations for leadership.

Joseph recalled November 8, 1984, when the Constitution took effect and Ponape officially became Pohnpei. In his prepared statement, he said voters had ratified the founding charter with a 59 percent majority in a September 1984 referendum.

The Governor traced the transition to constitutional government, recalling that FSM Chief Justice Edward King swore in Chief Justice Edwel Santos, who then administered the oath to Resio S. Moses as Pohnpei's first constitutional Governor. The Third Ponape Legislature became the First Pohnpei Legislature, led by Speaker Salter Etse and Vice Speaker Joanes Edmund.

Joseph also recalled Moses' words from that historic occasion: "We are celebrating the birth of our own Pohnpei State Government under our own constitution and a re-birth of control over our own destiny once again."

Paying tribute to the delegates who drafted the Constitution, Joseph acknowledged that many had since died. He gave special recognition to four surviving members of the first Constitutional Convention: Iso Salvador Iriarte of Nett, Gerson Lekka of Nukuoro, Ieske Iehsi of Pingelap and Herman Semes of Kitti.

"Your wisdom, courage, and signatures forged the path we walk today," Joseph said.

He described the Constitution as the foundation of Pohnpei's self-government, freedoms and democratic values, carrying both the vision of its founders and an obligation to protect its principles.

Connecting the commemoration with the Fathers and Sons Walk/Run, Joseph said family participation highlighted the passing of heritage, values and civic responsibility between generations. Pohnpei's future, he said, depends on both maintaining its institutions and developing leadership among its youth.

He urged members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches, along with citizens throughout the municipalities and outer islands, to carry the meaning of Constitution Day beyond the annual observance.

"Let us honor this document not merely through words or annual ceremonies, but through our daily commitment to serve with integrity, fairness, accountability, and respect," he said.

Inspiring young hearts through music

By Rosalinda Sienes
Principal, Ohmine Public Elementary School

October 27, 2026
Pohnpei - On October 9, 2026, we welcomed Mr. Hugh Coffey and Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant to Ohmine Public Elementary School. Mr. Coffey wanted to share his love of music with our Music Club, and we were happy to have them both with us.

Our children sang along as Mr. Coffey played his guitar and ukulele. When they found out he had made the instruments himself, they were even more curious. It was lovely to see them so interested and enjoying the music. We teachers enjoyed it, too.

"I'll always remember the excitement on the children's faces when Mr. Coffey started playing. We teachers were just as excited. It was such a happy moment to share, and one I'll treasure," said James Harry, one of our Music Club teachers.

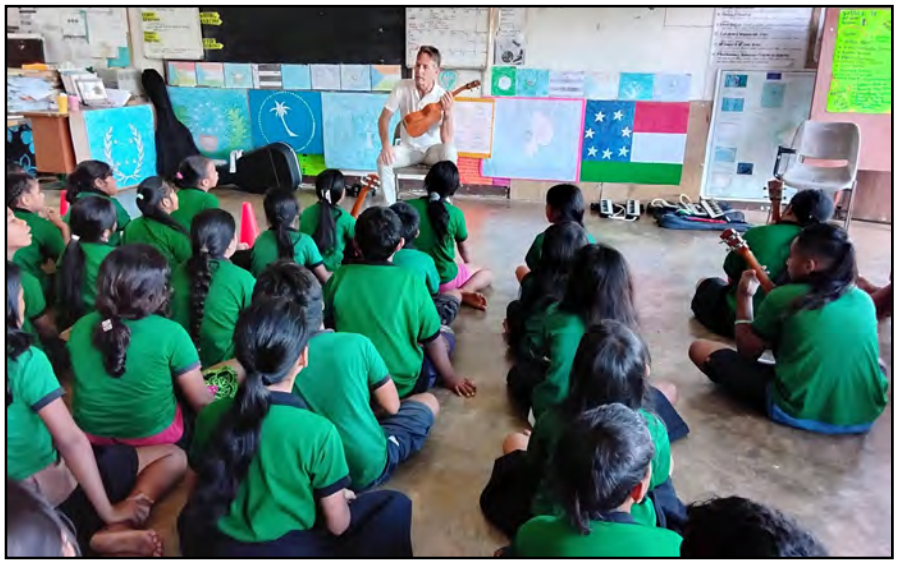
Mr. Coffey also gave a generous donation to help our club buy ukuleles. Thank you, Mr. Coffey. This means a great deal to our school and will help more children learn to play music together.

On behalf of our students and teachers, I sincerely thank Mr. Coffey for spending time with us and sharing his experience. Thank you also, Ambassador Grant, for joining us. We were so pleased to have you at Ohmine.
As your time in FSM comes to an end, Ambassador Grant, we wish you all the best. We hope you will remember our children and this day as fondly as we will.

You and Mr. Coffey will always be welcome at our school.







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U.S. DOI awards $1.59 million to build health dispensary on Uman Island, Chuuk State

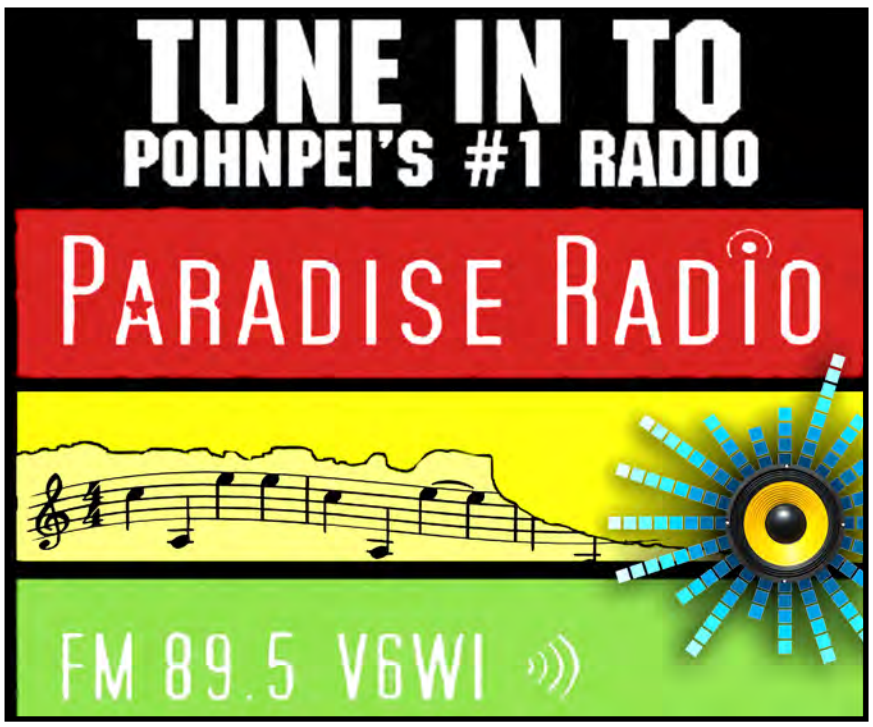
United States Department of the Interior

November 2, 2026
Pohnpei — The U.S. Embassy Kolonia congratulates the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on its $1,593,000 Compact of Free Association (COFA) infrastructure grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA). The award supports the Uman Dispensary Project in Chuuk State. OIA approved the funding on October 1, 2026, and the project will run through September 2029. With this support, the U.S. government continues its commitment to supporting healthcare in the FSM.

Through the COFA, the project will build a health dispensary on Uman Island in Chuuk Lagoon. When construction ends, the dispensary will give Uman residents healthcare closer to home.

This award builds on recent U.S. support for Chuuk. In September 2026, Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau visited Chuuk to reaffirm the lasting U.S. partnership with the FSM and to support relief and reconstruction efforts after Super Typhoon Sinlaku. During his visit, he announced more than $100 million in U.S. government emergency disaster assistance.

The United States and the FSM share a strong partnership under the COFA. Through the Uman Dispensary and similar projects, the United States continues to expand public services and advance community well-being across all four FSM states.



Matson invests $1,000 in books for Yap's youngest readers

Habele

November 13, 2026
YAP, FSM — A $1,000 donation from Matson Giving to Habele will support Young Island Readers, the program providing free monthly books to young children across Yap State.

Young Island Readers is Habele's local partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Enrolled children receive a new, age-appropriate book each month until their fifth birthday. Every book belongs to the child, helping families build a home library one story at a time.

The program is open to Yapese and Outer Islander children under five living in Yap State. Families pay nothing to participate. Parents, grandparents and older siblings can use the books to make reading together part of daily life.

Books reach families through post office boxes on Yap Proper, flights to Ulithi, Fais and Woleai, and ship mailbags to other Outer Islands. Families, educators, volunteers and delivery partners help make the program work, while charitable contributions help meet its ongoing costs.

Young Island Readers sent its 30,000th book in September 2026. Matson's latest donation builds on its earlier support for the program, investing in children's learning before they begin school.

Matson Giving is the shipping company's charitable giving program, supporting community needs including education in the places it serves. Habele welcomes its continued support for Yap's youngest readers.

Parents and caregivers can find enrollment information in English, Yapese and Ulithian, along with online and printable forms, at www.habele.org/read/. Questions can be sent to books@habele.org.



(PEUMP II) Finance and Procurement Coordinator

- **Elevate your financial career while supporting an EU funded marine partnership programme!**
- **Important opportunity to directly engage with an intergovernmental initiative geared towards fostering stronger economic integration in the Pacific and beyond!**
- **Excellent basic salary from US$52,483.00 (tax-free, for citizens of most countries) PLUS a huge range of benefits!**
- **Make the ultimate sea change and help support the Pacific Island Community!**

About the Organisation

*The **Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)** is a regional organisation established in 1979 to help its 17 Members sustainably manage and develop their tuna fisheries. Headquartered in Honiara, Solomon Islands, FFA brings together Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Naoero, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to work collectively to safeguard one of the Pacific region's most valuable natural resources.*

FFA provides expert advice, technical support and policy guidance to ensure that tuna fisheries are managed responsibly, deliver tangible benefits to Pacific communities and contribute to national development. It also coordinates regional monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) operations to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, strengthens fisheries compliance, and supports Members in negotiations with distant-water fishing nations to secure fair access agreements and equitable benefits for Pacific communities.

Established under the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention (Honiara Convention), FFA serves as a unified regional platform through which its Members collaborate to manage and protect the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, one of the world's most important tuna fishing regions.

About the Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme Phase 2 (PEUMP II) builds on the achievements of Phase 1, continuing to strengthen ocean governance, promote the sustainable management of oceanic and coastal fisheries, and integrate gender equality, social inclusion (GESI) and human rights-based approaches. The programme prioritises the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks, improved monitoring, compliance and surveillance, increased value across fisheries value chains, and more inclusive community-based management of coastal fisheries resources.

PEUMP II is underpinned by FFA's vision that *Pacific people enjoy the greatest possible social and economic benefits from the sustainable use of offshore fisheries resources*, in alignment with the FFA Strategic Plan 2026-2031. The programme aligns with FFA's strategic objectives of promoting sustainable and inclusive fisheries management, strengthening regional solidarity and governance, advancing empowerment through value chain development, and enhancing Members' effective participation in regional and global fisheries processes.

FFA is responsible for implementing **Key Result Area 4 (KRA 4)**, which focuses on strengthening sustainable and inclusive tuna fisheries value chains through improved market access, enhanced compliance, and robust MCS systems to combat IUU fishing. By reinforcing collaboration among Pacific Island countries, regional organisations and communities, PEUMP II supports regional integration, climate resilience and sustainable economic opportunities while contributing to the long-term health of the Pacific Ocean. These efforts help ensure that the ocean continues to sustain food security, livelihoods and cultural identity for generations to come.

The five-year PEUMP II programme is funded by the European Union, with a total funding envelope of **EUR 20 million**, and is implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), in close collaboration with non-governmental organisations and national government administrations

About the Opportunity

FFA is seeking a full-time **Finance and Procurement Coordinator** to join its team in Honiara, Solomon Islands, on a three-year fixed-term contract, with the possibility of renewal subject to performance appraisals and the availability of funding.

Reporting to the PEUMP Team Leader and Activities Coordinator, the successful applicant will be primarily responsible for providing high-level financial and administrative support to the programme, including contract management, compliance and reporting. The role will ensure that all financial and administrative activities are appropriately documented and managed in accordance with applicable requirements, with a strong focus on maintaining zero ineligible expenditure.

Key responsibilities will include, but will not be limited to:

- Overseeing all FFA PEUMP procurement planning and activities, and providing guidance to the PEUMP team, FFA Members and partners, as required; and
- Coordinating logistics for PEUMP-funded meetings and training courses, and ensuring that all PEUMP-funded travels are properly acquitted and supported by the submission of trip reports.

About You

To be successful in this role, you must have extensive experience in an executive support role within a government agency and/or international organisation, ideally complemented by project management and reporting experience within EU-funded programmes. You will also hold relevant tertiary qualifications in commerce, accounting, business or another closely related field, with postgraduate qualifications in business or public administration considered highly desirable.

Given that this role operates within the parameters of a donor-funded programme, existing knowledge of, or experience with, the procedures and reporting requirements of a major international or regional donor active in the Pacific will be an advantage. You will also need to possess, or be willing to quickly develop, a sound working knowledge of FFA administrative procedures and financial systems and, where relevant, an understanding of the Pacific tuna industry. As the role will involve exercising delegated authority in relation to project staff and engaging with a range of internal and external stakeholders, highly developed interpersonal, verbal and written communication, and presentation skills will be essential to your success.

The ideal candidate will have a sound working knowledge of financial and administrative procedures and contract management, together with a self-driven, thorough and proactive approach and a strong desire to learn and grow professionally.

Most importantly, FFA is seeking a dedicated professional who can navigate the complex international frameworks within which FFA operates and the requirements governing the PEUMP programme. The successful candidate must be able to manage complex and competing demands, maintain strong stakeholder relationships, and ensure that financial, procurement and administrative processes are carried out diligently, transparently and in compliance with applicable requirements.

About the Benefits

On offer for the successful candidate is a **salary commencing from US$72,699.00** (with Base salary, COLDA and Location Allowance), **tax free for citizens of most countries.**

You will also have s**uperannuation paid at 7.5% into either a nominated fund or as an additional cash supplement.** FFA **reimburses all reasonable medical, dental, and optical expenses for yourself and dependants.** Insurance coverage is also provided for **personal accident, life, medical & repatriation.**

Education for dependent children will be **reimbursed at 75% of tuition fees** (Conditions apply). If your dependent child is educated overseas, paid school travel may be available for you or your child to visit each other once for each contract year.

Accommodation assistance is also available.

Additionally, **relocation expenses will be paid**, with an establishment grant paid on arrival in Honiara. **Annual airfares back to the country of repatriation will be provided,** and a **repatriation allowance of 2 weeks' base salary on return to home-base at the end of the contract**. There is also a **retention incentive of 21% of your base salary** which will be paid on the completion of your 3-year contract.

Check out the full Information regarding this job vacancy and down the link: https://www.ffa.int/jobs/peump-ii-finance-and-procurement-coordinator/

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2026, the following **CHECKING** and **SAVINGS** accounts on deposit with Bank of Guam are inactive and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective Bank of Guam branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2027, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2027, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

Chuuk - Esinesin faniten Account ese chiwen suuk ika ese tufich aa

Kese mochen chemeni pun June 30, 2026, ekewe **CHECKING** me **SAVINGS** accounts mei wor moni mei tónóng ngeni ach we Bank of Guam rese chiwen suk me ekewe ar kei account iter mei maketiw repwe kékéri ach we Bank of Guam. Nupwen rese kéké iwe masowaan non kei accounts epwene nó ngeni achwe ofesin Secretary of Finance non ewe maram January 2027, ngeni 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 me ,non ewe procedures set forth non ewe 17 FSMC §102. Kose mochen chechemeni nge mwirin January 2027, meinisin kapas eis faniten ekei ika ei account epwe nó ngeni achwe ofesin Secretary of Finance.

Pohnpei - Kahpese duen pwuhk en nekinek me sohlar doadoak de Notice of Inactive Accounts

Komwi en mwangi me sang ni June 30, 2026, pwuhk en nekinek oh sek ong nekinek ni pangk en Kuam me solahr doadoak oh mwaren aramas me pato pohn pwuhk o pahn ahnahne wehwe ieng pangk wet, mah soh ah wen sens me pato nan nekinek wet pahn patohla ren Kaun en Kempahn Apwali Sens nan sounpwohng en January 2027, pwehn idawen koasondi en 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 oh wiepe kan me pil sansal nan 17 FSMC §102. Komw menlau taman me mwurin Senweri, keinemwe koaros ong duen nekinek me sansal pah pahn patohla ren Kaun en Kempahn Apwali Sens.

Kosrae - Mwe Akkalwemye Ke Bank Account Ma Tiac Mokleyuk

In akkalwemye lak ke June 30, 2026, **CHECKING** ac **SAVINGS** accounts ten inge ikakla yurin Bank of Guam ac tia mokleyuk pwanang mwet la account sihmlac ten inge enenu in pangon Bank of Guam branch lalos an, kom fin tia pang, mani lom ke account an ac transfer kuh utukyuk nu yurin Secretary of Finance ke malem January 2027, oana ke oakwuki ke 29 FSMC §106 (6) ac 29 FSMC §602 ac oayapa fwakak ke 17 FSMC §102. Lela n kalem lah tukun January 2027, siyuk nukewa ma kupasr nuke account inge enenu in lolngok yurin Secretary of Finance.

Yap - Murung' Agen E Tin Baaray E Account Ni Be Par Ndariy Ban'en Ni Uibe Rin' Ngay

Yibe yog ngom ni ngam nang ni ka nap'an e rofen ni June 30, 2026, ma pi **CHECKING** nge **SAVINGS** accounts ni baaray ni bay u Bank of Guam e ke n'uw nap'an ndariy ban'en ni yibe rin' ngay. Piin bay reb e pi account ney rorad e ba t'uf ni ngar nonad ko Bank of Guam ko gin yad ma par riy u payngin nrayog. Ya faanra danga', ma salpiy ni bay u lan e pi account ney e yira pi' nge yan ko en ir e Secretary of Finance u lan e pul ni January 2027, nrogon nib puluw ko fapi motochiyel ni 29 FSMC §106 (6), 29 FSMC §602, nge 17 FSMC §102. Yibe yog ngom ni ngkum nang nra tomuren e pul ni January 2027, ma faanra bay e deer rom ara ban'en ni ga baadag ni ngam nang u murung'agen reb e pi account ney ma aram e thingar mu non ngak e en ir e Secretary of Finance.

CHUUK CHECKING

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T/F A-Leen Aunu
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T/F Richardson Billy
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Chuuk FM 96942-0021

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Jaypaul Dereas
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Member FDIC

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

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YUMO Taskforce participates in FEIS Tiger Team bilateral engagement in Hawaii

Yap Government

November 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii - The Yap U.S. Military Operations (YUMO) Taskforce's Representatives, along with its legal and technical advisers, is taking part in a three-day Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Tiger Team Bilateral Engagement with the U.S. Joint Task Force–Micronesia's (JTFM) technical team in Honolulu, Hawaii from November 2–4, 2026.

The meetings are part of the ongoing discussions between the Yap State Government and DOW's regional command regarding the proposed military construction projects in Yap. The main purpose is to review the FEIS, discuss environmental concerns, and look at ways to reduce possible impacts on Yap's environment, cultural sites, natural resources, and communities.

Engagement Highlights:
During the sessions, both teams will review important sections of the FEIS, discuss technical findings, and go over comments and recommendations submitted by Yap State. Discussions will focus on protecting marine and land environments, preserving cultural and historical sites, and addressing possible impacts from the proposed airport, seaport, and other related developments.

Representing Yap State's Interests:
The YUMO Taskforce Rep's and advisers will continue to raise concerns shared by Yap's communities, traditional leaders, government agencies, and other stakeholders during these sessions.

Some of the main concerns include protecting coral reefs, impacted marine resources, cultural sites, water and power utilities, and land that may be affected by the proposed projects. Yap's representatives will seek clarification on how these concerns are addressed in the FEIS and what measures are being proposed to reduce their impact.

The YUMO Taskforce will continue working to ensure that Yap State's interests are represented throughout these discussions.

The SEE Project brings a national skills initiative to Falalop island

FSM Department of Finance and Administration

November 5, 2026
Falalop - On Falalop island in Ulithi Atoll, a conversation about high school students' future began with cards, board games and Lego blocks.

Students at the Falalop, Ulithi Outer Islands High School (OIHS) used these activities to explore different professions, the skills and values behind them, and how they saw their own future opportunities and careers.

The activities were part of the Skills andEmployability Enhancement (SEE) Project's first outer-island outreach campaign.

From 22 to 26 October 2026, four SEE Project staff members, three representatives of the Yap Department of Education, an agriculture business consultant and a communications specialist from the FSM Central Implementation Unit (CIU) visited the school. Their purpose was to bring information about technical and vocational education and training (TVET) opportunities to students and families in an outer-island community.

Behind the visit is a nationwide effort to revitalise vocational education and skills training and expand employment search assistance. Since early 2023, the SEE Project has provided financial and technical support to Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap, with the goal of making vocational education, skills training and employment opportunities more accessible, relevant and of better quality for young people.

At the Falalop OIHS, that wider ambition took the form of hands-on career exploration. Rather than relying only on presentations, the team used games to introduce a range of professions and the skills and values associated with them. With Lego blocks, students represented how they perceived their future opportunities and careers, giving a tangible form to a conversation about what might come after school.

Agriculture was also part of that conversation. In separate sessions, the agriculture business consultant introduced students to opportunities in the sector, adding another field for them to consider as they explored possible career paths.

The outreach extended beyond the school. On the second day of activities, representatives from neighbouring islands joined sessions on job and career opportunities through TVET. The discussion brought the same information to people from other island communities, widening the reach of the visit.

On the third day, the focus turned to the Falalop community and the career choices and opportunities available to its young people. By involving students, neighbouring-island representatives and local community members, the mission made education and careers a conversation that reached beyond the classroom.

The SEE Project team returned with lessons from this first outer-island campaign to inform a second mission, planned for Woleai in November 2026.







President Simina Addresses FSM–Japan Business Forum 2026

FSM Information Services

October 30, 2026
TOKYO, Japan — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), opened the FSM–Japan Business Forum 2026 on October 24, highlighting opportunities to create new avenues for trade, attract investment, and deepen economic partnership between the FSM and Japan. The Forum was held under the theme "Partnerships for a Green and Blue Economy."

Building on the 2025 Forum held in Osaka, President Simina reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth and strengthening bilateral economic ties. He emphasized that one of the FSM's greatest assets is its vast ocean, which offers significant opportunities for investment and economic development. As a relatively young nation, he invited Japanese businesses and investors to explore opportunities in the country and partner with the FSM in developing opportunities in key sectors such as fisheries, renewable energy, agriculture, and other sectors within the blue and green economy.

The President highlighted ongoing efforts to improve the FSM's business and investment environment through policy reforms, improved infrastructure, and greater connectivity, guided by the FSM Strategic Development Plan 2024–2043. These efforts reflect the nation's commitment to creating greater opportunities for private sector growth and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships with potential foreign investors.

The forum provided an opportunity for the FSM to further strengthen economic engagement between the FSM and Japan, with a focus on expanding private sector cooperation, promoting investment opportunities, and advancing sustainable economic development.







President Simina highlights FSM's Captive Insurance Industry at Tokyo Seminar

FSM Information Services

October 27, 2026
TOKYO, Japan — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), delivered opening remarks at the 2026 FSM Captive Insurance Seminar in Tokyo during his official visit to Japan, highlighting the FSM's commitment to strengthening its captive insurance industry and expanding economic cooperation with Japan. The President was joined by representatives of the 24th FSM Congress and members of his delegation.

Earlier that day, President Simina and his delegation attended a breakfast meeting with members of the FSM Captive Insurance Council and the FSM Insurance Board. The meeting provided an opportunity for Mr. Steven K. Baker, President of Micronesia Registration Advisors (MRA), to introduce members of his team, including newly appointed staff, and provide updates on the captive insurance sector, its ongoing activities, and future priorities. He also reported that the industry has generated approximately US$338,000,000 in corporate income tax revenue since the establishment of the program.

Addressing members of Japan's business and insurance communities at the seminar, President Simina expressed appreciation for their continued confidence in the FSM, noting that more than 20 Japanese-owned captive insurance companies are licensed or approved for licensing in the country. He emphasized the FSM's commitment to building a reliable and competitive captive insurance domicile supported by sound regulation and long-term business partnerships.

The President also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening the FSM Insurance Board and maintaining a stable, efficient, and responsive regulatory environment that meets the needs of businesses while upholding high industry standards.

The engagements underscored the FSM's continued commitment to developing its captive insurance industry, strengthening ties with Japan's business and insurance communities, and advancing economic cooperation between the FSM and Japan.







MCS Policy Advisor

- **Do you have a background in maritime law, maritime operations, fisheries policy or similar?**
- **Important opportunity to provide policy advice and recommendations to an intergovernmental organisation in the Pacific!**
- **Subject to exchange rates, excellent base salary from US$56,862.00 to US$85,294.00 (tax free for citizens in most countries) commensurate with your skills and experience!**
- **Make the ultimate sea change and help support the Pacific Island Community!**

About the Organisation

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

Based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, FFA's 17-member nations are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

FFA was established to help countries sustainably manage the fishery resources within their 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). FFA is an advisory body providing expertise, technical assistance and other support to its members who make sovereign decisions about their tuna resources and participate in regional decision making on tuna management through bodies such as the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Since 1979, FFA has facilitated regional cooperation so that all Pacific countries benefit from the sustainable use of tuna – worth over USD $3 billion a year, and important for many people's livelihoods in the Pacific.

About the Opportunity

FFA is now looking for a full-time **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Policy Advisor** to join their team in Honiara, in the Solomon Islands on a three-year fixed term contract, with possibility for renewal pending performance appraisals and availability of funding.

Reporting to the Director Fisheries Operation, the successful applicant will be primarily **responsible for providing high level regional and national MCS policy advice and overseeing the implementation of the Regional MCS Strategy.**

Some of the key responsibilities will include (but not be limited to):

- Providing MCS policy input into all aspects of regional and national MCS work
- Providing recommendations to FFA's Executive Management on the effective utilization of the Agency's MCS resources to support core Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Strategy (RMCSS) implementation actions/ activities at the FFA Secretariat and within FFA member countries;
- Providing advice for the strategic utilization of regional MCS resources used to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Promoting/participating in capacity building at national and regional levels to improve MCS monitoring and date integration analysis;
- Liaising with the Compliance Policy Advisor to monitor and oversee the implementation of the RMCSS through Activity and Strategic monitoring; and
- Coordinating Fisheries Operations' implementation of the FFA Strategic Plan.

About You

To be successful in this role, you must have extensive experience of at least 5 years in the management and/or fisheries compliance and MCS at a national or regional level. Furthermore, you will have relevant tertiary qualifications in maritime law, maritime operations, fisheries policy or a similar discipline.

Working within an intergovernmental organisation, you must have experience in capacity building at regional and/or national levels to improve fisheries MCS. You will also need to possess an understanding of the role of information and communication technology in MCS operations while having a strong understanding of the practical aspects of MCS and a broader vision of processes for its improvement.

As you will be responsible for the development of MCS policy advice across a range of international and national frameworks and stakeholders, your highly developed interpersonal verbal and written communication/presentation skills will be crucial to your success.

The ideal candidate will possess an ability to identify and implement policy/capacity/risk initiatives in regards to national and regional MCS programs and frameworks while being self-driven, thorough, and in possession of a strong desire to learn and grow.

Most importantly, FFA is looking for a dedicated professional able to navigate the complex international frameworks that the FFA operates within, who is able to manage complex and competing demands while diligently maintaining relationships with all stakeholders.

About the Benefits

If you are looking to make the **ultimate sea change** and experience life on the leading edge of Pacific development, this is the opportunity for you!

On offer for the successful candidate is a **salary commencing from USD$77,992.00** (with Base salary and basic allowances), **tax free for citizens of most countries** depending on proven experience and qualifications.

You will also have **superannuation paid at 7.5% into either a nominated fund or as an additional cash supplement.** *FFA* **reimburses all reasonable medical, dental, and optical expenses for yourself and dependants.** Insurance coverage is also provided for personal accident, life, medical & repatriation.

Education for dependent children will be **reimbursed at 75% of tuition fees** (Conditions apply). If your dependent child is educated overseas, paid school travel may be available for you or your child to visit each other once a year.

Accommodation assistance is also available.

Additionally, **relocation expenses will be paid,** with an establishment grant paid on arrival in Honiara. **Annual airfares back to the country of repatriation will be provided**, and a **repatriation allowance of 2 weeks' base salary on return to home-base at the end of the contract.** There is also a **retention incentive of 21% of your base salary** which will be paid on the completion of your three-year contract.

On top of all this, you will have access to **6 weeks of annual leave** each year, giving you plenty of time to explore this stunning part of the world!

For more information regarding the position, please click the link: https://www.ffa.int/jobs/mcs-policy-advisor/

FSM celebrates 40 Years of Independence with flag-raising ceremony

FSM Information Services

November 3, 2026
PALIKIR, Pohnpei — Today, we proudly celebrated the 40th anniversary of our nation's independence with a flag-raising ceremony at the President's Office in Palikir, honoring four decades of sovereignty, unity, and progress under the theme, "Across All Micronesia: Born of Four, the Choice of One."

The milestone celebration brought together national and state leaders, traditional leaders, diplomatic partners, government officials, and members of the public to honor our shared journey since independence on November 3, 1986.

The ceremony opened with a cultural procession featuring four children representing Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae in traditional attire, celebrating the distinct cultural identities of our four states. This was followed by a full honor guard, the ceremonial raising of the FSM flag, and the FSM National Anthem performed by students of Ohmine Elementary School. A 40-gun salute was rendered in honor of the nation's 40th anniversary of independence and nationhood.

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Speaker of the FSM Congress, delivered welcoming remarks recognizing the significance of this national milestone.

In his Independence Day address, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the FSM, reflected on our journey toward self-determination and paid tribute to the generations of Micronesians who laid the foundation for our sovereign nation.





Reflecting on the historic decision that united our four states, President Simina recalled that "we chose to walk it together, under one flag, as the Federated States of Micronesia." His message underscored the spirit of the theme and the shared commitment to nationhood that has guided our federation for four decades.

President Simina highlighted achievements over the past 40 years, including the development of national institutions, diplomatic relations, infrastructure, education, healthcare, transportation, and digital connectivity.

"Forty years later, we stand here with the benefit of four decades of experience and four decades of work by generations of Micronesians who believed that this country was worth building," he stated.

Looking ahead, President Simina emphasized the continued responsibility to strengthen public services, improve accountability, preserve our cultural identity, and ensure that our progress benefits future generations.

In a symbolic tribute to our shared heritage and future, President Simina, Vice President Aren B. Palik, Speaker Esmond B. Moses, and Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph each planted a coconut tree. The four trees symbolize both the four states of our federation and four decades of independence, reflecting the unity and resilience that have sustained our nation. As President Simina reflected in his address, "I see four states with distinct identities and traditions, choosing to share one national future." Known throughout Micronesia as the Tree of Life, the coconut tree symbolizes sustenance, resilience, and growth, serving as a living reminder of our shared heritage and commitment to nurturing the nation for generations to come.

Following the tree planting, the four leaders jointly unveiled a commemorative dedication plaque, followed by the unveiling of a second plaque by President Simina.

As we celebrate this milestone, we honor the contributions of generations past and reaffirm our shared commitment to building a stronger, more united, and prosperous Federated States of Micronesia for generations to come.

Born of Four, the Choice of One. Happy FSM Independence Day!













President Simina holds bilateral summit meeting with Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi

FSM Information Services

October 25, 2026
TOKYO, Japan — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), held a bilateral summit meeting with Her Excellency Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan, on October 23, marking a key engagement of his official working visit to Japan from October 21 to 24, 2026.

Ahead of the summit, Prime Minister Takaichi welcomed President Simina with a ceremonial guard of honor, followed by the formal introduction of Japanese Cabinet members to President Simina and members of the FSM delegation to Prime Minister Takaichi. During the meeting, Prime Minister Takaichi reaffirmed Japan's commitment to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific and highlighted progress on the Pohnpei State Port Expansion Project. She also confirmed Japan's support for the FSM Government's request for a cargo-passenger vessel to replace the aging MV Caroline Voyager, a priority President Simina has continued to pursue since his first official working visit to Japan in 2024.

Meeting Prime Minister Takaichi in person for the first time since she assumed office, President Simina congratulated her on her historic achievement and expressed appreciation for Japan's steadfast friendship. Marking 38 years of diplomatic relations, President Simina noted that the enduring spirit of Kizuna continues to guide the partnership. He also conveyed the condolences of the FSM Government and people for the lives lost and destruction caused by recent Kumamoto earthquake and Typhoon Dujuan.

President Simina reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to promoting peace and cooperation with Japan in a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. He welcomed progress on the Pohnpei port expansion project and opportunities for cooperation in next-generation solar technologies and fisheries.

On global and regional matters, President Simina reaffirmed the FSM's support for Japan's bid for permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council, congratulated Japan on its election to the UN Human Rights Council, and conveyed the FSM's support towards strengthening regional cooperation with Japan at the upcoming Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM11) in Yokohama.

The summit concluded with President Simina reaffirming the deep friendship between the two countries, stating, "I look forward to working with you, your Government and the People of Japan in strengthening our special bond of Kizuna now and into the future."









President Simina meets with FSM–Japan Parliamentary Friendship League

FSM Information Services

October 25, 2026
TOKYO, Japan — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with members of the FSM–Japan Parliamentary Friendship League, led by its Chairman, the Honorable Keiji Furuya, during his official visit to Japan on October 22.



The Japanese delegation included the Honorable Hisayuki Fujii, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications; the Honorable Masanao Ozaki, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary; Parliamentary Friendship League members Shinichiro Kawamatsu, and Kiyoshi Igarashi; and His Excellency Nobuo Kagomiya, Ambassador of Japan to the FSM.

Discussions focused on cooperation in climate change, renewable energy, information and communications technology (ICT), healthcare, and education. The meeting also highlighted ongoing solar energy initiatives supported by Japan and efforts to improve digital connectivity through submarine cable projects involving Google.

The meeting also touched on the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10), held in Tokyo in 2024, and the broader cooperation between Japan and Pacific Island countries in addressing shared challenges and development priorities.



President Simina expressed appreciation to Chairman Furuya and members of the Parliamentary Friendship League for their continued support of FSM–Japan relations. He recognized the League's role in maintaining parliamentary dialogue and promoting people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

Vice President Palik attends generator commissioning ceremony in Kosrae

FSM Information Services

November 10, 2026
TOFOL, Kosrae — The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, joined the Honorable Tulensa Palik, Governor of Kosrae State, at the commissioning ceremony of a new generator held on October 8, 2026 at the Kosrae Utilities Authority (KUA) complex in Tofol, marking a significant milestone in stabilizing the state's power infrastructure.

The commissioning marks the culmination of collaborative efforts among the FSM National Government, the Kosrae State Government, donor partners, KUA, and Pacific Hawthorne, following Kosrae's declaration of a state of emergency in 2024 due to a severe power crisis.

The newly commissioned Generator #12—a 1.5 MW Caterpillar 3512B supplied by Pacific Hawthorne—significantly enhances Kosrae's power fleet. The additional capacity is expected to reduce reliance on aging equipment and allow KUA to perform essential repairs and scheduled maintenance without interrupting electricity supply across the island. With Generator #12 fully operational, KUA is better positioned to meet Kosrae's electricity demands and address the frequent power outages that have disrupted communities and livelihoods.

Delivering the keynote address, Vice President Palik congratulated the Kosrae State Government, KUA, and its partners on the achievement and commended KUA personnel for their dedication and hard work, particularly recognizing Chief Operations Manager Mr. Robert Taulape. He also emphasized the importance of continued maintenance to ensure the generator's long-term reliability.



"Let us remember that while acquiring new equipment is a great achievement, maintaining it is an ongoing responsibility. I encourage KUA to continue its rigorous monitoring and preventive maintenance programs to ensure Generator #12 serves Kosrae for many decades to come."

The Vice President, accompanied by Madam Second Lady Palik, joined the Honorable Arthy Nena, Lieutenant Governor of Kosrae State; KUA leadership; members of the 11th Kosrae State Legislature; and municipal mayors in commemorating this milestone.



President Simina meets with JICA President in Tokyo

FSM Information Services

October 26, 2026
TOKYO, Japan — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), during his official visit to Japan to discuss ongoing development cooperation between the FSM and Japan.

President Simina expressed appreciation for JICA's continued support, particularly the Pohnpei State Port Expansion Project. Both sides looked forward to the project's completion in 2028, recognizing its importance in improving maritime infrastructure and supporting economic development.

The discussions also focused on maritime connectivity, with President Simina highlighting the important role of Japan-funded vessels in relief and recovery efforts following Typhoon Sinlaku, particularly in reaching affected outer island communities and delivering essential supplies. Reflecting on his previous visit to the FSM, Dr. Tanaka acknowledged the importance of reliable maritime transportation and informed President Simina that he had directed his team to coordinate a visit to the FSM to work with relevant government departments on the proposed design of a new passenger-cargo vessel.

Both sides also recognized the importance of people-to-people exchanges in strengthening the friendship between the FSM and Japan. Dr. Tanaka expressed appreciation to the FSM for its continued hospitality and support for volunteers serving under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program.

President Simina also acknowledged JICA's contributions in healthcare, infrastructure, education, and capacity building, reaffirming the FSM's appreciation for its longstanding development partnership with Japan.







“It is about respect”: First Lady Simina brings Pacific perspective to Global Zero Waste Dialogue at COP31

FSM Information Services

November 13, 2026
ANTALYA , Türkiye - The First Lady of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Madame Ancelly Simina, represented the Pacific at the High-Level Meeting of Spouses of Leaders on the Global Zero Waste Alliance, held on November 11, 2026, in Antalya, Türkiye, on the margins of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31).

The gathering brought together spouses of leaders from around the world and was hosted by the First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye. The meeting provided a platform for sharing perspectives, experiences, and collective approaches to advancing sustainable waste management and promoting a global culture of responsible resource use.

Speaking on behalf of the FSM and Pacific perspective, First Lady Simina highlighted the challenge and need for effective waste management in protecting the environment, safeguarding public health, and securing a sustainable future for island communities.

Reflecting on the broader significance of the issue, First Lady Simina emphasized that addressing waste goes beyond statistics, policies, and technology, calling for a shift in individual and collective attitudes.

“It is about a mindset. It is about respect: respect for our resources, respect for our environment, and respect for future generations,” she stated.

She acknowledged that waste management remains an important and ongoing challenge for island nations, including the FSM, where the protection of fragile marine and terrestrial ecosystems is closely connected to the everyday choices made by households, communities, businesses, and governments.

In her remarks, First Lady Simina outlined the FSM’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its approach to waste management through five key areas: policy, public awareness, landfill management, collection and disposal, and recycling spearheaded by the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management.

First Lady Simina noted that, as an island nation heavily dependent on imported goods, the FSM has taken steps towards addressing its waste management challenges. These include the enactment of a law in 2020 restricting the importation of single-use plastics, Styrofoam products, and plastic shopping bags, as well as participation in regional initiatives such as the 3R Plus Return initiative, which supports the collection and return of PET plastic bottles for recycling.



She emphasized that while government policies and initiatives provide an important starting point, addressing waste management cannot be achieved by government alone, and requires the collective effort of all including businesses, communities, schools and families, with everyone playing a role in reducing waste and not polluting.

She further noted the importance of strengthening community participation across all four states, including through initiatives in the FSM such as the Zero Waste Academy, which seeks to encourage practical, locally driven approaches to waste prevention.

Emphasizing the intergenerational responsibility of environmental stewardship, First Lady Simina reflected on the importance of leaving a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations.

“As a mother, I often think about the world we will leave to our children. They are watching the choices we make today. They will inherit the consequences of our actions, but they will also inherit the solutions we build together,” she shared in her address.

First Lady Simina’s participation at the meeting provided an opportunity to bring Pacific perspectives into the global conversation on Zero Waste, while highlighting the importance of inclusive partnerships, community engagement, and practical solutions that reflect the realities of island nations.

President Simina meets with OFCF President to strengthen fisheries development cooperation

FSM Information Services

October 25, 2026
TOKYO, Japan — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with Mr. Toshiro Shirasu, President of the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF), on October 22 during his official visit to Japan to discuss ongoing fisheries development initiatives and strengthen cooperation in support of fishing communities across the FSM.

The discussions highlighted Japan’s longstanding fisheries assistance to the FSM through OFCF, including the Fisheries Development Assistance for Pacific Island Nations (FDAPIN), which has supported fisheries infrastructure development and technical capacity building.

A key focus of the meeting was the implementation of the OFCF Goods and Services Program in the FSM, particularly the installation of ice-making machines on Fanapanges and Moch Islands in Chuuk State. The initiative aims to improve fish preservation, support local fishing activities, and strengthen economic opportunities for island communities.

During the discussions, President Simina highlighted implementation challenges affecting the project on Fanapanges, while noting progress on Moch, where preparations have been completed and the ice-making machine is awaiting installation. In response, OFCF President Shirasu reaffirmed his support for addressing outstanding issues and advancing the project through continued coordination with relevant FSM agencies and OFCF’s Micronesia Office. Both sides looked forward to resolving the remaining challenges and completing the installation and handover of the facilities.

The meeting underscored the continued partnership between the FSM and OFCF in advancing fisheries infrastructure, supporting sustainable fisheries development, and improving livelihoods in fishing communities across the FSM.





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ABOUT THE FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY (FFA)

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

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

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

Vision

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

Mission

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Next Opportunity

As our next Manager, Procurement, Property and Travel, your key responsibility will be to lead FFA's procurement, property and travel teams within the Corporate Services Division. Reporting to the Director, Corporate Services, you will ensure FFA's procurement activities and policies are implemented effectively, that all FFA properties are well managed and maintained, and that staff receive efficient, cost-effective travel support, with value for money, probity and compliance at the heart of everything you do.

Your key responsibility areas will include:

- A hands on role in a small Agency with big responsibilities
- Strategic management and oversight of all FFA procurement activities
- Management and oversight of FFA travel services, including the Travel Management System
- Management and oversight of property management for all FFA properties
- Asset management and insurance
- Senior management support, compliance and management of the Procure-to-Pay (P2P) workflow

What You'll Bring to the Team

To be considered for this position, you will hold a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting / Finance, Business Administration or a relevant discipline, as well as at least eight years' relevant experience across procurement, property and travel, including high-level experience in managing procurement processes such as tender work and assessment.

You will also have high-level experience with proprietary ERP systems and Microsoft Office applications, a strong understanding of emerging procurement issues and challenges in the Pacific Islands region, and experience working in a multicultural, multidisciplinary environment.

Our ideal candidate will bring excellent negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills, strong analytical skills with close attention to detail, and an unwavering commitment to zero corruption. Postgraduate qualifications and Procurement Certification from the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) will be highly regarded.

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

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

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

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

- Cover Letter addressed to the Manager Human Resources and Administration
- Application Form
- Curriculum Vitae

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registration plates of metal; bells for animals; soldering wire of metal; mooring buoys of metal; identification bracelets of metal; wind-driven bird-repelling devices made of metal; stakes of metal for plants or trees; traps for wild animals; works of art of common metal; ores of metal; monuments of metal; ironmongery.

Class 7: Agricultural machines; mechanized livestock feeders; incubators for eggs; shearing machines for animals; mechanized horse walkers; aerating pumps for aquaria; saws [machines]; machines for the manufacture of paper diapers; papermaking machines; printing machines; industrial inkjet printing machines; spinning machines; dyeing machines; tea manufacturing machines; food preparation machines, electromechanical; bread cutting machines; juice extractors, electric; mixing machines; robotic arms for preparing beverages; cigarette machines for industrial purposes; leather-working machines; sewing machines; bicycle assembling machines; potters' wheels; engraving machines; battery cable rolling machines; cord making machines; dual-purpose peeling and shelling machines; machines for washing silkworm eggs; chopstick making machines; pen making machines; straw-mat looms; spin dryers [not heated]; candle making machines; enamel making machines; light bulb making machines; packaging machines; briquette making machines; kitchen machines, electric; dishwashing machines; food processors, electric; coffee grinders, other than hand-operated; wringing machines for laundry; washing machines [laundry]; bioreactors for use in manufacturing biopharmaceuticals; embossing machines; glass-working machines; fertilizer manufacturing machines; electromechanical machines for chemical industry; haulage apparatus [mining]; cutters [machines]; drilling rigs, floating or non-floating; excavators; pneumatic jacks; elevating apparatus; electric hammers; foundry machines; steam engines; igniting devices for internal combustion engines; wind turbines; paper clip making machines; zip fastener making machines; cowlings [parts of machines]; electric wire and cable manufacturing machines; industrial robots; screwdrivers, electric; electric hand drills; hand-held tools, other than hand-operated; semiconductor manufacturing machines; optical cold working machines; machines for generating gas by electrolysis; painting machines; motors, other than for land vehicles; filters for cleaning cooling air, for engines; starters for motors and engines; dynamos; compressed air machines; valves [parts of machines]; air cylinders [parts of machines]; pumps [machines]; air pumps [garage installations]; bearings [parts of machines]; belts for machines; transmission mechanisms, other than for land vehicles; rubber tracks being parts of crawlers on agricultural machines; filters being parts of machines or engines; control mechanisms for machines, engines or motors; electric welding apparatus; washing installations for vehicles; dust exhausting installations for cleaning purposes; steam mops; machines and apparatus for cleaning, electric; car washing installations; vacuum cleaners; 3D printers; Machines for filling containers with liquid; fluid dispensing machines for industrial use; racket stringing machines; liquid tanks [parts of machines]; 3D printing pens; joints [parts of engines]; 3D bioprinters; rice grain sorting machines; automatic clothes folding machines for industrial purposes; sanders, electric; automatic tire removing and installing devices; refrigerated vending machines; confectionery vending machines; liquid tanks [parts of machines]; shoe polishers, electric; filtering machines; vending machines; curtain drawing devices, electrically operated; ticket vending machines; robotic exoskeleton suits, other than for medical purposes; labellers [machines]; drums [parts of machines]; electroplating machines.

Class 9: Computers; computer programs, recorded; downloadable application software for virtual environments; user-programmable humanoid robots, not configured; navigation computers for cars; pedometers; apparatus to check franking; counterfeit coin detectors; mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus; holograms; dictating machines; hemline markers; voting machines; electronic random number indicator equipment [ERNIE]; biometric scanners; ticket dispensing terminals, electronic; photocopiers [photographic, electrostatic, thermic]; weighing apparatus and instruments; measures; signal lanterns; navigational instruments; Global Positioning System [GPS] apparatus; mobile telephones; in-car telephone handset cradles; navigation apparatus for vehicles [on-board computers]; security surveillance robots; rearview cameras for vehicles; camcorders; smart speakers; dashboard cameras; humanoid robots having communication and learning functions for assisting and entertaining people; video projectors; projection screens; surveying apparatus and instruments; range finders; speed checking apparatus for vehicles; automatic indicators of low pressure in vehicle tyres; temperature indicators; connected bracelets [measuring instruments]; teaching robots; laboratory robots; measuring devices, electric; simulators for the steering and control of vehicles; humanoid robots with artificial intelligence for use in scientific research; diagnostic apparatus, not for medical purposes; optical apparatus and instruments; materials for electricity mains [wires, cables]; electric wire harnesses for automobiles; semiconductors; chips [integrated circuits]; amplifiers; parking sensors for vehicles; control panels [electricity]; controllers for servo motors; sensors; inductors [electricity]; video screens; remote controls; optical fibres [light conducting filaments]; electric apparatus for commutation; lightning arresters; ionization apparatus not for the treatment of air or water; fire extinguishing apparatus; apparatus and installations for the production of X-rays, not for medical purposes; protective helmets; life-saving apparatus and equipment; alarms; locks, electric; electric door bells; battery chargers; batteries, electric, for vehicles; batteries, electric; charging stations for electric vehicles; portable power chargers; animated cartoons; sports whistles; egg-candlers; dog whistles; decorative magnets; electrified fences; humanoid robots with artificial intelligence for preparing beverages; humanoid robots with artificial intelligence for use in household cleaning and laundry; life jackets for pets; portable remote-controlled car stoppers; refrigerator magnets; pigeon training whistles.

Class 12: Rolling stock for railways; autonomous cars; cars; self-balancing scooters; bicycles; pumps for bicycle tyres; aerial conveyors; carts; sleighs [vehicles]; tyres for vehicle wheels; automobile tyres; repair outfits for inner tubes; camera drones; air vehicles; water vehicles; windshield wipers; safety belts for vehicle seats; windscreens; electric vehicles; vehicles for locomotion by land, air, water or rail; upholstery for vehicles.

Class 16: Paper; copying paper [stationery]; towels of paper; toilet paper; signboards of paper or cardboard; stickers [stationery]; pads [stationery]; figurines of papier mâché; printed publications; books; periodicals; pictures; garbage bags of paper or of plastics; bags [envelopes, pouches] of paper or plastics, for packaging; stapling presses [office requisites]; stationery; ink; stamps [seals]; writing materials; pens [office requisites]; adhesive tapes for stationery or household purposes;

drawing instruments; drawing materials; inking ribbons; teaching materials, except apparatus; tailors' chalk; architects' models; mezuzah parchments; mezuzah cases.

Class 20: Office furniture; mattresses; trays, not of metal; split rings, not of metal, for keys; hand-held mirrors [toilet mirrors]; fans for personal use, non-electric; works of art of wood, wax, plaster, plastic or resin; registration plates, not of metal; nameplates, not of metal; decorations of plastic for foodstuffs; pet cushions; identification bracelets, not of metal; coffin fittings, not of metal; drawer organizers; pillows; bolsters; indoor window blinds [furniture]; locks, not of metal, for vehicles.

Class 25: Ready-made clothing; tee-shirts; clothing; waterproof clothing; layettes [clothing]; motorists' clothing; masquerade costumes; footwear; hats; hosiery; cycling gloves; gloves [clothing]; scarves; belts [clothing]; chasubles; shower caps; sashes for wear; hairdressing capes; sleep masks; wedding dresses.

Class 27: Carpets; mats; floor mats for vehicles; carpet underlay; automobile carpets; gymnastic mats; bath mats; non-slip mats; yoga mats; wallpaper.

Class 28: Hand-held consoles for playing video games; apparatus for games; slides [playground equipment]; toys; toy robots; scooters [toys]; scale model vehicles; smart toys; building blocks [toys]; chess games; pumps specially adapted for use with balls for games; body-building apparatus; archery implements; machines for physical exercises; hunting game calls; swimming pools [play articles]; plastic race tracks [toys]; protective paddings [parts of sports suits]; gloves for games; in-line roller skates; ornaments for Christmas trees, except lights, candles and confectionery; fishing tackle; twirling batons; camouflage screens [sports articles]; scratch cards for playing lottery games; printed lottery tickets; grip tapes for rackets.

Class 35: Advertising; advertising and promotional services; presentation of goods on communication media, for retail purposes; providing business information via a website; provision of an online marketplace for buyers and sellers of goods and services; sales promotion for others; marketing through product placement for others in virtual environments; employment agency services; systemization of information into computer databases; book-keeping; rental of vending machines; sponsorship search; rental of sales stands; rental of cash registers; retail services for pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations and medical supplies; retail or wholesale services for pharmaceutical preparations; retail or wholesale services for veterinary preparations.

Class 37: Providing information relating to repairs; construction; mining extraction; upholstering; heating equipment installation and repair; installation, maintenance and repair of computer hardware; electric appliance installation and repair; interference suppression in electrical apparatus; installation and maintenance of medical devices; vehicle breakdown repair services; vehicle battery charging; motor vehicle maintenance and repair; vehicle washing; airplane maintenance and repair; shipbuilding; photographic apparatus repair; clock and watch repair; safe maintenance and repair; re-tinning; retreading of tyres; tyre balancing; furniture maintenance; leather care, cleaning and repair; disinfecting; passenger lift installation and repair; burglar alarm installation and repair; shoe maintenance and repair; telephone installation and repair; knife sharpening; pump repair; umbrella repair; artificial snow-making services; restoration of works of art; restoration of musical instruments; rental of drainage pumps; swimming-pool maintenance; repair of power lines; rental of dishwashing machines; rental of battery chargers; refilling of gas cylinders used for making carbonated beverages; jewellery cleaning; restoration of printed photographs; repair of hand tools; jewellery repair services; repair of orthodontic appliances; mobile telephone battery charging services; maintenance of passenger lifts via remote monitoring systems; spectacle repair and maintenance; rental of fuel dispensing machines; repair of patio umbrellas; installation and maintenance of entertainment or sports apparatus; cleaning of storage tanks; suitcase repair; septic tank cleaning; book repair and restoration; repair of binoculars; repair of toys or dolls; repair of game machines and apparatus; rental of carpet cleaning machines; cleaning of escalators; cell phone repair; installation of lightning conductors; drill bit sharpening; rental of battery chargers for digital cameras; rental of battery chargers for mobile telephones; maintenance and repair of skis; antenna installation and repair; installation of cables for Internet access; venetian blind installation and repair; installation, maintenance and repair of card readers; fire extinguisher recharging services; lawn mower blade sharpening; cleaning of toys; repair and maintenance of hearing aids.

Class 39: Transportation logistics; locating and tracking of people for transportation purposes; wrapping of goods; rental of navigational systems; stevedoring; marine transport; car transport; air transport; car rental; chauffeur services; car sharing services; carting; storage of goods; rental of atmospheric diving suits; distribution of energy; operating canal locks; delivery of goods; travel reservation; transport by pipeline; rental of wheelchairs; launching of satellites for others; bottling services; rental of delivery robots; rental of pushchairs; rental of go-karts; rental of wheelbarrows.

Class 40: Providing information relating to material treatment; metal casting; applying finishes to textiles; woodworking; bookbinding; window tinting treatment being surface coating; tinting of car windows; pottery firing; fruit crushing; stripping finishes; dressmaking; photographic printing; treatment of captured biogas; processing of hazardous materials for decontamination; air purification; water treating; framing of works of art; processing of natural gas; oil refining; gas production services; custom manufacturing of computers for others; distillation of chemicals; treatment of stone materials; tobacco roasting services; treatment of glass materials; rental of 3D printers; cutting of diamonds; rental of electricity generators; custom 3D printing for others; processing of fuels; carbon capture; production of renewable green energy; rental of printers for use with computers; custom manufacture of make-up; custom manufacture of cases for cell phones; custom manufacture of oriental hair pins; rental of batteries; custom blending of essential oils for aromatherapy use; custom manufacture of car covers; processing of chemical reagents; providing information relating to the rental of tobacco processing machines; rental of chemical processing machines; mixing lubricants for third parties; contact lens tinting; molding of plastic materials; custom manufacturing of locks; cryopreservation services; custom manufacturing of artificial limbs; paint mixing services; laminating of plastic sheets; production of energy; processing of medicinal materials; engraving; custom manufacturing of wigs; stone working; rental of boilers; encapsulation of semiconductors for others; custom manufacturing of chips [integrated circuits] for others; herbal medicine decocting services; custom manufacturing of pharmaceuticals; custom manufacturing of orthodontic appliances; custom manufacturing of boats; custom manufacturing of aircraft.

Class 42: Technological research; artificial intelligence consultancy; research in the field of artificial intelligence technology; quality control; providing online geographic maps, not downloadable; chemical research; biological research; providing meteorological information; vehicle roadworthiness testing; automotive design; industrial design; interior design; dress designing; software as a service [SaaS]; monitoring of computer system operation by remote access; platform as a service [PaaS]; off-site data backup; electronic data storage; providing virtual computer systems through cloud computing; computer software design; providing online non-downloadable computer software; hosting software platforms for virtual reality-based work collaboration; authenticating works of art; graphic arts design; cloud seeding; handwriting analysis [graphology]; cartography services; rental of meters for the recording of energy consumption; testing and analysis of goods being imported or exported for quarantine clearance purposes; rental of telescopes; rental of scientific microscopes; logo design services; weighing of goods for others; show scenery design services; animation and special effects design for others; design of magnetic refrigerator stickers; design of customized books; radon detection services; inspecting buildings for the existence of mold; design of clothing for pets; art work design.

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FSM opens national workshop on Intellectual Property with WIPO

FSM Information Services

November 10, 2026
PALIKIR, Pohnpei — The Department of Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia opened the FSM Project Kickoff Workshop and National Dialogue Session on Intellectual Property on October 26 at the Kamorale Convention Center in Palikir, Pohnpei, bringing together national and state leaders, private stakeholders, and partners to advance the nation's intellectual property framework.

In his keynote remarks, the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, highlighted the importance of intellectual property in supporting national development, encouraging creativity and innovation, and recognizing the value of FSM's cultural heritage and local products.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph emphasized the importance of protecting the knowledge, skills, and cultural expressions of local communities, including traditional arts and locally made products, while ensuring that communities benefit from their contributions.

Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando, Jr. underscored the Department of Justice's commitment to strengthening the FSM's legal and institutional framework for intellectual property protection. He highlighted the importance of reviewing national laws, improving coordination among stakeholders, and ensuring that intellectual property protections respond to the country's needs, including the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.



The workshop, held in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), provides a platform for national dialogue, technical discussions, and stakeholder engagement toward developing practical and effective intellectual property protections for the FSM.

The initiative reflects the FSM's commitment to safeguarding its cultural heritage, supporting local creators and entrepreneurs, and promoting sustainable national development.



FSM Development Bank announces $5 million in ADB funding for small businesses

Pohnpei Public Information

October 27, 2026
PEI LAPALAP, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lt. Governor Herolyn S. Movick recently welcomed leadership from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Development Bank for an official courtesy call at the state capitol in Pei Lapalap.

The visiting delegation was led by Acting Chief Executive Officer Alik Alik, alongside Chief Financial Officer Brandon Tara, Human Resources Manager Dorian Kiyoshi, and Gender Officer Norleen Oliver.

During the meeting, Acting CEO Alik Alik briefed Governor Joseph and Lt. Governor Movick on a newly secured $5 million funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with loan application eligibility under this program having begun in September 2026. The funding is specifically earmarked to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the nation by supporting any viable business idea, with a dedicated focus on supporting women entrepreneurs to launch or scale up business ventures.

In addition to SME expansion, CEO Alik emphasized the bank's strategic focus on local food security and noted that while FSMDB is using established loan processing procedures, a new requirement under this funding is environmental and social safeguard (ESS) clearance. He highlighted the development of sustainable exit strategies that can help transition these loans into viable, long-term commercial enterprises.

Governor Joseph warmly welcomed the announcement and expressed his full support for broadcasting this opportunity to all relevant business and community stakeholders. He reiterated the Joseph-Movick Administration's firm policy that all incoming funding and regional initiatives must directly align with Pohnpei's Strategic Development Plan—noting that this ADB-funded program strongly reinforces those local priorities.

Lt. Governor Movick also underscored the critical value of establishing clear pathways to commercialization for local producers, emphasizing the need to build upon lessons learned from past financing programs to ensure long-term success.

The Pohnpei State Government looks forward to continued collaboration with the FSM Development Bank to strengthen the backbone of our economic development, the private sector.





Opinion Editorial

The last island on the warning list still counts

A warning can be correct and still fail the person who needs it most.

In a country whose communities are scattered across a vast ocean, the arrival of a warning is not a small administrative detail. It can determine whether a family has time to protect drinking water, move important medicines, secure a boat, or make sure an older neighbor knows what is coming. The message that reaches an office in a state capital has not necessarily reached the last household on an outer island.

For the Federated States of Micronesia, this is not merely a question of equipment. Radios, communications networks, boats, and emergency plans matter greatly. But even the best technology depends on people who know whom to call, who might be missing, and whose silence should cause concern.

Imagine the difference between two kinds of preparedness. In the first, officials announce that a warning has been sent. In the second, a community asks whether the warning was understood, whether a person living alone received it, and whether someone has the means to respond. The second standard is harder to meet. It is also the one that measures safety in human terms.

That difference matters especially when an island is far from the nearest clinic or transport is irregular. A family cannot act on advice that assumes help is a quick journey away. A person who needs medicine, a parent caring for several children, or a household without reliable communication may need a different practical plan from the one that works well in town.

This is why emergency preparation should begin long before anyone hears a storm warning. Local leaders can identify trusted points of contact, rehearse messages in words people use every day, and ensure that elders and persons with disabilities are consulted rather than merely listed as vulnerable. Schools and churches can help households discuss evacuation and water storage without turning preparation into fear. Plans should include what happens when the first channel fails, not just what happens when it works.

The Christian understanding of neighbor-love speaks directly to this. In the teaching of Jesus, care is not complete when we have done what is convenient. The shepherd notices the one that is missing. The Samaritan stops for the person others have passed. Whether or not a reader approaches those stories as Scripture, the moral challenge is plain: a system that celebrates reaching most people must still reckon with the one it left behind.

There is a related danger in how communities discuss risk. When the same families repeatedly struggle to receive information or supplies, frustration can become blame. People may assume that another island received more, that officials favor some neighborhoods, or that an unanswered request means nobody cares. Clear communication, honest limitations, and visible follow-through can keep practical hardship from becoming distrust between neighbors.

A useful question for every preparedness meeting is therefore simple: Who will check on the last household, and who will check on the person assigned to do the checking?

Answering it may require no dramatic announcement. It may mean a printed contact list, a radio check, a shared plan for fuel, a school conversation, or a neighbor who agrees to return if no one answers the first knock. Small commitments are easy to overlook until they are the only ones that work.

The ocean connects Micronesian communities as surely as it separates them. The strength of those communities has never been measured only in distances, ships, or towers. It is also measured in whether people keep faith with one another when the distance becomes difficult.

The last island on the warning list is not an afterthought. Its people are the reason the list exists.

Douglas Vandergraph
https://douglasvandergraph.com

When the boat is delayed, the explanation must still arrive

An island community understands that a journey is not finished simply because a timetable says it should be. Weather changes, vessels are delayed, supplies arrive later than expected, and families adjust. The question is what happens to the people who are waiting for news. In the Federated States of Micronesia, where distance between islands can complicate even ordinary errands, reliable explanations are a quiet form of respect.

Imagine a student expecting materials for school, a patient awaiting an appointment, or a shopkeeper counting on a shipment. The delay itself may be unavoidable. Silence about the delay is a separate decision. When a family is told nothing, uncertainty takes up room in the household. They cannot plan work, arrange transport, or tell a child what tomorrow might look like. A small communication failure becomes a larger burden borne by people with few alternatives.

Public institutions and private operators alike deserve room to explain genuine difficulties. Honest communication need not promise a certainty that nature cannot provide. It can say what is known, what remains uncertain, when the next update should come, and whom to contact when an urgent circumstance cannot wait. Those four pieces of information often matter more than a polished apology after the problem has passed.

The islands themselves also teach an important lesson about distribution. A message sent from an office is not automatically a message received in a household. Internet access may be uneven, a phone may be shared, and an announcement in one place may not travel promptly elsewhere. Community radio, local leaders, schools, faith communities, and trusted networks can help bridge those gaps when they work with official channels rather than being left to replace them.

But useful communication is not only a question of technology. It is a question of how we regard the person making a second inquiry. A caller who asks again is not necessarily impatient. Perhaps they have to arrange a ride, care for an elderly parent, or make a decision about the little money left in the week. Treating the second question with patience can change the meaning of an entire encounter. It tells a person they have not become an inconvenience merely because circumstances are difficult.

For Christians, this concern grows from the conviction that every human being bears dignity that does not depend on rank, wealth, or influence. The call to love our neighbor is tested especially when we have no quick solution to offer. We may be unable to make a boat arrive sooner. We can still speak truthfully, listen carefully, and refuse to make an already vulnerable family feel invisible. Honesty and kindness are not competing duties.

A good community review should therefore ask more than whether an announcement was technically issued. Did the outermost household know? Could the person with limited connectivity get an answer? Was there an understandable next step for someone whose medical or school plans had changed? Answers to those questions can lead to practical improvements without demanding that anyone pretend to control the sea.

Peace grows through these modest habits of responsibility. It grows when officials speak plainly, when neighbours relay accurate information rather than rumours, and when organisations consider the person who cannot easily call back. A delayed boat may be beyond our control. The decision to leave another person without a clear explanation often is not. The explanation, at least, should arrive.

Douglas Vandergraph
https://douglasvandergraph.com/

Governor Joseph emphasizes cultural identity and heritage preservation at 35th PIALA Conference

Pohnpei Public Information

November 2, 2026
PALIKIR, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph officially welcomed delegates to the 35th annual conference of the Pacific Island Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) on November 2, 2026, at the Kamorale Convention Center in Palikir.

Speaking before a distinguished audience that included Wasahi Nett / Senator Peter M. Christian (At-Large Senator representing Pohnpei in the 24th FSM Congress), Pohnpei State Legislators Senator Welfred Edmund, Senator Dionisio Saimon, and Senator Francisco Simram, members of the diplomatic corps, traditional leaders, state officials, and PIALA leadership led by President Erlinda Naputi, Governor Joseph expressed deep gratitude to the organization for returning to Pohnpei for the first time in nine years.

In his address, Governor Joseph highlighted the evolving role of information professionals in the digital age, noting that instantaneous internet access makes safeguarding cultural heritage more challenging yet far more critical. Placing cultural identity at the center of his message, Governor Joseph emphasized that amidst the influx of global digital information, Pohnpeian children—whether living at home or abroad—must always understand and embrace their core identity as Pohnpeians first, regardless of where life takes them or what lifestyle they pursue.

"Preservation of heritage and indigenous knowledge is essential," Governor Joseph stated, warning of the risk that future generations could lose their cultural footing. He shared that he has instructed the Pohnpei Department of Education to integrate indigenous life skills directly into the curriculum to ensure youth build an unshakeable cultural foundation.

Governor Joseph called on librarians, archivists, and curators to work alongside the education system, and urged policy makers to manage digital information responsibly to protect cultural identity. He reaffirmed the state's support for PIALA's vital work and wished delegates a productive conference and an enjoyable stay in Pohnpei.

PIALA is more than an association of archives, libraries, and museums. It is a regional instrument for protecting Pacific identity, safeguarding indigenous knowledge, strengthening institutional capacity, and ensuring that our collective heritage remains accessible to generations yet unborn.

For Pacific island nations, preserving our history is not simply about protecting old documents or historical artifacts. It is about protecting who we are, understanding where we come from, and ensuring that our children and grandchildren inherit not only our lands and oceans, but also the knowledge, wisdom, values, and stories that define our people.

Our heritage is our inheritance, our identity is our strength, and our history is the outrigger that steadies our journey into the future.





Governor's Office announces appeal in public lands board dispute

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 22, 2026
Pohnpei - Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and the Board of Trustees of the Pohnpei Public Lands Trust are challenging a court decision in a dispute with the 11th Pohnpei State Legislature over the appointment, terms and authority of trustees, according to an October 15 statement from the Governor's Office.

The statement said the Office of the Attorney General had filed a notice of appeal and a motion asking that implementation of the court's order be suspended pending appeal.

The release presents the executive branch's position. It does not include the court's decision, the text of the disputed legislation or the Legislature's response to the legal arguments. It also does not report whether the court had granted the requested stay.

According to the Governor's Office, the dispute centers on legislation that ties trustees' terms to the Governor's term, limits their continued service after their terms expire to 30 days, and treats gubernatorial nominations as rejected if the Legislature does not act on them within 30 days.

The Governor and trustees contend that those requirements could leave the board without enough members to conduct official business, particularly while nominations await legislative action.

The statement describes the case as raising constitutional and statutory questions about the respective powers of the executive and legislative branches, as well as the board's ability to carry out its duties.

The Governor's Office said the potential consequences extend to residents and businesses that depend on public land decisions. It identified the board's responsibilities as administering public land leases, supporting commercial investment and overseeing public lands for present and future generations.

Without a quorum, the statement warned, decisions involving leases, business developments and other public land matters could be delayed. The release did not identify specific transactions that had been delayed or establish whether the board was currently unable to meet.

The statement said the appeal seeks further judicial review, while the separate motion for a stay asks the court to suspend implementation of its order during that process.

The Governor's Office characterized the legal action as an effort to preserve functioning public institutions and the proper balance of governmental powers.

"Public lands are held in trust for the people of Pohnpei, and their administration must always serve the people first," the statement said.

The release was issued in response to a posting about the case on the Legislature's page, but it did not reproduce that posting or explain the Legislature's position. The account provided does not establish the full reasoning behind the court's ruling or any subsequent developments in the appeal.

Pohnpei Port Authority marks 35 years with new strategic plan

Pohnpei Public Information

October 16, 2026

DEKEHTIK, Pohnpei — On behalf of the Joseph-Movick Administration, the Honorable Stevenson A. Joseph, delivered special remarks at the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA). Speaking before members of the Board of Directors, management, staff, and distinguished guests, Governor Joseph offered warm congratulations to the authority on reaching this historic milestone and praised its proactive steps toward modernization.

Strategic Planning as a Guiding Light

In his address, Governor Joseph extended heartfelt congratulations to the Board, General Manager Grilly Jack, and the entire PPA staff for their dedication in finalizing the authority's new Strategic Development Plan (SDP). The Governor highlighted the document as an indispensable roadmap, calling it a "guiding light" that will navigate PPA forward in meeting the demands of modern maritime and aviation operations.

Reflecting on earlier remarks made during the ceremony by the Vice Chairman of the Board regarding ehupene—the spirit of working together in unity—Governor Joseph provided an essential perspective on strategic alignment. He emphasized that before a community or organization can achieve ehupene, it must first experience tuhpene—the coming together in discussion and consensus. The Governor noted that the newly launched Strategic Development Plan represents that vital tuhpene, laying a solid structural foundation upon which true unity and progress can be built.



Honoring the Pioneers of Pohnpei's Port

While the 35th anniversary marks the formal legislative enactment that created the Pohnpei Port Authority, Governor Joseph reminded attendees that the story of Pohnpei's gateway began long before the law was signed.

He expressed deep gratitude to the visionary leaders and pioneers who originally designated, planned, and prepared the port facilities decades ago. The Governor fondly recalled the welcoming nature that has characterized the port since its earliest days, celebrating its historical role as a warm, hospitable entry point for travelers, commerce, and partners from around the globe.

Learning from Global Excellence

Drawing from his recent official visit to China, Governor Joseph shared observations from his tour of the Port of Ningbo-Zhoushan—one of the world's busiest, most efficient, and technologically advanced commercial shipping hubs.

To help drive continuous improvement locally, Governor Joseph encouraged PPA management and technical staff to undertake a study visit to Ningbo's commercial port operations. He expressed confidence that observing their advanced technological integration and streamlined operational workflows firsthand would yield valuable insights for Pohnpei's port infrastructure development.

A Call to Safeguard Pohnpei's Economic Engine

In closing, Governor Joseph implored the General Manager, management team, and staff to take exceptional care of the port facilities, describing the authority as a cornerstone of Pohnpei's overall economic health and future sustainability.

On behalf of the Pohnpei State Government, Lieutenant Governor Herolyn S. Movick, and the people of Pohnpei State, Governor Joseph extended his best wishes to the Pohnpei Port Authority for a successful 35th anniversary and pledged the Executive Branch's full cooperation and support as PPA moves into its next era of service.

Japan-funded project strengthens security at Pohnpei port

Pohnpei Public Information

October 19, 2026

DEKEHTIK, Pohnpei — Governor T.H. Stevenson A. Joseph attended a official handover ceremony at the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) for the newly completed Port Security Enhancement Project. Funded through the Embassy of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, the project includes a new guardhouse, located by the Dekehtik landfill and updated surveillance equipment to strengthen security at the Dekehtik port facilities.

The handover ceremony was attended by key diplomatic and state leadership, including Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Japan Masayo Tada and Grants Coordinator Satoshi Shimizu. Representing the Pohnpei Port Authority were Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors Trevayne Esiel, Board Member Alik Alik, and General Manager Grilly Jack. Also present were Department of Public Safety Director Eltes Pelep and Chief of Police Bronson Martin.





In his closing remarks, Governor Joseph expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the people of Pohnpei to the Embassy of Japan for its generous and vital assistance. He emphasized that the project serves as an essential step toward safeguarding Pohnpei's main gateway and overall economic infrastructure.

"This enhancement project is a critical start to elevating security across our most vital port facilities," Governor Joseph stated. "The presence and participation of the Department of Public Safety today underscores our strong, continuing partnership with the Pohnpei Port Authority in maintaining a safe and secure community."

The initiative marks another milestone in the enduring friendship and cooperative relationship between the State of Pohnpei and the Government of Japan.

Joseph-Movick administration advocates for veteran healthcare and dedicated State support at Veterans Day Ceremony

Pohnpei Public Information

November 11, 2026

Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, accompanied by First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang, attended the Veterans Day ceremony held at the Kolonia-China Friendship Gym, hosted by the US Veterans of Pohnpei, joining national and international leaders to honor the service, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of Micronesian veterans and their families.

During the event, Vice President Aren B. Palik delivered keynote remarks highlighting national priorities and key agreements dedicated to building robust pillars of support for veterans across the Federated States of Micronesia.

Governor Joseph addressed the gathering to pay tribute to the military community, placing special recognition on Gold Star families and acknowledging distinguished service members and the many Veterans serving in the State and National Government, traditional realm, political sphere, agencies, private sector, and NGOs who have returned to serve their nation. Governor Joseph also noted the presence of one of the longest serving and highest-ranking sons of Pohnpei, retired Marine Colonel Leo A. Falcam, Jr.



Emphasizing the state's commitment to veteran welfare, Governor Joseph advocated strongly for expanded healthcare access for veterans, noting that improved local services and support structures are essential to encourage younger veterans to return home and contribute their skills to Pohnpei's development. As a concrete step toward this vision, Governor Joseph pledged to secure a dedicated physical location for veteran services and affairs in Pohnpei.

The ceremony was also attended by Chargé d'Affaires Andrew Wylie of the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia, who joined state and national leaders in recognizing the deep historic ties between the nation and the U.S. Armed Forces—a tradition of service founded on the principles of liberty and self-governance.

Expressing his profound appreciation, Charge' d'affaires Wylie—himself a U.S. Navy veteran—shared a heartfelt message of gratitude to his fellow service members and Gold Star families: "We will never forget your sacrifices, and we remain forever grateful. Kalahngan lap."

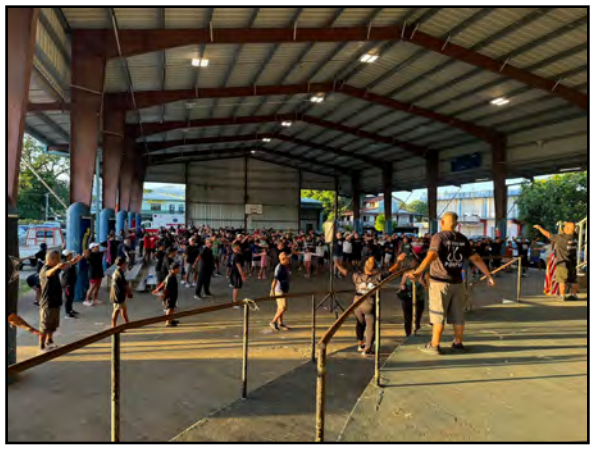
















Pohnpei receives initial emergency WASH and Dignity kits from UNICEF following Typhoon Sinlaku

Pohnpei Public Information



October 30, 2026
Pei Lapalap, Pohnpei — The Joseph-Movick Administration formally accepted an initial handover of emergency Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) response supplies and Dignity kits from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support ongoing relief and recovery efforts for communities affected by Typhoon Sinlaku.

The official handover was conducted by UNICEF representatives Mr. Jeffrey Ing and Mr. Cory Kustin. This initial donation marks the start of a broader distribution initiative, with additional relief supplies scheduled for rollout to impacted families across the state.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph extended sincere gratitude and appreciation to UNICEF for its prompt intervention and continued partnership with the State of Pohnpei during times of recovery.

Governor Joseph expressed deep appreciation to UNICEF and its representatives for their steadfast support, emphasizing that these vital supplies will immediately assist vulnerable families as recovery proceeds, while highlighting ongoing collaboration to ensure all affected residents receive necessary assistance.





The distribution of the emergency relief packages will be coordinated through state disaster management officials to ensure efficient delivery to affected households.

FSM leaders, WIPO explore protections for traditional knowledge and local innovation

Pohnpei Public Information



October 26, 2026
PEI LAPALAP, Pohnpei — Leadership from across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Pohnpei State gathered today at the Kamorale Convention Center for the opening of the two-day World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Familiarization and Technical Mission. The high-level gathering brings together international experts, national government officials, and state representatives to establish comprehensive intellectual property protections across the nation.

The proceedings opened with welcoming remarks from Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando Jr., who outlined the mission's scope and legal objectives. Secretary Bacalando noted that part of the process for fast-tracking this initiative involves updating relevant national laws, highlighting that collaboration with WIPO will directly assist FSM to "protect artistic and original designs" of Micronesia.

Delivering special remarks on behalf of Pohnpei State, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomed visiting delegates and emphasized that intellectual property framework serves as a vital bridge between traditional wisdom and global opportunity.

“For island nations like ours, intellectual property is far more than a legal concept or economic tool—it is a critical bridge connecting our traditional knowledge deeply rooted in our rich cultures with modern global commerce,” Governor Joseph stated. “The ultimate goal is not to benefit governments nor organizations, but to protect the knowledge and benefit the people and communities.”

Governor Joseph pointed to Pohnpei's rich botanical heritage and traditional plant remedies, warning against biopiracy and exploitation. He emphasized that establishing robust legal protections and national IP infrastructure ensures local creators, healers, farmers, artisans, and innovators are recognized and fairly compensated in the regional and global marketplace.

Delivering the keynote address, Vice President Aren B. Palik emphasized the national cultural imperative of establishing formal intellectual property frameworks, stating that through WIPO, our "ancestor knowledge is respected and not appropriated."

The opening ceremony was also attended by FSM Ambassador to the European Union Akilino Susaia alongside a delegate from WIPO.

Over the course of the two-day technical mission, deliberations will focus on drafting essential IP legislation aligned with the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, laying the groundwork for a National IP Office, and supporting entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture. Pohnpei State is represented by a broad cross-section of leaders across historical preservation, cultural studies, commerce, forestry, fisheries, women’s advocacy, and conservation.

Joseph-Movick administration congratulates Liehn Pohnpei Softball Team on historic third place finish at Senior Softball World Championships

Pohnpei Public Information

November 2, 2026

PEI LAPALAP, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph hosted a courtesy call at the Executive Building with the Liehn Pohnpei Softball team following their successful return from Nevada, USA, where they represented Pohnpei and competed in the prestigious Senior Softball World Championships.





During the international tournament, the Liehn Pohnpei Softball team demonstrated exceptional athletic caliber and resilience, capturing an impressive 3rd place overall against competitive field entries.

Governor Joseph extended his warm congratulations to the members of the team, commending their outstanding sportsmanship, dedication, and positive, outgoing attitude both on and off the field. He noted that their achievement brings immense pride to the state and underscores the talent and spirit of Pohnpeian athletes on the global stage.

During the courtesy visit, representatives of the Lien Pohnpei Softball team expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Joseph-Movick Administration and the Speaker of the 11th Pohnpei Legislature for their invaluable leadership, support, and financial and logistical assistance, which helped make their participation in the world championships possible.

The Pohnpei State Government reaffirms its commitment to supporting local sports programs and athletic initiatives that build youth and community development across the state.

Canada Champions League: Community goals, vital posts, and the race for glory

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club

October 31, 2026

Pohnpei - The Canada Champions League—proudly presented in collaboration with the Pohnpei Department of Education, the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), and the US Army Oceania Engagement Team—is proving to be an absolute powerhouse of community sports action! Over the last few weeks, the pitches have come alive with thrilling goals, fierce competition, and an incredible wave of local passion.

The spectator tsunami: passersby, kids, and cheers

What makes these matches so special isn't just the action on the pitch; it's the electric atmosphere on the sidelines! Over the past two weeks, the support from passing spectators, parents, local adults, and cheering kids has been nothing short of phenomenal. Every brilliant save, near miss, and magnificent goal is met with roaring cheers, turning Spanish Wall Park and the Track & Field grounds into true community festivals where everyone shares in the excitement.

Vital goalposts: here to stay

A huge shoutout goes to the Vital goalposts installed at Spanish Wall Park. As a vital donation to the local community, these sturdy structures are built to stay! After the heartache of last year when vandals destroyed the old PVC setups, these new installations ensure the kids have a permanent, reliable home for football. Vandals will definitely have a very hard time trying to mess with Vital property now,

Ohmine's title statement & recent match madness

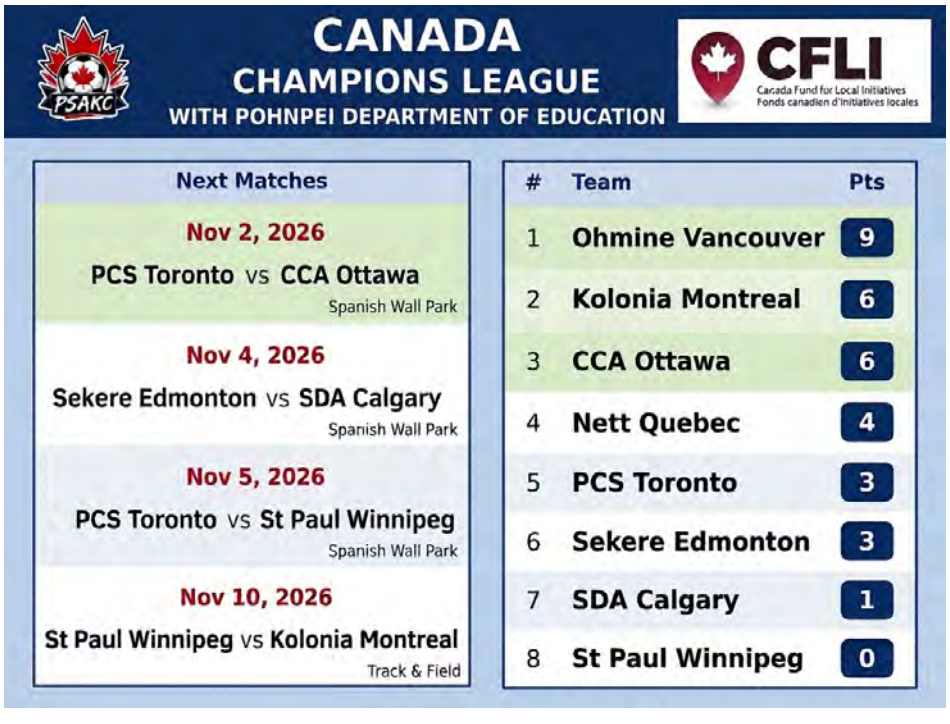
Looking back at the explosive recent action, the biggest headline is that Ohmine Vancouver has taken down the reigning champions, stamping their name as serious contenders for the ultimate title.

* Kolonia Montreal also turned heads with a massive 10 - 4 victory over SDA Calgary, while CCA Ottawa ran riot in an 11 - 4 masterclass against St Paul Winnipeg.

Looking ahead: incoming matches

The action doesn't stop here! Mark your calendars and come down to support the kids as the next wave of matches kicks off.

Grab your friends, bring your energy, and come cheer on the future stars of Pohnpei football.



PSAKC expresses gratitude to CFLI following inspiring visit; issues urgent appeal for community support

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club

October 31, 2026
POHNPEI — The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) extends its deepest gratitude to the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) following a memorable official visit between October 28 and October 31, 2026.

A warm welcome & on-field magic

CFLI representatives Alexandria and Selina arrived to a joyous reception on the pitch. Despite a seasonal flu bug cutting normal turnout in half, over 35 enthusiastic young players gathered to welcome the distinguished guests.

The highlight of the day was an energetic, friendly match featuring the visitors alongside the local Moms' team playing against the kids. In a heartwarming milestone, Alexandria played in her very first organized football match—and capped off the occasion by scoring a fantastic goal! The children were thrilled by their presence, and of their mums, and delighted by the gifts brought by the CFLI delegation.

During the visit: honors and island hospitality

During the event, the Canadian Embassy presented a special token of admiration to Christina Rodriguez, PSAKC's Media and Communication Specialist, recognizing her outstanding dedication to promoting youth sports in Pohnpei.

PSAKC also extends sincere appreciation to SDA Principal Edward and his school staff. Their kindness and hospitality allowed the visiting delegation to join a excursion to Lenger Island, showcasing the breathtaking natural beauty and rich culture of Pohnpei to our international partners.

Urgent community appeal: overcoming setbacks

While the CFLI visit brought immense joy, local football faces pressing challenges that require immediate community support.





Unfortunately, vandalism continues to affect local sports infrastructure. One of the goalposts at Ohmine has been vandalized and stolen. Furthermore, when local parents recently approached the Sports Commission requesting footballs for the schools, they were redirected to seek help from local NGOs.

PSAKC has been regularly donating equipment and balls to keep the youth active, but current stock levels are running critically low. PSAKC is issuing an urgent appeal to all community members, local businesses, and supporters: short-term assistance is urgently needed to ensure the kids can keep playing safely.

Together, through continued international partnership and strong local solidarity, we can protect our equipment, keep our pitches active, and support the next generation of athletes!

My super big day at the doctor thing

By a Very Important Kid
Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club

November 16, 2026
On Saturday, which was the 14th, I woke up at like 5 o'clock because Mom said we had a free health checkup with the soccer club. Free! That's my favorite word after "cola." Even if coach says I shouldn't be drinking it.

I got to the gym at 8am. Not 8:05. EIGHT. I was there so early that even the roosters looked confused. Then I met my friends and we started playing.

First, we had to register. A nice lady asked me my name and I said it very loudly. She said "Okay, I got it," but I said it again, in case. Then I gave her my consent form. It was signed by my mom and was only a tiny bit wrinkled. Nobody can say I didn't bring it.

Then the big guy named Myles came. He is very tall and very serious and he took us in groups of 10 to a place called PCS, like a teacher with ducklings. We were the ducklings.

At PCS I had to pee in a cup. In a CUP. Nobody warned me about this, and I have a lot of questions, but I did it, and I even handed it over like a champion. Then some nice ladies did MAGIC with it. They looked at the cup, and then they knew things about me. From my pee. Lol

Next, Coach Samantha was there. She checked if I drink too much soda in my blood. I do not know how soda gets in my blood, but I think it goes through my mouth and then takes a secret tunnel. I said I only drink soda "sometimes," which is true, because I drink it whenever I can find some. Coach Samantha looked at me like she knew about the secret tunnel.

Then came the real medical checkup, where a doctor looked at me, listened to my chest, and said I was healthy. I knew that already. But it's nice to hear it from someone with a stethoscope.

AND HERE IS THE BEST PART: STICKERS. After every stop, you get stickers. I got so many stickers that I started to feel rich. My face looked like a sticker museum.

Then we went to a table called CRS to play a plastic game and win MORE stickers. I don't remember all the rules, but I remember winning, and I remember stickers. Then I heard that a kid had more than 30 stickers. THIRTY! I think she might be a wizard. Or she cheated. I am investigating.

After that we went to see the police. I thought I was in trouble, but I wasn't! The State Police were very friendly and I got to look at stuff and nobody arrested me. This was a relief.

And FINALLY, we got to do the thing we came for, which is play soccer. I ran and kicked and ran some more, and at some point there was a ball involved. It was the best part. Well, second best. Stickers are first.

But wait, there's MORE! At the end there were prizes, and I got CLEATS! Real ones! Now I am faster. Mom says it's not how that works, but she hasn't seen me run in them yet.

Mom says I have to say thank you to everybody who made this happen, so here it goes, and I'm going to say it in my loudest voice:

Thank you to Public Health, PCS, CRS, Kolonia Town, IOM, the State Police, the US Army, and all the volunteers who wore smiles and gave out stickers. You are my heroes. Especially the sticker people.

The whole thing was a big success. I am healthy, I have cleats, I have stickers, and I did not get arrested. 10 out of 10. Would pee in a cup again.

The End.

Note from PSAKC: Our young writer is fictional. We invented him to show how the day might have looked through a kid's eyes. The gratitude, however, is very real. On Saturday 14th November, PSAKC held a free health checkup for our players and their brothers and sisters, and it was a success thanks to our partners: Public Health, PCS, CRS, Kolonia Town, IOM, the State Police, US Embassy, and many generous volunteers. Thank you for helping keep Pohnpei's young footballers healthy and happy!

Strengthening finance systems remains key challenge in dealing with climate change

PASAI

November 5, 2026
Auckland, New Zealand: A new report stresses the importance of well-organised government action on climate change, acknowledging its existential threat to the Pacific communities who have contributed little to global greenhouse gas emissions.

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) has published the regional analysis of assessments looking at whether governments in 12 Pacific Island states have the governance arrangements, public policies and climate finance systems they need to support climate action.

The 'ClimateScanner' assessments were completed between 2024 and 2025 by the government audit offices of American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Globally, more than 100 audit offices have used the ClimateScanner assessment tool, supporting transparency about governments' actions to address climate change.

The regional report, Assessing Pacific governments' climate change readiness, combines the insights from the 12 Pacific Islands ClimateScanner assessments to provide an overview of how governments are responding to climate change, the strengths of those responses and the common challenges that exist.

PASAI Program Director and contributor to the report, Karen Wong explained, "The report's findings show that many Pacific Islands have many of the governance and policy foundations needed to respond to climate change.

"Turning these good foundations into results requires strengthening access to meaningful finance and enabling climate initiatives to be adequately resourced, managed and implemented."

The report highlights the following priorities:

- Strengthen climate finance systems, including by mobilising finance (particularly from the private sector) and improving financial monitoring and reporting.
- Use monitoring information more systematically to understand how well key climate laws, policies and strategies are being implemented and what improvements are needed.
- Build workforce and institutional capability to support these areas.

PASAI Secretary-General and Auditor-General of New Zealand, Grant Taylor, encouraged Pacific governments to consider and use the report's findings as they strengthen climate change readiness and build capability where needed.

"I also encourage Pacific audit institutions to use these findings to help inform future audits of how effectively governments are implementing climate actions," he said.

The launch of the regional report coincides with a ClimateScanner summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 5 and 6 November 2026. Heads of government audit offices, experts and partners are attending the summit, themed, 'From Data to Action'.

The regional report was produced with support from The Audit Office New Zealand and the INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing, and is available from pasai.org/regional-reports.

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

Opinion Editorial

An open letter to Speaker Marvin Yamiguchi on littering in Pohnpei

Kaselehlie Mr. Speaker oh Honorable Members en Pohnpei Legislature.

I respectfully write to bring attention to an issue that continues to diminish the beauty, health, and image of our State of Pohnpei: the persistent and widespread littering of public roads, shorelines and public spaces throughout Pohnpei.

For many years, Pohnpei has struggled with the problem of littering despite the existence of laws prohibiting the disposal of garbage in public areas. Unfortunately, the lack of consistent enforcement has weakened the effectiveness of these laws and has allowed violations to continue unchecked. As a result, our roadsides, communities and coastal areas remain littered with waste that damages the environment and reflects poorly on our State especially the leadership.

It is evident that a significant portion of roadside littering is discarded from vehicles traveling on public roads from all directions circumventing the Island. Too often, adults and children alike throw trash from car windows without regard for the law, the environment or the communities in which they live. This behavior has become unacceptable and should no longer be tolerated.

I respectfully urge the Pohnpei State Legislature to strengthen the enforcement of existing littering laws and provide the necessary support and resources for agencies responsible for carrying out those laws. Laws without enforcement fail to serve their intended purpose. Citizens must understand that littering is not merely an inconvenience but a violation that carries consequences – Penalty for violators!

I further believe that the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should lead a comprehensive public education campaign to raise awareness about the littering laws and their penalties. This effort should include regular radio announcements, social media outreach, school-based educational programs and the placement of highly visible anti-littering signs boards throughout all municipalities in both Pohnpeian and English. Public awareness and enforcement must work together if meaningful progress is to be achieved.

Our people have repeatedly witnessed school children, community organizations and even visiting U.S. military personnel volunteering their time to clean roadsides and public areas. While these clean-up efforts are commendable, they address only the symptoms of the problem. The root cause is the ongoing disregard for the law by those who continue to litter without consequence.

Therefore, I respectfully request that this August Body consider measures to revitalize and strengthen the enforcement of anti-littering laws. Penalties must be meaningful enough to deter violations and encourage personal responsibility. Individuals who knowingly litter should face appropriate fines and other lawful consequences so that a clear message is sent and in place – koalokolokpen sohte men idawehn de mwamwahliki kosonned: public spaces belong to all of us and everyone shares the responsibility of keeping them clean.

Pohnpei is our home. It is a place of natural beauty and cultural pride. We owe it to our future generations to protect it from careless and preventable acts that degrade our environment. Strong enforcement, public education and accountability can help restore the cleanliness and dignity of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I remain hopeful that the Legislature will take decisive action to address this longstanding issue.

Ni wahu oh kalahngan lap akan,
Ringlen Wolphagen

Vital FSMPC announces phased fuel price adjustments to preserve consumer protection and national fuel security

Vital FSMPC

FSM, 17 November, 2026
Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation ("Vital FSMPC") advises that domestic fuel prices will undergo progressive adjustments commencing in November 2026. Further adjustments may be necessary during the first quarter of 2027, depending on international supply costs, the Corporation's financial capacity and the availability of additional support under the National Fuel Resilience Mechanism. Any further adjustments will be communicated in advance through the Corporation's established pricing processes.

These adjustments form part of a measured transition toward sustainable fuel pricing under the Corporation's Pricing Policy Framework (PPF), following an extended period of extraordinary consumer price protection provided through the National Fuel Resilience Mechanism.

Since the onset of the current energy crisis, Vital FSMPC's consumer protection measures have significantly moderated domestic fuel price increases. Over the past seven months, FSM diesel prices increased by US$0.90 per gallon, compared with an increase of US$2.45 per gallon in the US national average. Similarly, FSM gasoline prices increased by US$0.38 per gallon, compared with US$1.45 per gallon in the United States.

These comparisons demonstrate the extent to which Vital FSMPC has moderated domestic fuel price increases during the crisis, providing significant economic protection to FSM households, businesses and essential public services.

Price increase for November 2026
- Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD): US$0.30 per gallon
- Unleaded Petrol (ULP): US$0.45 per gallon
- Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK): US$0.30 per gallon

Importantly, the November adjustments will not result in full recovery of the Corporation's current costs of supply. Following these increases, domestic consumers will continue to benefit from effective price protection estimated at more than US$0.90 per gallon for diesel and US$0.60 per gallon for gasoline, relative to the Corporation's applicable fully cost-reflective prices under its Pricing Policy Framework.

As the national petroleum supply corporation, Vital FSMPC has a responsibility to balance temporary economic protection for consumers with the prudent stewardship of the financial resources, infrastructure and operational capability essential to maintaining national fuel security.

The Corporation's extraordinary financial measures have extended consumer protection beyond the capacity of available grant funding. However, continued reliance on corporate reserves, borrowing and deferred capital investment is not a sustainable substitute for adequate cost recovery.

Continuing to absorb unrecovered supply costs without adequate financial support would progressively weaken the Corporation's financial and operational capacity, potentially compromising its ability to discharge its statutory mandate and fiduciary stewardship responsibilities.

Mr. Jared Morris, Chief Executive Officer of Vital FSMPC, stated:

"Since the onset of the global energy crisis, Vital FSMPC has taken extraordinary measures to protect households, businesses and essential services from the full impact of international petroleum prices. We have utilized corporate reserves, absorbed significant unrecovered supply costs, secured temporary financing and deferred planned capital investments to maintain affordable and reliable fuel supplies across all four States.

"These measures have provided substantial economic protection to FSM consumers, but they cannot be sustained indefinitely without additional financial support. Borrowing to maintain discounted prices creates repayment obligations; it does not eliminate the underlying cost of supply.

"Our responsibility is to balance continued consumer protection with our obligation to safeguard the financial and operational capacity needed to maintain national fuel security. The phased adjustments are a measured approach to that responsibility. They allow us to retain meaningful consumer price protection while progressively restoring sustainable cost recovery.

"We recognize the significant pressures already facing FSM households, businesses and essential service providers. Our commitment remains to manage this transition transparently, responsibly and in the long-term interests of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Ultimately, protecting consumers must also mean protecting the Corporation's ability to continue to procure and deliver fuel supplies upon which our communities, public services and economies depend."

Vital FSMPC confirms that petroleum supply operations across the FSM remain secure, with the Corporation continuing to monitor international market developments, shipping conditions and supply costs to maintain reliable petroleum supplies across all four States.

In the absence of further non-repayable capitalization of the National Fuel Resilience Mechanism, or a sustained reduction in actual petroleum supply costs, additional price adjustments may be necessary to preserve the Corporation's financial capacity and maintain national fuel security.

Any further adjustments will be determined through the Corporation's established Pricing Policy Framework, taking into consideration prevailing supply costs, available financial resources and the continuing need to balance consumer protection with sustainable national fuel supply operations.

Vital FSMPC remains committed to managing these challenges responsibly, maintaining secure fuel supplies and providing timely updates to consumers and stakeholders as market conditions evolve.

For other information pertaining to Vital FSMPC, please contact us via Telephone number 320-6364 or via email: PetroCorp@fsmpc.com.

North Pacific auditors gather in Guam to plan for impact

PASAI

November 11, 2026
Tumon, Guam: The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is helping Pacific Island government audit offices to prepare annual operational plans focused on completing high-quality audits that make a difference with an in-person workshop in Guam this week.

Nineteen senior staff (12 female, 7 male) from the government audit offices of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National, FSM Chuuk, FSM Kosrae, FSM Pohnpei, FSM Yap, Guam, the Marshall Islands and Palau are participating in the 5-day workshop from 9 to 13 November 2026, facilitated by PASAI Chief Executive, Esther Lameko-Poutoa, and Program Director, Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo.

SAI leaders and management staff who have responsibilities for developing strategic and operational plans, and monitoring and reporting on the results of implementing these plans are in attendance.
Ms Palamo-Iosefo explained, "Strong governance and robust operational plans are fundamental to SAIs identifying and delivering work that matters to their stakeholders."

The workshop is designed to support SAIs to prepare annual operational plans with clearly defined activities, timetables, responsibilities and coverage of audit activities to achieve their strategic priorities.
"We are committed to supporting our member SAIs to prepare, manage and deliver work programs that provide transparency and accountability, and enhance public sector financial management and performance," Ms Palamo-Iosefo said.



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

World Bank Group supports Marshall Islands to respond to El Niño and Dengue outbreak

World Bank Group

November 3, 2026
Majuro - The World Bank Group has released US$11 million to support the Republic of the Marshall Islands' response to the impacts of El Niño conditions and an ongoing dengue outbreak. The contingent financing follows a State of Emergency declared by the Government on October 8, 2026.

El Niño conditions have brought hazardous winds and ocean swells and increasingly dry conditions, putting pressure on water supplies, food security and livelihoods. At the same time, the outbreak has affected Majuro and Ebeye, placing additional pressure on health services and government resources.

"For families across the Marshall Islands, El Niño and dengue are putting added pressure on daily life and the services they rely on," said Tatiana Proskuryakova, World Bank Group Director for the South and North Pacific. "This rapid financing is about getting support to communities when they need it most while keeping the critical services people depend on running."

The US$11 million is being provided through the Marshall Islands' Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option, a pre-arranged source of financing that can be accessed when a qualifying emergency occurs. The financing was released following the Government's request and declaration of a State of Emergency.

The drawdown builds on steps the Marshall Islands has already taken to strengthen its ability to respond quickly to shocks. Earlier this year, the Government became the first country in East Asia and the Pacific region to activate the World Bank Group's Contingent Emergency Response Project, mobilizing US$3.6 million from its existing World Bank Group portfolio to help households cope with the impacts of the fuel crisis.

"This financing demonstrates the value of preparing before a crisis occurs," said Hon. David Paul, Minister of Finance, Republic of the Marshall Islands. "By strengthening our financial preparedness in advance, the Marshall Islands is able to access resources quickly when emergencies arise and respond more effectively to protect communities and maintain essential services."

The World Bank Group continues to work with the Government of the Marshall Islands to strengthen disaster risk management and public financial management, helping the country withstand future shocks while protecting the foundations for growth, jobs and opportunity. Technical assistance to support the Government is being provided by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

Airborne mapping surveys Yap's coral reef health to guide conservation

Yap Government

November 14, 2026
Yap, FSM - OneReef WorldWide Stewardship shared a post yesterday highlighting the ongoing work of Arizona State University's Global Airborne Observatory (GAO) team, who are mapping coral reef health across Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia this week.

Using advanced imaging technology, the team is creating detailed digital maps of the coral reefs, much like an MRI scan, to assess their health and condition.

The information gathered will help the Yap State Government and local communities make informed decisions about which reef areas need the most protection and what conservation actions will have the greatest impact.

The mission is coordinated by the Yap State Department of Resources and Development – Marine Resources Management Division (MRMD), with support from OneReef WorldWide Stewardship Micronesia.



The project is made possible through the cooperation of various FSM and Yap State government departments, local businesses, community organisations, the general public, and members of the Yap Locally Managed Area Network.

This collaborative effort is an important step towards protecting Yap's coral reefs, preserving marine biodiversity, and ensuring these valuable natural resources remain healthy for future generations.

Nippon Foundation-funded simulator upgrade strengthens maritime training in Yap

Yap Government

November 10, 2026
Abay, FMI, Yap - The bridge simulator at the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute (FMI) in Yap has been successfully upgraded through the generous support of The Nippon Foundation, further strengthening maritime education and training opportunities in the Federated States of Micronesia and the region.

Originally donated to FMI in 2015 under the project "Enhancing Coast Guard Capabilities for the Three Micronesian Countries," also funded by The Nippon Foundation, the simulator has served as a vital training resource for more than a decade. It has provided cadets and maritime professionals with realistic, hands-on navigation training, helping to develop the practical skills essential for safe and effective vessel operations.
Following years of continuous use, the simulator has now undergone a comprehensive upgrade, reflecting The Nippon Foundation's ongoing commitment to maritime education, workforce development, and capacity building throughout Micronesia.

A technical team from the Japan Association of Marine Safety (JAMS) and MARIX carried out the upgrade from October 26 to November 3, with support from a Wärtsilä engineer. The project included significant hardware and software enhancements that modernized the simulator system and expanded its training capabilities to better meet current industry standards and instructional needs.

With the upgraded simulator now fully operational, FMI is well positioned to continue delivering high-quality, practical maritime training to future seafarers and maritime professionals. The enhanced system will support the institute's mission to develop a skilled and competent maritime workforce for the Federated States of Micronesia and the region.



FSM FMI extends its sincere appreciation to The Nippon Foundation, the Japan Association of Marine Safety (JAMS), MARIX, and Wärtsilä for their generous support, technical expertise, and commitment to strengthening maritime education. Their contribution, including the simulator upgrade and installation and the training provided to FMI's navigation instructional staff, will have a lasting impact on maritime training and workforce development in the region.

Pacific urges the world to turn climate commitments into action

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

November 10, 2026
Antalya, Türkiye – The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is reaffirming its longstanding climate leadership at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), held from 9–20 November 2026.

The Forum is calling for greater global ambition and a decisive shift from commitments to action, supported by the resources, implementation, and accountability needed to deliver results.

The President of Palau and Pacific Islands Forum Chair, His Excellency Surangel S. Whipps Jr., says that the Pacific arrives in Antalya with a clear mandate from Forum Leaders, set out in the Belau Declaration, and with Pacific-led solutions ready to scale.

"Our islands cannot afford another decade of promises. Every year of delay is measured in our coastlines, our reefs and our homes. In Palau, at the 55th Forum Leaders Meeting, we agreed that Pacific leadership must be shown through action, and we now ask the same of the world. The International Court of Justice has confirmed that climate obligations are binding. COP31 must be where commitments become delivery."

President Whipps says the region has already built part of the solution.

"The Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) is Pacific-owned, treaty-backed and ready to deliver directly to our communities, but it remains more than US$300 million short of its first target. Antalya is where our partners can close that gap. We come united, and we ask the world to meet us with action."

This leadership is reinforced by regional commitments, including the 2019 Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now, endorsed at the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Tuvalu, and the Belau Declaration for Urgent and Inclusive Climate Action to Keep 1.5°C Within Reach, endorsed at the 55th Leaders Meeting in Palau.

Together, they reflect the Pacific's sustained call for urgent global action, stronger ocean protection and accessible climate finance.

From Pre-COP meetings hosted in Fiji and Tuvalu to COP31 in Antalya, these priorities remain central: driving ambitious global emissions reductions; securing accessible, predictable and adequate climate finance; and placing ocean and community resilience at the heart of climate action.

At the Pre-COP meetings hosted in October and here at COP31, the BELAU Declaration priorities remain central: driving ambitious global emissions reductions; securing accessible, predictable and adequate climate finance; and placing ocean and community resilience at the heart of climate action.

Strong international partnerships are essential to translating these priorities into Pacific-led solutions, including through the full capitalisation of the PRF.

The Pacific Islands Forum will continue to advance a united Pacific voice at COP31, working with partners to deliver outcomes that safeguard the Blue Pacific Continent and future generations.

Central to this effort, the Pacific Political Climate Champions will continue to amplify the region's collective voice and build momentum for greater ambition and meaningful climate action.

Yap marine managers train at Scripps to advance coral reef monitoring

Yap Government

November 6, 2026
Yap, FSM - Yap State marine resource managers are strengthening their technical expertise in coral reef monitoring and conservation through a partnership with OneReef Worldwide Stewardship and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego.

Last week, colleagues from the Yap State Government's Marine Resources Management Division (MRMD) participated in hands-on training at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, focusing on model construction and ecological data extraction using coral reef photomosaic imagery.

The training introduced participants to advanced imaging technology that combines thousands of underwater photographs to produce highly detailed, three-dimensional representations of coral reef ecosystems. These tools allow scientists and resource managers to assess reef health, monitor ecological changes over time, and better understand how coral reefs respond to climate change and other environmental pressures.

The partnership reflects OneReef Worldwide Stewardship's continued commitment to strengthening local expertise and supporting locally led ocean conservation efforts. By equipping Yap's marine resource managers with advanced technical knowledge and practical skills, the initiative aims to improve the use of scientific data in informing conservation decisions and protecting the state's marine resources.

Nicole Yamase, Director of Impact at OneReef Worldwide Stewardship, highlighted the continued collaboration with MRMD, building on an initial training held in September 2024.

"Chris Sullivan (Senior Program Manager, Scripps Institution of Oceanography) and I are proud to continue this partnership with MRMD, building on our first training in September 2024. We're excited to see the team create compelling visual representations of Yap's coral reefs for their communities, and support the broader conservation goals of the #micronesiachallenge," Yamase said.

The collaboration also contributes to the broader goals of the Micronesia Challenge by strengthening the capacity of Pacific Island communities and government institutions to lead conservation initiatives through science, technology, and informed resource management.

Through continued partnerships and technical training, Yap is advancing its ability to monitor, understand, and protect its coral reef ecosystems for future generations.

The OneReef Worldwide Stewardship partnership acknowledged the expertise shared by Scripps Institution of Oceanography and recognized the leadership and commitment of Yap MRMD staff in advancing coral reef science and marine stewardship throughout Micronesia.



Pacific Islands Forum Chair leads mission to strengthen Forum -UAE Cooperation

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

November 5, 2026
Abu Dhabi, UAE — A high-level Pacific Islands Forum mission to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is taking place this week to advance cooperation on climate resilience, investment and sustainable development.

His Excellency Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., President of Palau and Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, accompanied by Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Divavesi Waqa, is leading the delegation. UAE Minister of State, H.E. Saeed bin Mubarak Al Hajeri, received His Excellency Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., on 4 November in Abu Dhabi, marking the start of the Mission.

The visit follows Forum Leaders' confirmation of the United Arab Emirates as a Strategic Partner at the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Palau. It provides an opportunity to identify practical areas of cooperation aligned with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

This visit is particularly meaningful as the Pacific delegation makes its way to COP31. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge the landmark decision adopted under the UAE's leadership as host of COP28, laying the groundwork for meaningful global action to transition away from fossil fuels toward clean, renewable energy, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance.

"The Pacific is clear about its priorities: protecting our communities, strengthening resilience and creating opportunities for our people. We welcome the opportunity to work with the UAE to turn those priorities into practical cooperation," said H.E Whipps.

"The Pacific Resilience Facility is a Pacific-led solution to help communities prepare for climate and disaster risks. We are seeking partners who will invest in that work and help deliver lasting results."

The Forum Chair and the Secretary General will then travel to Doha, Qatar, where they will be joined by the Prime Minister of Tonga, Lord Fakafanua. The delegation will hold high-level meetings on climate resilience, investment and sustainable development.

The mission will also advance the Pacific's climate finance advocacy ahead of COP31. This includes building international support for the Pacific Resilience Facility, a Pacific-led financing mechanism designed to strengthen climate and disaster resilience at the community level.

Australia supports establishment of Renewable Energy Commissioner for the Pacific

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

October 22, 2026
Suva (Fiji) – A Pacific-led initiative to establish a Renewable Energy Commissioner (REC) for the Pacific has received support from Australia. The initiative is designed to strengthen energy security, affordability and resilience while supporting sustainable development across the region.

Australia will provide funding over three years through the Australia-Pacific Partnership for Energy Transition (APPET) to support the establishment of the Commissioner and the institutional arrangements required to make the role operational. The initiative is being developed in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Government of Denmark.

The REC was endorsed by Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers and is expected to support Pacific Island countries and territories in translating renewable energy ambitions into practical implementation. The role was developed following Pacific leaders' commitment to establish a regional Energy Commissioner as part of the region's just transition towards a fossil fuel-free Pacific.

Under the approved Terms of Reference, the Commissioner will provide high-level leadership and coordination to accelerate renewable energy deployment, improve investment readiness, strengthen access to finance, support regional procurement initiatives, and enhance monitoring and accountability for the region's energy transition. The Commissioner will operate as an enabling and coordinating mechanism, helping align governments, regional organizations, utilities, development partners, and financiers behind Pacific priorities.

SPC Director-General Dr Paula Vivili welcomed Australia's support and the milestone reached by Pacific countries in establishing the role.

"The Renewable Energy Commissioner represents a significant step forward in turning Pacific commitments on renewable energy and energy security into practical outcomes for our people,"
"Pacific Island countries continue to face some of the highest energy costs in the world while remaining vulnerable to external fuel price shocks. Through stronger regional coordination, enhanced access to investment and improved alignment of partner support, the Commissioner will help countries accelerate renewable energy deployment and strengthen long-term energy resilience."

"SPC is honored that leaders have entrusted the organization to anchor this important regional function. We look forward to working closely with PIFS, our members and development partners to ensure the Commissioner delivers measurable outcomes that support the Pacific's sustainable and secure energy future."

The Commissioner will be established within SPC as a strategic leadership position, reporting to the SPC Director-General through established SPC governance arrangements, recognising SPC's long-standing technical leadership in the regional energy sector.

At the same time, the Commissioner will operate under a dual reporting arrangement, reflecting both the technical and political dimensions of the role. For institutional, technical, and operational matters, the Commissioner will report through SPC governance mechanisms. For political advocacy, regional policy alignment and reporting to Pacific Leaders, the Commissioner will report through agreed Pacific Islands Forum processes via the PIFS Secretary-General. This arrangement ensures the role remains connected to the regional political architecture while maintaining SPC's technical and operational mandate.

While SPC will anchor the position, final hosting arrangements will be determined during the establishment phase through a joint SPC-PIFS working arrangement.

The Commissioner will be accountable to both Pacific Energy Ministers and Pacific Leaders, with the Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting (PRETMM) serving as the principal oversight mechanism, supported between meetings by the Pacific Senior Energy Officials Meeting (PacSEOM). Annual reports on the state of the Pacific renewable energy transition will be produced, drawing on regional data and evidence to track progress, investment flows, project pipelines, and implementation challenges.

Importantly, the Commissioner will not replace the responsibilities of national governments, SPC, PIFS, utilities, regulators, or development partners. Instead, the role is intended to strengthen coordination, improve partner alignment, identify systemic barriers, support investment mobilization, and help ensure that regional ambitions are translated into tangible results for Pacific communities.

In September, Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon. Chris Bowen MP, announced Australia's initial AUD 1.89



million commitment towards establishing the Renewable Energy Commissioner, reaffirming Australia's support for a more secure energy future for the Pacific.

"Australia will provide $1.89 million to help establish the new Renewable Energy Commissioner for the Pacific, supporting investment in renewable energy, strengthening energy security and helping lower power costs across the region."

"The Commissioner will help turn ambition into action by bringing together governments, investors and development partners to accelerate renewable energy projects and deliver lasting benefits for Pacific communities."

At Pre-COP in Fiji on 5 October, Minister Bowen announced additional funding of AUD 800,000 to support the establishment of the Renewable Energy Commissioner, bringing Australia's total contribution to more than AUD 2.6 million.

The establishment phase of the Renewable Energy Commissioner will initially run for three years, after which a formal review will assess its effectiveness, governance arrangements, contribution to renewable energy deployment, energy security outcomes and long-term institutional placement.

Regional action needed to strengthen Pacific information resilience

Pacific Security College

October 29, 2026

Pacific – Information resilience should be treated as a regional priority as the Pacific confronts rising misinformation, AI-generated content and online scams, according to a new paper from the Pacific Security College.

Information resilience: the new frontier for Pacific cooperation, authored by Blake Johnson, proposes a Pacific Information Resilience Statement to strengthen the region's information environment as it navigates intensified geopolitical attention and digital disruption.

Mr Johnson, a security and development expert who researches misinformation and disinformation in the Pacific, said the region was in a new information era, which brought opportunities but also created new vulnerabilities.

"We're seeing a rise in false information, AI-generated impersonations of politicians and other public figures, and increasingly sophisticated cyber scams. These often have immediate real-world consequences, but they also slowly erode trust. People don't know what to believe," he said.

Mr Johnson said the Pacific should approach information resilience in the same way it approaches climate and digital resilience: as a shared regional challenge that cuts across development, security and sovereignty.

"At its core, this proposal is about protecting trust," he said.

"Trust allows governments to communicate effectively during crises. It enables communities to identify credible information and respond calmly during periods of disruption. It strengthens democratic confidence and social cohesion.

"Where cybersecurity protects systems, information resilience protects people, trust and decision-making."

Mr Johnson said a unified statement would enable the Pacific to harness one of its greatest strengths: regional cooperation.

"A regional statement would provide a practical framework for cooperation, guide future regional initiatives and help align external support with Pacific priorities," he said.

Pacific Security College Director Professor Dave Peebles said the way in which information was created, shared and consumed across the region was changing.

"Given the borderless nature of digital technologies and information flows, no country can address these challenges alone," he said.

"Regional cooperation will be essential if the Pacific is to strengthen its collective capacity to navigate an increasingly complex information environment."

Information resilience: the new frontier for Pacific cooperation includes insights from four regional experts with backgrounds across journalism and media, misinformation and disinformation, and peace and security: Associate Professor Shailendra Singh, Ofani Eremae, Fane Fakafanua and Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls.

Associate Professor Singh, Head of Journalism at the University of the South Pacific, said using the climate change analogy to emphasise the seriousness of the situation and its urgency was appropriate.

"With inaction or insufficient action, not only is climate change gaining momentum, but its impacts are also worsening, with some scientists concerned about reaching a tipping point," he said.

"This situation is applicable to the information space as well in that the risks of false information, scams and AI-generated content are not only widespread, but more difficult to address and eradicate if they take hold.

"Given the enormity of the information integrity challenge, the Pacific needs to be proactive rather than reactive."

In-depth Solomons Editor Ofani Eremae said conversations surrounding regional security and resilience have long been focused on physical infrastructure and climate adaptation.

"While those threats exist, the invisible erosion of our information ecosystem poses an equally severe risk to our democratic institutions, social cohesion and regional stability," he said.

"There is no use building state-of-the-art, climate-resilient undersea cables if the content running through them is contaminated."

Fane Fakafanua, Chief Operating Officer of the Royal Oceania Institute, said information resilience needed increased attention and urgency.

"Whilst each country and government is working to combat this issue according to their individual budget, access and priorities, I believe a regional effort through a regional statement will greatly assist in guiding a mutual goal for the islands — one that will help governments work together to find a solution, provide training and support the exchange of ideas," she said.

Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Network Coordinator of the Pacific Women Mediators Network, emphasised that new technologies can support education, elevate diverse voices and empower women, but can still perpetuate exclusion and online harassment, and threaten peace and security.

"Digital resilience will require a clear strategy for governments and civil society to ensure communication rights give women the agency to advocate for their needs and shape national and regional peacebuilding strategies," she said.

The Pacific Security College's policy paper series aims to contribute a diversity of views and ideas to regional conversations about the journey to 2050.

The overlooked coral reef network: Scientists say atolls deserve greater conservation attention

The Nature Conservancy

October 26, 2026

Pacific - A new international study suggests that atolls, the ring-shaped coral reef ecosystems scattered across the Pacific and Indian oceans, represent one of the world's largest coral reef networks yet remain underrecognized in global conservation planning.

Published in Frontiers in Marine Science, the study found that 309 Indo-Pacific atolls contain more than 27,000 square kilometers of mapped shallow coral reef habitat, accounting for 41.5% of all mapped reef areas surrounding Indo-Pacific islands and nearly 8% of the world's mapped shallow reefscape. Collectively, atoll reefs occupy nearly as much area as Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

The findings challenge the perception of atolls as isolated or peripheral coral reef systems and suggest they should be more explicitly incorporated into coral conservation strategies.

"Atolls are often discussed as small, vulnerable islands, but when we look at the reefs associated with them collectively, they emerge as one of the planet's major coral reef systems," said Alex Wegmann, lead author of the study and Lead Scientist for Island Resilience with The Nature Conservancy. "If we want coral reef conservation to reflect the full diversity and scale of the world's reefs and address the associated challenges, atolls need to be part of that conversation."

The study brings together atoll scientists, conservation practitioners, and community leaders from across the Pacific, Indian Ocean, North America, and Europe. Using a curated database of Indo-Pacific atolls and high-resolution reef mapping from the Allen Coral Atlas and the Interactive Data Portal for Indo-Pacific Atolls, researchers quantified the extent of reef habitat associated with atoll ecosystems and compared it to other globally recognized reef regions.

Researchers say the findings are particularly relevant as coral reefs worldwide face increasing pressure from climate change.

For decades, atolls have frequently been portrayed as ecosystems destined to disappear beneath rising seas. However, a growing body of research shows that healthy atolls are dynamic systems whose futures depend on the condition of the coral reefs that support them. Intact atoll reefs generate sediment, support island formation, sustain fisheries, and maintain ecological connections between land and sea.

"Too often, atolls are framed as doomed landscapes rather than living reef systems with remarkable ecological complexity," said Sebastian Steibl, atoll scientist from the University of Auckland and co-author of the study. "The science increasingly shows that these systems are dynamic, resilient in important ways, and worthy of far greater attention from the conservation community."

The authors also point to emerging evidence that some atoll reefs may harbor coral communities with elevated heat tolerance, potentially making them important sources of climate-resilient corals in a warming ocean. Research from places such as Palmyra Atoll has documented reef habitats that experienced widespread bleaching during marine heat waves but relatively limited coral mortality.

"Atolls offer a unique opportunity to understand how coral reefs can persist under climate stress," said Hannah Stewart, co-author and coral conservation scientist. "Protecting these systems is not only important for the communities and biodiversity they support today, but also for the lessons they may provide about the future of coral reefs globally."

The study also highlights a challenge unique to atolls: while they collectively form a reef network of global significance, they are spread across dozens of jurisdictions and many small island nations. That geographic dispersion can make them less visible in conservation agendas than large, centrally managed reef systems.

For many Pacific and Indian Ocean communities, however, atolls are far more than reef habitats. They are homes, sources of food security, cultural landscapes, and foundations of local economies.

"People who live on atolls have long understood the connection between healthy reefs, healthy islands, and healthy communities," said Dolores deBrum Kattil, co-author and Executive Director of the Marshall Islands Conservation Society. "Recognizing the global importance of atoll reefs should go hand in hand with supporting the communities that depend on them."

The authors emphasize that elevating atolls in coral reef conservation does not mean shifting attention away from places like the Great Barrier Reef or the Coral Triangle. Instead, they argue that conservation strategies should better reflect the full range of reef systems that make up the global coral reef estate.

"Protecting coral reefs at a global scale means protecting all major reef systems," Wegmann said. "This study shows that atolls belong firmly in that category."