

President Simina meets with Prime Minister Albanese during official visit to Australia

FSM Information Services

March 25, 2026

Canberra, Australia — During his high-level visit to Australia, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, at Parliament House.

The meeting built on the strong momentum of engagements throughout the visit, providing an opportunity for both leaders to advance discussions on key areas of cooperation and shared regional priorities.

President Simina expressed the FSM's

deep appreciation for Australia's strong partnership and support across critical sectors. Noting the recent dedication of the FSM's embassy in Canberra he officiated. President Simina also thanked Prime Minister Albanese for the support of his government in facilitating this milestone following 39 years of diplomatic relations. The establishment of the FSM's embassy in Australia serves as a reflection of the growing partnership between the two countries and the broader Pacific family.

Discussions also covered opportunities to strengthen cooperation in energy security, noting that energy remains a prominent issue for Australia, as it is for the FSM. President Simina



further conveyed the FSM's interest in exploring practical arrangements with

[Click here for continuation](#)

FDIC clarifies full deposit insurance coverage for FSM bank branches

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

March 30, 2026

FSM — The United States has formally clarified that deposits held in branches of U.S.-insured banks operating in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will be fully covered by federal deposit insurance, under a new final rule adopted by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

The rule, published in the Federal Register on March 23, 2026, confirms that all branches of U.S.-chartered banks in the FSM, as well as in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau, will qualify for FDIC deposit insurance—both existing branches and any that may be established in the future.

The regulation takes effect on April 22, 2026.

The clarification removes earlier limitations that applied only to so-called “legacy branches,” defined as those operating as of August 9, 2024. Under the updated rule, the FDIC has eliminated that distinction, ensuring that deposit insurance applies broadly across all current and future U.S. bank branches in the Freely Associated States.

FDIC officials said the change aligns the agency's regulations with longstanding practice and eliminates uncertainty for banks and customers alike.

Under the rule, deposits at U.S. bank branches in FSM will be insured by the FDIC, provided they meet the standard requirement of being “dually payable”—meaning they are payable both locally and at a U.S. office of the bank.

This clarification is significant because, under normal FDIC rules, deposits held

in foreign branches of U.S. banks are generally not insured. The new rule explicitly treats branches in the Freely Associated States differently, ensuring they are not considered “foreign” for deposit insurance purposes.

The FDIC said the move is intended to support financial stability and confidence in the banking systems of the Freely Associated States, while also encouraging competition and potential expansion of banking services.

By extending coverage to future branches, the agency removed what it described as a possible barrier to growth. The change may encourage U.S. banks to open additional branches in FSM and neighboring nations.

As of mid-2025, three U.S.-chartered banks operated a total of eight branches across the Freely Associated States, holding approximately \$803 million in deposits.

The rule follows updates to the Compacts of Free Association between the United States and the Freely Associated States, which authorize U.S. agencies—including the FDIC—to provide certain services within FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

These agreements were renewed in 2023 and approved by the U.S. Congress, reinforcing longstanding financial and institutional ties.

The FDIC said the rule is not expected to have a significant economic impact on banks or the Deposit Insurance Fund, citing the relatively small size of the FSM and its banking sector.

For local customers, however, the clarification provides reassurance that deposits in U.S. bank branches remain protected under the same federal insurance framework as in the United States.

Court rules on Chuuk Election Commission dispute

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 1, 2026

Weno, Chuuk — The Chuuk State Supreme Court has issued a ruling clarifying the legal status of several individuals who acted as members of the Chuuk Election Commission earlier in 2025, following a dispute brought by the Chuuk Legislature.

In its decision in CSSC Civil Action No. 034-2025, the court determined that respondents Maimichy Yos, Akampo Nakashima, Miaichy Assito, and Mayleen Dungawin were never formally confirmed as members of the Chuuk Election Commission under the state constitution.

However, the court also ruled that between January 27 and March 14, 2025 — the period between their nomination and the Senate's rejection of those nominations — the four individuals acted as de facto members of the Election Commission.

This means that while they were not legally confirmed officeholders, their actions during that period are recognized as valid

because they were performing official duties under the appearance of authority.

The court drew a clear line at March 14, 2025, the date the Chuuk State Senate rejected the nominations.

According to the judgment, after that date the respondents “had no power to act as Chuuk Election Commission members” and were neither de facto nor de jure members of the commission.

The ruling also states that the individuals cannot be reappointed during the current governor's term.

The court ordered that the previous Election Commission members — who had been nominated for replacement — are to be reinstated as holdover members.

The court found that, at the latest, by November 21, 2025, those prior commissioners should be recognized as continuing in office until properly replaced through constitutional procedures.

The case arose after the Chuuk Legislature challenged the authority of the four respondents to serve on the Election Commission.

The dispute centered on whether unconfirmed nominees could legally exercise the powers of office and whether the principle of “holdover incumbents” — where existing officials remain in office until successors are confirmed — applied to the independent Election Commission.

In a detailed order addressing remaining issues, the court examined constitutional and statutory provisions governing appointments.

The court acknowledged that the respondents did in fact carry out the duties of Election Commission members during the disputed period, placing them within the legal doctrine of de facto officers — individuals who occupy and perform the functions of an office under color of authority, even if their appointment is later found to be invalid.

At the same time, the court emphasized that recognizing their actions as valid does not mean those actions were necessarily lawful or proper, only that they are treated as official acts for legal purposes.

Importantly, the court clarified that the case was not an election contest, but rather a legal challenge over who had the authority to hold appointed positions within the Election Commission.

The ruling addresses a key constitutional question in Chuuk regarding the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches in appointments, as well as the independence of constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission.

It also provides guidance on how gaps in confirmation processes are to be handled, particularly in maintaining continuity in essential institutions responsible for administering elections.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:
April 22, 2026**

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

Monday, April 20, 2026



COM-FSM receives new Student Center funded by U.S. Grant

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

March 26, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — A newly constructed student center at the College of Micronesia–FSM was officially handed over during a ceremony attended by national and state leaders, U.S. representatives, and members of the college community.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Vincent Mut-Tracy joined FSM Vice President

Aren Palik, Pohnpei Governor Stevenson Joseph, and college officials for the event held at the Palikir campus.

The new facility was funded through an \$8.3 million grant provided by the United States under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), and is expected to strengthen the college’s capacity to deliver services and support to its students.

In his remarks, Mut-Tracy described the project as a “symbol of America’s

commitment and friendship to the FSM,” noting its importance to the college community.

He said the student center represents more than just a physical structure, describing it as a space where students can gather, explore ideas, and grow academically and personally. He added that it will serve as a place for curiosity and learning, where students can discover their talents, build their identities, and engage with the wider world while staying connected to their

cultural traditions.

The new student center is expected to play a key role in enhancing student life at COM-FSM and supporting the institution’s mission of providing quality education in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Officials and attendees also acknowledged the collective efforts of partners and stakeholders who contributed to the successful completion of the project.



...Albanese

Continued from front page

Australia to address shared challenges in this area.

President Simina reaffirmed the FSM’s commitment to the Ocean of Peace

Declaration amid ongoing global tensions and expressed support for Australia’s upcoming candidacy to the United Nations Security Council.

On climate cooperation, President Simina welcomed Australia’s leadership role in COP31 and its efforts to ensure Pacific priorities are central to the negotiations, as well as its engagement in the lead-up to

COP31, indicating the FSM’s intention to participate in upcoming high-level engagements. Both leaders also discussed regional priorities, including the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum in Palau, with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressing interest in visiting the FSM.

President Simina thanked Prime Minister Albanese for the warm

engagement and constructive dialogue. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to advancing cooperation on regional and global issues, underscoring the strong friendship between the FSM and Australia grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for the Pacific.

PSA Kids Club Hosts visiting teams during Easter Week matches

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 2, 2026

Pohnpei — The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) used the Easter week period to stage a series of friendly matches that brought together young players and visiting adult teams, offering children a rare opportunity to compete alongside and against experienced players.

The initiative is part of PSAKC’s broader mission to promote inclusion, teamwork, health, and enjoyment of the game among children, regardless of background, ability, or circumstance.

Matches were held over three days during the week:

March 30 — Teams from the US Navy Seabees played against Ohmine and players from Pohnpei Catholic School (PCS).

March 31 — The Seabees returned to face Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) players.

April 3 — A team from the US Army OET competed against Kolonia teams and other participants.

While results were secondary, the matches provided valuable exposure for the young athletes, who were able to test their skills against unfamiliar opponents and experience a higher level of play.

Organizers emphasized that the significance of the event extended beyond competition. The presence of adult teams—particularly uniformed service members—offered an example of discipline, teamwork, and mutual respect in action. For many of the children, it was also an opportunity to build confidence and broaden their understanding of the game.

“These kinds of interactions leave a lasting impression,” organizers

said, pointing to the importance of positive role models and shared experiences in youth development.

PSAKC expressed its appreciation to the United States Embassy in the Federated States of Micronesia, the US Navy Seabees, and the US Army OET for their participation and support in making the week’s activities possible.

The club continues to rely on partnerships and volunteer support as it works to expand opportunities for youth football across Pohnpei.



Norovirus outbreak reported in Micronesia, two pediatric deaths

April 1, 2026

Pohnpei - A recent report by Outbreak News Today, authored by Robert Herriman, has detailed an ongoing norovirus outbreak in Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.

According to the April 1, 2026 report, health officials confirmed that transmission of the virus remains active, with 18 cumulative cases recorded as of March 20, including three newly identified infections.

The outbreak, first identified in late January, has primarily affected young children. The report notes that approximately 72 percent of cases involve children under the age of five, although patients range in age from just four days old to 57 years. A significant number of cases—about 83 percent—have required hospitalization.


Tragically, two deaths have been recorded, both involving hospitalized pediatric patients.

Cases have been reported across multiple areas of Pohnpei, with particular concentrations in Kitti and Sokehs municipalities. Laboratory testing continues to confirm active norovirus transmission, with some cases also showing the presence of additional gastrointestinal pathogens.

Norovirus is widely recognized as a highly contagious virus that spreads through contact with infected individuals, contaminated food or water, or contact with contaminated surfaces. It causes acute gastroenteritis, leading to symptoms such as stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Sustaining Tuna, Sustaining Nations

World Tuna Day 2026



This year, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) Office invites all residents and citizens of its Member Countries to take part in celebrating World Tuna Day on May 2, 2026.

This year’s theme highlights a simple truth. When tuna is sustained, our nations are sustained.

The theme builds on last year’s celebration and strengthens the focus on long-term stewardship, economic stability, and national resilience.

Competition Categories

Category	Entry Types	Key Requirements	Top Prize
Art & Craft	Drawing, Painting, Collage, Digital, 3D/Recycled	Max A2. Submit JPEG/PNG. One entry per person.	\$500
Music & Video	Original Song, Choir, Rap, Spoken Word, Documentary	1080p min. Max 20 mins. Clear audio. No watermarks.	\$1,000
Literature	Poetry, Essay, Short Story	Children 300–500 words, Teens 700–1000, Adults 1000–1500	\$500 (Adults) \$500
Photography	JPEG or PNG	Min 300 DPI. Minimal editing. No watermarks.	

Further information on the different type of categories for the competition can be found on our website at <https://pnatuna.com/articleworld-tuna-day-2026-call-entries>.

Come Share your Talents!!

For more information and details on the World Tuna Day 2026 please email worldtunaday@pnatuna.com or info@pnatuna.com.

Matson Champions League concludes with historic award ceremony in Pohnpei



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 6, 2026

Pohnpei - Pohnpei witnessed a milestone moment in youth sports

on March 27, 2025, as the Matson Champions League held its first-ever award ceremony at the China Kolonia Gymnasium, marking the conclusion of the Federated States of Micronesia's inaugural multi-

school elementary football league.

The event brought together student-athletes from across Pohnpei's elementary schools, celebrating not only their performance on the field but also their commitment to academic standards and positive behavior. Participation in the league required students to meet criteria set collaboratively by school principals, coaches, the Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club, and the Pohnpei Department of Education.

as an extension of it—providing opportunities for inclusion, personal development, and belonging for students who may not always find their place in traditional settings.

The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club credited educators and coaches for their consistent dedication throughout the season.

The success of the league was supported by a wide network of partners and contributors. Major sponsors included Matson and Kyowa, with additional backing from the Bank of FSM, Palm Terrace, and numerous local supporters.

International partners also played a role, including the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, which provided the venue, along with diplomatic missions from the United States, Japan, Australia, the European Union, and Italy.

Health and wellness were also integrated into the program through collaboration with the Pohnpei Department of Health, which conducted planning for full-body screenings of participating athletes.

Organizers also acknowledged the essential role of families, whose support—from transportation to encouragement—helped sustain the league over several months.

As medals were presented, organizers reflected on the significance of the moment. The students who took part in the league are now considered pioneers of a program that did not previously exist in the FSM.

The ceremony closed with a message of encouragement for the young athletes to carry forward the lessons learned—commitment, teamwork, and perseverance—as the foundation for future opportunities.

With the success of its first season, the Matson Champions League has set a precedent for youth sports development in Pohnpei, with expectations that the program will continue to grow in the years ahead.

The ceremony began at 11:00 a.m., following the arrival of players who had spent months training and competing in what organizers described as an unprecedented effort to establish structured youth football across multiple schools.

Organizers said the six-month league challenged expectations from the outset. Skepticism about whether such a program could succeed in Pohnpei—particularly one that brought together students of varying skill levels from both public and private schools—was widespread.

However, the players demonstrated resilience and growth throughout the season. Beyond technical skills, participants learned teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship, including how to handle both victory and defeat with maturity.

Special recognition was given to three students from Ohmine—Kayden, Dylen, and G-boy—who stepped into coaching roles for Sekere, reflecting what organizers described as a strong sense of community and leadership among the young athletes.

Coaches and school leaders were also acknowledged for their role in shaping the league. Organizers emphasized that sports were treated not as a break from education, but

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MUNRO LEYS

Yellow fin tuna dominate at the Annual Pohnpei Fishing Club tournament

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

March 21, 2026

Pohnpei – Saturday was a cloudless and oppressively hot day for the first Pohnpei Fishing Club tournament whose promotional materials touted up to \$20,000 in cash prizes. Included in that total were two jackpot prizes to be awarded if an angler landed a club record tuna or club record marlin. No one came close to topping either record but many yellow fin tuna were landed for the top prizes of the day. Kumer Panuelo landed a marlin that was heart-breakingly 4 pounds short of the 100 pounds the club requires a fish to weigh before it counts in a tournament.

Prize sponsors for the tournament were National Fisheries Corporation, Mangrove Bay Bar, Systems Resource Inc, MRAG, Blue Nile, Pohnpei Hardware, Vital, Panuelo Gas Station, and A&P Enterprise Inc.

All of the heaviest fish caught on the day were yellow fin tuna. Richson Soswe had the biggest at 43.2 pounds

for the \$600 top prize of the day. Each of the prize winners in the heaviest fish category, along with their cash prizes also received a \$100 gift certificate from Pohnpei Hardware, and a \$25 fuel voucher from Pohnpei Gas Station.

The second-place fish was 42 pounds and was caught by Jesse Panuel for the \$500 second-place prize. Panuel also landed the third, and fifth biggest yellow fins in that category with fish of 39.6 pounds and 28.6 pounds respectively. Those fish earned him an additional \$400 for the third-place fish and \$200 for the fifth-place fish.

The O'neal Optaia's 30.2-pound yellow fin was the fourth-place winner with a prize of \$300. Westcott Panuelo had a 28 pounder for the cash prize of \$150 for sixth place.

Prizes were also awarded for the top two fish caught of several species. Top species prize winners were awarded \$125 in cash. Second place prize winners won \$75. Along with the cash prizes, each of the winners was additionally awarded a \$25 gas

voucher from Vital.

Chris Orozco had a 27.8-pound yellow fin which was big enough for first place in the species category but not big enough to win a heaviest fish prize. Westcott Panuelo's yellow fin was 26.8 pounds for second place.

Kumer Panuelo had the top prize for barracuda at 23.4 pounds. His was followed by Dr. Johnny Hedson, a 20.2-pound barracuda.

Mjc Soswe, a junior angler landed a respectably sized 21.2-pound skipjack tuna for first prize in that category. Jesse Panuel, the big cash winner of the tournament took second place with his 19.8-pound skipjack.

Mahi Mahi were running and Jesse Panuel managed to land a 17.4-pound fish for first place in that category. Tygris Panuelo had a 16-pound mahi mahi for second place.

O'Neal Optaia landed a nice 15.8-pound Grand Trevally for first place in that species. Patrick Ryan's

Grand Trevally was 6.8 pounds for second place.

Tobia Pilgerstorfer and Mark Pangelinan had the top two wahoo with fish of 15.8 pounds and 15.6 pounds respectively.

The top lady anglers were Rosa Weilbacher and Calany Torres. Weilbacher landed a Grand Trevally of seven pounds for the top prize of \$125. Calany Torres had a 4.2-pound barracuda for the second prize of \$75. Each of the two lady anglers also won a \$25 gift certificate for Blue Nile.

The inimitable Dave Spencer was the Junior angler winner for \$50 cash and a \$25 Blue Nile gift certificate for a yellow fin tuna of 20 pounds.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club is back in full swing for tournaments. The next will be the WCPFC Tournament which will be held on April 18. That tournament will be a casting and jigging tournament.



President Simina arrives in Canberra with traditional Welcome to Country Ceremony

FSM Information Services

March 26, 2026

canberra, australia — On March 23, 2026 His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), arrived in Canberra, where he and his delegation were formally welcomed with a traditional Smoking Ceremony led by Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Serena-Palm.

The ceremony took place at Mount Ainslie Lookout, a site of cultural and natural significance, and served as an acknowledgment of the Ngunnawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land. The Smoking Ceremony is a customary practice that offers both physical and spiritual cleansing and is often performed to welcome visitors.

“I am truly honored to experience this important tradition,” President Simina said. “This ceremony reflects the deep spiritual connection of the Ngunnawal people to their land. We are grateful to share in this meaningful moment.”

President Simina expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm welcome extended to him and his delegation.



FISHING TOURNAMENT

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

for

Bid	Closing Date (2026)	Public Opening (2026)
PMU Program Director	April 22 nd , @4 pm	April 22 nd , @ 5 pm
Grants Writer		
PNI PMO Project Manager		
ADB Project Manager		

NOTICE


The Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (DTC&I), National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to suitably qualified consultants for the **Various positions within the Project Management Unit, DTCI, Palikir, Pohnpei.**

Further information on this REOI may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Ms. Eileen McKenzie, PMU Administrative Officer at email eileen.mckenzie@tci.gov.fm with Cc to the Project Management Unit pmu@tci.gov.fm with the subject heading:

“ Various positions within the Project Management Unit, DTCI, Palikir, Pohnpei.”

The related documents, including the terms of reference, scope of work and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Department’s website: <https://www.tci.gov.fm/>.

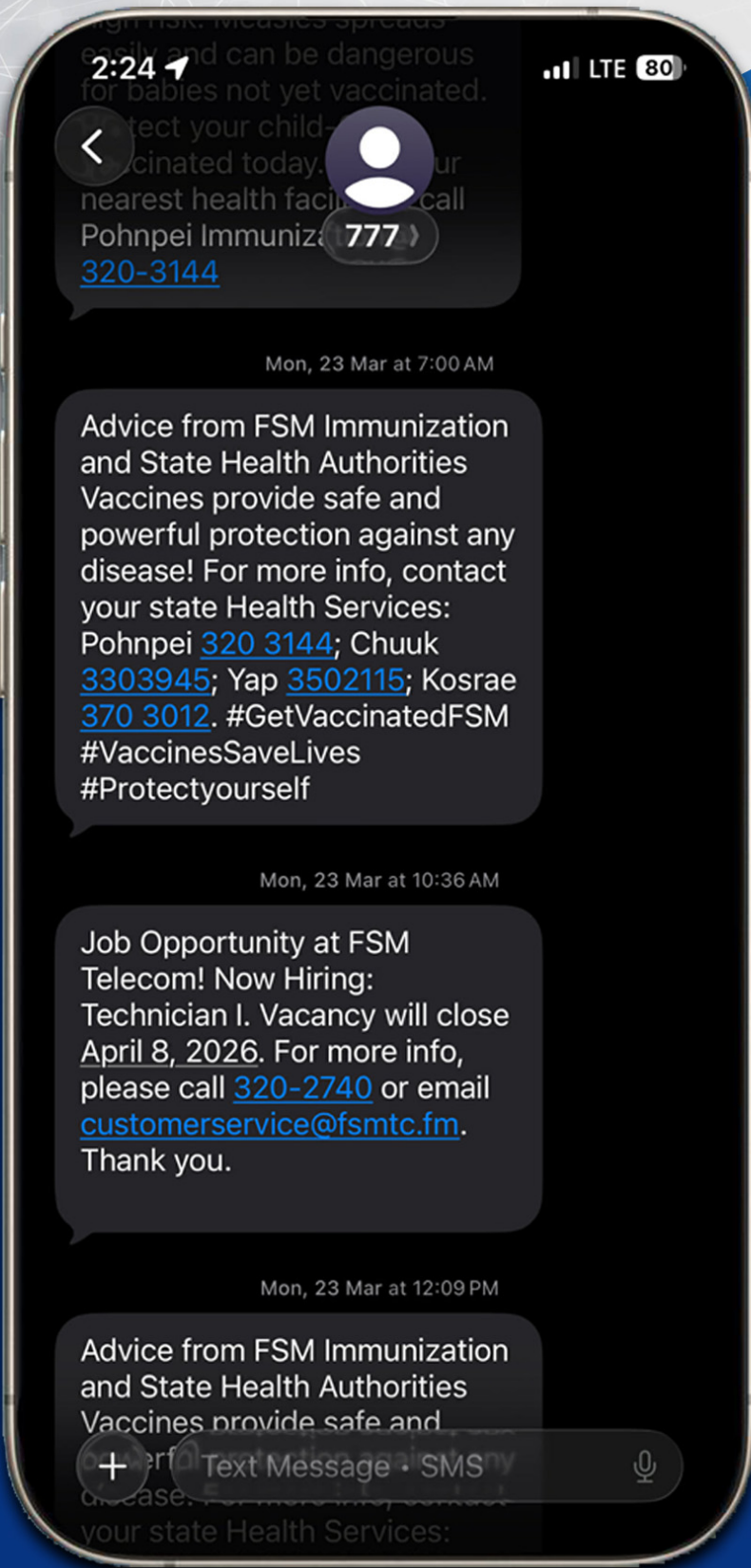
The closing date for the submission of bids remains **April 22nd 2026 at 4pm local Pohnpei Time. Late EOIs shall not be accepted.**


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Opportunity at the Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is an Employer of Choice in the region, aiming to recruit and employ staff based on merit and organisational needs. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) ensures that its employment selection upholds its values and commitment to Forum membership, gender balance and building a diverse and inclusive organisation. The PIFS is committed to achieving gender balance, and being fully representative of our member countries*. Our workforce is currently over 50% female, and we have representatives from 15 of the 18 Forum member countries.

The Opportunity – Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) – Programme Coordinator

The PTI Programme Coordinator will work closely with the PTI General Manager and the PTI Finance & Administration Officer to support the financial and administrative functions of the PTI Network. The key responsibilities are summarised as:

- Support PTI General Manager in leading PTI Network by collating reports, fostering collaboration, monitoring the implementation of the PTI Network’s combined work programme and managing the overall business administration of the Network.
- Financial Management & Analysis, Financial Reporting, Budgeting & Forecasting, and External Audits.
- Contribute to an effective team operation within the PTI Project Management Unit (PMU) by providing strong administrative and logistical support towards preparations for the Trade Commissioner’s meetings, the Independent Advisory Board meeting, and other meetings as identified important to PTI outcomes.

Applicants should have a bachelor’s degree either in Business, Accounting & Finance, Commerce, Management, or any other related field, with at least three years of experience in similar role. Experience supporting an Advisory or private Board would be beneficial.

Candidates with strong numeracy skills, excellent written and spoken English, and exceptional attention to detail, as well as robust analytical, reporting, and problem-solving abilities, are encouraged to apply.

The Package

The position carries a competitive and attractive remuneration and benefits package, including allowances for housing and education; and medical, accident and life insurance coverage. This position is based on Band 8 of the PIFS salary scale. The starting salary for the position is SDR 26,096 per annum, which is equivalent to FJD 80,943 based on 1 January 2026 foreign exchange rate.

How to apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through the PIFS website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the position description, and full remuneration details, are available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees. To be eligible for the position, applicants must be nationals of Forum Member Countries. The deadline for applications is Friday 17 April, 5pm (Fiji Time).

*Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



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Opportunity at the Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is an Employer of Choice in the region, aiming to recruit and employ staff based on merit and organisational needs. The Secretariat’s employment selection upholds its values and commitment to Forum membership, gender balance and building a diverse and inclusive organisation. The PIFS is committed to achieving gender balance and being fully representative of our Member countries*. The Secretariat’s workforce is currently over 50% female, with representatives from 15 of the 18 Forum member countries.

The Opportunity – International Legal Officer

Applications are invited to fill this vacant international position at the Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

The International Legal Officer’s role is to support the legal functions of the Secretariat, by providing support to the Legal Counsel (LC), through the Deputy Legal Counsel (DLC), in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities associated with the Key Responsibility Areas assigned to the LC. At the same time, the International Legal Officer will also cover other legal related matters, including supporting the DLC as and when required.

The key responsibilities are summarised as:

- Support the work of the Legal Counsel
- Key areas of support: international law & corporate law
- Undertaking other delegated legal duties
- Corporate Accountabilities

Applicants should have an LLB degree from a recognised institution. An advanced degree in international law, international relations, or diplomacy, is desirable but not essential.

A minimum of five years of demonstrated experience and knowledge in the legal systems of Forum Members, and likewise an awareness of regional and international legal issues relevant to the work of the Forum Secretariat, is required.

The Package

The position carries a competitive and attractive remuneration and benefits package including allowances for housing and education; and medical, accident and life insurance coverage. This position is based on Band 10 of the PIFS salary scale. The starting salary for the position is SDR 32,924 per annum, which is equivalent to FJD 102,122 based on 1 January 2026 foreign exchange rate.

How to apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through the PIFS website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the position description and full remuneration details are available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

To be eligible for the position, applicants must be nationals of Forum member countries. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The deadline for applications is 27 April, 5pm (Fiji Time).

*Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



College of Micronesia-FSM

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COM-FSM Celebrates 33rd Founding Day



EARLY AND REGULAR REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER 2026

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JUNE 1 - JUNE 2, 2026

First Day of Instruction

JUNE 8, 2026

Mark Your Calendars



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President Simina honors fallen at Australian War Memorial

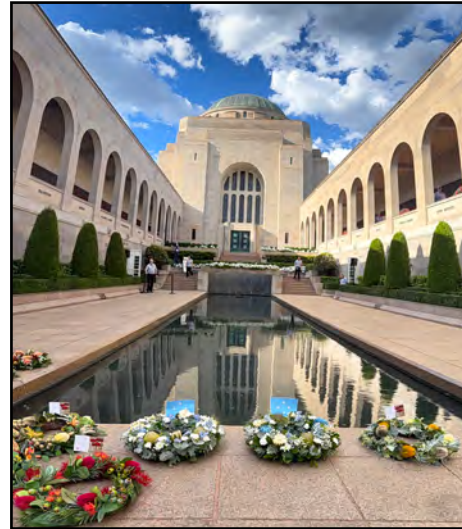
FSM Information Services

March 25, 2026

Canberra, Australia — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), paid tribute to the fallen during a solemn visit to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Accompanied by Speaker Esmond B. Moses, President Simina and his delegation toured the Memorial and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as part of the Last Post Ceremony. The President and Speaker laid a wreath in honor of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, reflecting a shared respect for service and remembrance.

The visit underscored the FSM’s deep appreciation for the enduring values of democracy and peace, and reaffirmed the bonds of friendship between the Federated States of Micronesia and Australia.



State of Emergency declared as Pohnpei Moves to stabilize Dekehtik Landfill

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

March 28, 2026

Pohnpei - The Pohnpei State Government has declared a State of Emergency at the Dekehtik landfill, calling for coordinated action across all branches of government as emergency measures get underway to address mounting operational and environmental concerns.

In a public notice issued March 28, the Office of the Governor confirmed that an Emergency Action Plan is now in effect, with response teams already deployed to begin stabilization work at the site. The administration also called on the Pohnpei State Legislature to work in cooperation with the executive branch to support response efforts and ensure timely action during the emergency.

Heavy equipment, including an excavator, has been mobilized to move accumulated waste and begin construction of new containment berms, part of ongoing efforts to secure the landfill and protect surrounding communities and the environment.

Officials described the situation as requiring urgent and coordinated action, saying the government is “unified, mobilized, and working with discipline” to manage the crisis and improve conditions at the site.

Alongside the emergency response, the state has revised

operating hours for the landfill. The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) announced that the Dekehtik dump site will now operate from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and will remain closed on Sundays until further notice.

Officials said the schedule change is necessary due to technical difficulties affecting key equipment used in daily operations. The adjusted hours are intended to help manage these limitations while maintaining essential waste disposal services for residents.

T&I Administrator Daniel Isaac urged residents—particularly those who rely on the facility for

garbage disposal—to comply with the new schedule and support measures implemented by the Pohnpei Transportation Authority. He said public cooperation will be important to maintaining services and improving waste management at the site.

The government also acknowledged feedback from the private sector and the public following earlier updates, saying that concerns and suggestions are being reviewed as part of the ongoing response.

Officials said further updates will be provided as work continues, with the goal of restoring stability at the landfill and strengthening long-term waste management practices in Pohnpei.



Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomes seniors from Majuro Baptist and Calvary Christian Academies

Pohnpei Public Information

March 25, 2026

Peilapalap, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, joined briefly by First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang, hosted a courtesy visit today at the Peilapalap Executive Building for 19 graduating seniors from Majuro Baptist Christian Academy (MBCA) and students from Calvary Christian Academy (CCA).

The delegation, led by MBCA Principal Helmer Lang and CCA Principal Virginia John, visited as part of a cultural and educational exchange. First Lady Garstang opened the proceedings with a warm welcome delivered in Marshallese, honoring the students' heritage and the close ties between the two nations.

Governor Joseph expressed a deep personal connection to the visiting group, noting that one of his own daughters is a proud graduate of MBCA. During the session, he provided an educational overview of the Pohnpei State Government's structure, highlighting the distinct constitutional differences between the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

While the Marshall Islands operates under a parliamentary representative democratic system—where the executive branch derives its legitimacy from and is accountable to the legislature—the FSM follows a presidential system with a strict separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

The visit concluded with a musical performance by the MBCA students. In his closing remarks, Governor Joseph offered words of encouragement to the future graduates, urging them to keep faith at the center of their personal and professional journeys.

"Whatever path you choose to take from here," Governor Joseph said, "remember to do everything with God."



Yap High School opens new World Bank provided agriculture classroom building

Yap Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

John J. Malmal.

March 27, 2026

Yap FM - Last week Friday, March 27th, the Yap High School hosted a Handover Ceremony of the new agriculture classroom building in Yinuf Rull.

The ceremony began at 11:00 am with the introduction by the Master of Ceremony, Principal John Tamngin. In the introduction the Master of Ceremony recognized the Governor of Yap State, Governor Francis Itimai, off-island guests, and contractors, followed by the opening prayer given by Pastor

After Pastor John Malmal's opening prayer, Governor Francis Itimai gave his welcoming remarks. In his remarks, Governor Itimai highlighted the importance of this infrastructure and how it would benefit the students.

Afterwards, the Madam Secretary of the National Department of Education, Ms. Gardenia Aisek, gave her special remarks. In her remarks, Madam Secretary paid her respects to the traditional leaders and Governor Francis Itimai. Madam Secretary also emphasized that this new building would help the students enhance

critical thinking, understanding of the food system, cultural and historical awareness, practical skills, and career exploration.

The Master of Ceremony then introduced the representative from the Yap State Department of Education, Mr. Charles Yalaarow for his closing remarks.

After Mr. Yalaarow's remarks, the Master of Ceremony led everyone to the new agriculture classroom building to start the ribbon cutting, initiating the handover of the new agriculture classroom building.

Once the ribbon was cut by Madam Secretary Gardenia Aisek, Governor Francis Itimai, and Mr. Charles Yalaarow, Pastor John J. Malmal gave a closing prayer to bless the new building.



Joseph-Movick Administration welcomes Talent Search Program Students to the Executive Branch

Pohnpei Public Information

March 30, 2026

Peilapalap, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph recently hosted a delegation of students from the Talent Search Program at the Governor’s Office, engaging the young leaders in a wide-ranging discussion on civic responsibility, governance, and the future of Pohnpei.

During the visit, Governor Joseph provided an educational overview of the fundamental pillars of our society, focusing on the functions of the government, the Pohnpei State Constitution, and the principles of democracy. He detailed the current priorities of the administration, emphasizing a commitment to sustainable development and transparent leadership.

The interaction included a personal dialogue where students asked the Governor about his experiences during his first month in office. In response, Governor Joseph offered candid encouragement and direction for the high schoolers as they prepare for their future careers.

He explained that he makes it a priority to surround himself with capable individuals who can provide sound advice and assistance. He also noted that compromise is an important tool in leadership, provided that one does not forsake their personal values to achieve an outcome. Furthermore, he shared that a foundation of prayer provides him with the resilience and clarity needed to navigate the hardships and complex challenges facing the state.

The visit concluded with a call to action for the students to remain dedicated to their studies and to take an active interest in the

governance of their island nation.

The Educational Talent Search Program (TSP) is a federally funded initiative managed by the College of Micronesia-FSM to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Since 1994, the program has

provided essential services such as tutoring, career counseling, and college admissions guidance to help participants complete high school. Its primary mission is to motivate and equip qualified students to transition into and graduate from post-secondary education successfully.



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Micronesian Culture and Traditions Day in Pohnpei



Majority of photos courtesy of the Pohnpei Office of the Governor



**Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia
Statements of Condition
December 31, 2025 and 2024**

ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and due from banks	\$6,009,327	\$4,078,905
Federal funds sold	5,970,000	4,590,000
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	68,718,606	100,120,554
Cash and cash equivalents	80,697,933	108,789,459
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	11,296,000	15,516,000
Securities available for sale	112,548,515	63,139,763
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses	62,197,447	58,053,696
Accrued interest receivable	1,020,522	630,954
Prepaid expenses and other assets	979,223	891,907
Right of use assets, net	232,562	274,371
Premises and equipment, net	1,964,487	1,948,360
Total Assets	\$270,936,689	\$249,244,510
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Deposits:		
Noninterest-bearing	\$80,800,685	\$84,092,589
Interest-bearing	155,095,980	134,052,834
Total deposits	235,896,665	218,145,423
Accrued interest payable	66,059	159,393
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	884,781	711,998
Operating lease liabilities	237,291	279,468
Total liabilities	\$237,084,796	\$219,296,282
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common Stock, \$5 par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized; 934,348 shares issued and outstanding	4,671,740	4,671,740
Additional paid-in capital	4,663,576	4,663,576
Retained earnings	25,332,131	23,686,254
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(815,554)	(3,073,342)
Total stockholders' equity	33,851,893	29,948,228
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity	\$270,936,689	\$249,244,510

**Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia
Statements of Comprehensive Income
Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024**

	2025	2024
Interest income:		
Loans	\$5,712,076	\$5,480,771
Interest-bearing deposits	3,484,312	4,055,735
Investment securities	3,037,928	1,384,723
Federal funds sold	258,769	300,248
Total interest income	12,493,085	11,221,477
Interest expense:		
Other time deposits	814,457	897,354
Savings	566,753	477,165
Total interest expense	1,381,210	1,374,519
Net interest income	11,111,875	9,846,958
Provision for credit losses	630,000	312,000
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	10,481,875	9,534,958
Non-interest income:		
Loan fees	338,732	262,427
Service charges on deposit accounts	149,499	168,397
Other	772,822	591,627
Total Non-interest Income	1,261,053	1,022,451
Non-interest expenses:		
Salaries and wages	2,988,914	2,595,886
Data processing	733,633	382,185
Electronic banking	696,554	385,862
Employee benefits	550,905	471,981
Occupancy	445,566	628,532
Furniture and equipment	374,193	391,611
Travel	297,166	295,981
Professional fees	274,735	229,304
Correspondent bank fees	270,354	327,495
Stationery and supplies	201,075	136,940
Gross receipts and use taxes	169,950	155,903
Director and shareholder	169,553	154,747
Insurance	137,531	139,873
Telephone	132,053	128,164
FDIC deposit insurance	109,103	101,103
Business development	50,347	66,996
Postage	28,701	17,605
Credit and collection	25,251	17,403
Teller and operating losses	17,669	14,728
Miscellaneous	87,928	117,535
Total Non-Interest Expense	7,761,181	6,759,834
Net Income	3,981,747	3,797,575
Other comprehensive income:		
Net unrealized gain on investment securities	2,257,788	699,956
Comprehensive income	\$6,239,535	\$4,497,531



Federated States of Micronesia officially dedicates Embassy in Canberra

FSM Information Services

March 24, 2026

Canberra, Australia — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), today officially dedicated the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Canberra, marking a historic milestone in the trusted partnership between the FSM and Australia. The dedication took place during the President Simina’s High-Level Visit to Australia, the first visit in 29 years.

President Simina was joined by First Lady Ancelly Simina, Esmond B. Moses, Speaker of the FSM Congress and spouse Mrs. Aileen Moses, and accompanied by Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando Jr., Secretary of Resources and Development Elina P. Akinaga, the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky Cantero, and members of the official delegation.

The ceremony was also attended by senior representatives of the Australian Government, members of the diplomatic corps, and the Pacific community in Canberra, including

former Australian Ambassadors to the FSM—Peter Stanford, Susan Cox, and Jo Cowley—as well as other distinguished officials and partners including current Australian Ambassador to the FSM Jennifer Grant.

The dedication ceremony, held in the Australian capital, reflects the deepening ties between the two nations and underscores a shared commitment to strengthen diplomatic engagement, regional cooperation, and people-to-people connections.

In his remarks, President Simina paid respect to the Ngunnawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and expressed gratitude to the Government of Australia for its support in facilitating the establishment of the FSM Embassy and the accreditation of its ambassador.

“This moment represents not only the establishment of a physical presence, but a reaffirmation of our shared history, mutual respect, and the principle of reciprocity that underpins our diplomatic relations,”

President Simina said.

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia also expressed its appreciation for the presence of FSM citizens residing in Australia, members of the Pacific diplomatic community, friends of Micronesia, and former FSM Ambassadors, whose continued support reflects the strong and enduring bonds that unite the FSM with Australia and the wider Pacific region.

Chief of Protocol Mr. Jonathan Muir reflected on the journey the FSM-Australia partnership stating, “Australia established diplomatic relationship with Federated States of Micronesia in July 1987 and opened its embassy in Canberra in November 2024. Today’s dedication completes that circle and gives visible expression to that growing partnership.”

Mr. Muir also highlighted the significance of the Embassy’s establishment in advancing shared priorities and strengthening regional engagement.

“The Embassy’s presence here will deepen cooperation across our shared priorities, including regional connectivity, maritime security, climate change, and education. It will also strengthen FSM’s engagement with the Pacific community here in Canberra,” Mr. Muir said.

President Simina acknowledged the contributions of officials from both governments whose efforts made the Embassy a reality, as well as the FSM Congress for its support. He expressed confidence that the Embassy will serve as a vital platform for advancing cooperation and increasing Micronesia’s visibility in Australia and beyond. President Simina recognized that this milestone was guided under the leadership of H.E Jane Chigiya, Ambassador of FSM Embassy in Australia, Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Myjolyne Kim and staff.

The Embassy in Canberra stands as a symbol of friendship, partnership, and a shared vision for a stronger and more connected Pacific region.



Joseph-Movick administration swears in Mr. Perdus Ehsa to the Board of the Pohnpei Health Care Plan

Pohnpei Public Information

March 25, 2026

Pohnpei - In a ceremony held today, March 25, 2026, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph officially swore in Mr. Perdus Ehsa to the Board of the Pohnpei Health Care Plan (PHCP).

Mr. Ehsa, a respected businessman and longtime community leader, joins the board at a critical time for state health initiatives. His extensive experience in the private sector and his involvement in creating MiCare are expected to provide valuable oversight and strategic direction for the health plan's operations.

During the swearing-in, Governor Joseph emphasized the importance of strong leadership to ensure the Pohnpei Health Care Plan remains a reliable resource for the people of Pohnpei. The Governor expressed full confidence in Mr. Ehsa's ability to contribute to the board's mission of providing accessible and sustainable health care services.

Mr. Ehsa will begin his term effective immediately, joining fellow board members in managing the plan's policies and fiscal health.



Ambassador Susaia presents credentials to UNESCO Director-General

FSM Information Services

April 1, 2026

Paris, France — The Federated States of Micronesia strengthened its partnership with UNESCO as H.E. Ambassador Akillino H. Susaia presented his credentials to Director-General Khaled El-Enany during a formal ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters on March 16, 2026.

The presentation marks the official commencement of Ambassador Susaia's tenure as Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to UNESCO.

During their discussions, Ambassador Susaia reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to UNESCO's priorities, including the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the promotion of inclusive and sustainable societies, and the advancement of quality education. He also sought UNESCO's support in safeguarding the FSM's cultural landscapes, strengthening scientific cooperation, and ensuring that future generations inherit a resilient and vibrant Federated States of Micronesia. He emphasized the importance of multilateral cooperation and knowledge-sharing in addressing shared challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Ambassador Susaia further underscored the importance of strengthening UNESCO's presence in the North Pacific through the United Nations Multi-Country Office in the FSM and extended an invitation to Director-General El-Enany to visit the Federated States of Micronesia.

Director-General El-Enany welcomed Ambassador Susaia and highlighted the value of the FSM's perspectives within UNESCO, as well as the leadership that small island nations bring to cultural preservation and climate adaptation. He expressed UNESCO's commitment to deepening collaboration with the FSM on initiatives that safeguard heritage, advance science for sustainable development, and expand inclusive education.

Discussions also focused on advancing the designation and protection of the Nan-Madol cultural heritage site, including efforts toward its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as the urgent need for a dedicated program or site manager.

Both sides further underscored the importance of collaboration with national commissions and partners, including knowledge exchange through UNESCO participation programs and

partnerships with other SIDS.

Ambassador Susaia's accreditation enables the Federated States of Micronesia to strengthen coordination and engage fully in UNESCO's governing bodies, technical programs, and partnerships. Priority areas for immediate collaboration include support through the UNESCO Participation Programme in areas such as management of the Nan Madol site; environment and climate change adaptation; management of local water resources; waste management; capacity and human resource development; and

community-led heritage documentation initiatives across the nation, among other areas.

The presentation ceremony reflects continued diplomatic engagement between the Federated States of Micronesia and UNESCO, as both sides seek practical ways to translate global commitments into local action. The FSM joins other Pacific Island countries in leveraging UNESCO's expertise to protect cultural diversity, build scientific capacity, and foster resilient communities in a changing world.



Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Infrastructure Improvements at the Yap International Airport and the Yap Seaport

In accordance with the Compact of Free Association (CoFA), the U.S. Department of War (DoW) will publish a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for infrastructure improvements at the Yap International Airport and Yap Seaport on April 14, 2026 (YAPT), initiating a 45-day public comment period. Public comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted through May 29, 2026 (YAPT). Comments related to historic properties as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act will also be considered as part of the cultural resources consultation process. The Draft EIS explains the purpose and need for the project, describes alternatives that were considered, and studies the potential impacts of making improvements to the Airport and Seaport and the means to minimize those impacts.



Proposed Action

The Proposed Action includes:

- Yap International Airport Improvements
- Yap Seaport Wharf Improvements
- Colonia Harbor and Waneday Channel Dredging and Widening
- Waneday Channel Aids to Navigation (ATON) Improvements
- Airport-to-Seaport Connector Road Improvements
- Post-Construction Training

The improvements are intended to enhance Airport and Seaport functionality, extend their serviceable life, and enable joint use by the Yap State and the U.S. DoW, including the ability to conduct training exercises in accordance with the CoFA. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027 and continue through 2035.



Public Comment Period

The 45-day Draft EIS public comment period begins on April 14, 2026 and ends on May 29, 2026 (YAPT).

The Draft EIS will be made available for review at the Yap State Library and on the project website:
www.nepa.navy.mil/yapeis



Public Meeting(s)

A public meeting will be held on April 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the Small Business Development Center Conference Room.

All interested persons, agencies, and organizations are encouraged to attend the public meeting(s), review the Draft EIS, and submit comments. The public will also be able to submit comments on potential effects to historic properties and cultural resources.

How to Comment

- 1 Public Meeting: Written and oral comments may be submitted at the public meeting(s)
- 2 Online via website: www.nepa.navy.mil/yapeis or scan the QR code
- 2 Mail: Yap Airport and Seaport EIS Project Manager, HHF Planners, 733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590, Honolulu, Hawaii, 98613, USA

Written comments must be postmarked or submitted electronically by May 29, 2026 (YAPT) to be considered in the Final EIS and cultural resources consultation process.



You can comment by scanning this QR code



Na'ab u rogon fare ngi babiyor ko marangen ea yafas u arow nge maday ni kan nog ea Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ngaa Rogoni Mo'nognag ea Shikojo nge Gampek uroy u Waab

Rogon ni baa' ko Compact of Free Association, Am nu Mariken ara salthaw u Mariken ea kea ngongliy rogon ea babiyor ni nge ayweg ara achig nag rogon ea mogothgoth ko yafas u arow nge maday ko fapi marwel ni ngan tay ko shikojo nge gampek ko rran ni ragag nge aningeg ko April 2026 nge madaa' ko riliw nge mereb ko May 2026. U lane ea rea aningeg i ragag nge lal ea rran nea', ea ngam pii ea duwer ara magfan rom ngayog ni ngan uneg nga lane rea babiyor ney ko marwel. Rarogon ea yalen rodad ni baa' ko National Historic Preservation Act ea kiyra uneg nga babiyoren ea raa gafi marwel ney. Rea ngi babiyor nea' ea bea yog fan nge tin batuuf ko marwel nge tin kan lem nag ni ngan rrin ni nge yog ni ngan ngongliy rogon ea pii marwel ney ko shikojo nge gampek ni nge yog ni nge achig ea mogothgoth ni ngan tay ko yafas u arow nge maday.



Pii nen ni ngan rrin ko marwel

Tin banen ni ngan rrin:

- Mo'nog ko shikojo
- Mo'nog ko gampek
- Dap'ea lay u donguch nge dubchal nu Waneday ni ngan gaa' nag radan
- Rogon nge mo'nog rogon ea malekag u dubchal nu Waneday
- Rogon nge mo'nog ea kanawoo u shikojo nge madaa' nga gampek
- Ran fil boch rogon ea marwel ni ngan rrin

Pii marwel nea' ea nge yog ni ngan mo'nog nag ea shikojo nge gampek ma ki yog ninge nuw napan ni ngan marwel ngaa ma ki yog ni ngan rrin fapi marwel ni ngan ta ni baa' ko fare Compact of Free Association (CoFA). Pii marwel ney ea yibe sab ngaa ni nge tabab ko duw ni 2027 nge madaa' ko duw ni 2035.



Ngiyal ni rayog ni ngam pii ea duwer ara magfan rom

U lan aningeg i ragag nge lal ea rran ea ra tabab ea ngiyal ni ngam pii ea duwer ara magfan rom ko bbin anngeg ea puul (April 2026) ko ragag nge aningeg ngani madaa' ko bbin lal ea puul (May 2026) ko riliw nge mereb.

Fare babiyor ko EIS ea rayog ngam biege fa ngam gguy ko fare library ko am u donguch fa kurayog ni ngam nguy online araa ko: www.nepa.navy.mil/yapeis.



Moolung ko Yoor

Moolung ko yoor ea ran tay ko rofen ni April 28, 2026, ko Ragag ea klok ni kadbul u Small Business Development Center Conference Room.

Pithig ged ea puluwmed ngan nib ko rea moolung ney ngea yog ni ngam yeliy ea rea babiyor ney mag pii ea duwer ara magfan rom. Kurayog ni ngam pii ea duwer ara magfan rom ko tin banen ra kireb ara thil gil fa tin banen ko yalen rodad.

Rogon ni ngam mog ea duwer ara magfan rom

- 1 Moolung ko yoor: Rayog ngam yoloy fa mog ea duwer rom ara magfan rom ko napan ea rea moolung nea'
- 2 Rayog ngam yaley online ko: www.nepa.navy.mil/yapeis fa mu scan nag ea QR code
- 2 Mail nag ko: Yap Airport and Seaport EIS Project Manager, HHF Planners, 733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590, Honolulu, Hawaii, 98613, USA

Tin duwer ara magfan rom ni ngam pii ea thingri thap ko rofen ni riliw ni meereb ko bbin lal ea puul ko duw ni 2026 ni nge yag ni nge un ko fare babiyor ni draft EIS nge tin yalen banen nge yog ni ngan faleg.



Rayog ni ngam scan nag ea rea QR code ney ngeyag ni ngam pii ea duwer ara magfan rom

President Simina pays courtesy call on Governor-General of Australia during historic visit

FSM Information Services

March 25, 2026

Canberra, Australia — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Sam Mostyn, Governor-General of Australia, at Government House, marking a key engagement during his official high-level visit to Australia.

President Simina was accompanied by First Lady Madam Ancelly Simina; the Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Speaker of the 24th FSM Congress, and Mrs. Aileen G. Moses; the Honorable Ricky F. Cantero, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs; and Her Excellency Jane Chigiya, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to Australia.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong and close partnership between the Federated States of Micronesia and Australia, grounded in shared values and a common vision for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Pacific region. Discussions highlighted regional cooperation, sustainable development, climate resilience, and the importance of strengthening people-to-people connections.

During the meeting, Her Excellency Mostyn expressed appreciation for President Simina's leadership on climate change, recognizing the Federated States of Micronesia's role in elevating the voices of small island developing states on the global stage. She acknowledged his continued advocacy for urgent and meaningful climate action and reaffirmed Australia's commitment to working in partnership with the FSM to advance resilience and sustainable solutions for Pacific communities.

President Simina conveyed his appreciation for Australia's longstanding support and partnership with the FSM, noting that the visit reflects a renewed commitment to deepening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation across shared priorities. He further emphasized the importance of continued collaboration in addressing the region's most pressing challenges and opportunities.

The courtesy call at Government House builds on the momentum of the President's engagements in Australia and underscores a shared commitment to further strengthening diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between the two nations.



Governor Stevenson A. Joseph affirms unity of Constitution and tradition on Cultural Day

Pohnpei Public Information

March 31, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei — In a Cultural Day address, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph called upon the citizens of Pohnpei to honor the sacred bond between the state's Constitution and the foundational principles of Pilerehre. Governor Joseph emphasized that these two pillars are not separate paths, but a single, unified force that binds the people to their land, their culture, and one another. By grounding modern governance in the traditional reverence for life (Wahu Pahrekie Sapwekeikat),

he highlighted that Pohnpei's enduring strength is rooted in a commitment to peace, free speech, and the preservation of ancestral wisdom.

He urged every citizen to act as a steward of the land and a protector of the customs that define the Pohnpeian spirit. By renewing this commitment to family, community, and the rule of law, the Governor signaled a vision for the future where development and tradition walk hand-in-hand to ensure the island remains a "sacred altar" of stability for generations to come.



FSM advances security cooperation with Australia through key MOUs

FSM Information Services

March 29, 2026

Canberra, Australia — The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) continues to advance its efforts to strengthen regional security cooperation through the signing of key Memoranda of Understanding with Australia.

His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina and the FSM delegation met with the Honorable Pat Conroy, Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, where both sides formalized cooperation through the signing of the FSM–Australia Maritime Security Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU reinforces joint efforts to enhance maritime capacity and safeguard shared ocean resources.

In a separate engagement, the delegation met with the Honorable Tony Burke, Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship, Cyber Security, and the Arts, where two Pacific Policing Initiative Memoranda of Understanding were signed. The MOUs support Pacific Police deployments and strengthen regional cooperation, while also enhancing capacity, professional development, and institutional support for National and State Police forces.

President Simina expressed gratitude



to both ministers for Australia’s continued support in strengthening law enforcement capacity, noting the participation of FSM national and state police officers in ongoing training and leadership development initiatives.

These engagements reflect the FSM’s continued commitment to practical cooperation with Australia in addressing evolving regional security challenges and advancing a safe, secure, and resilient Pacific.

President Simina and his delegation visit the Australian Museum’s Pacific Wansolmoanna exhibition

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

March 28, 2026

Australia - President Wesley Simina and members of his delegation recently visited the Australian Museum’s “Wansolmoanna – One Salt Ocean” exhibition, an installation celebrating the shared cultural heritage of the Pacific region.

The exhibition’s name, “Wansolmoanna,” reflects the idea of a single ocean connecting the islands and peoples of the Pacific. It showcases both historical and contemporary works that illustrate the diversity, resilience, and evolving cultures of Pasifika communities.

During the visit, President Simina expressed appreciation for the inclusion of items from the Federated States of Micronesia. Among the featured pieces were a traditional rai stone from Yap State and a miniature canoe from Satawal, crafted by renowned wayfinder Ali Haleyalur.

The exhibition presents a wide range of artifacts and artworks that tell the enduring story of Pacific peoples, emphasizing their languages, traditions, and cultural connections across the ocean.

According to the Australian Embassy to the FSM, the visit also reflected the longstanding relationship between Australia and Pacific Island nations, and reaffirmed shared ties within the broader Pacific family.



Opinion Editorial

Advancing health cooperation and mutual learning to build a global community of health for all

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



Recently, a friend from Pohnpei told me that the China Medical Team in the FSM, currently working at the Pohnpei State Hospital, has gained great popularity among local patients. In particular, a steady stream of patients have been visiting the Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) for acupuncture and cupping therapy. When sharing their experiences of the superb medical skills of Chinese doctors, some FSM friends also expressed great curiosity about the development of the health sector in China, a country with over 1.4 billion people.

Currently, quality and accessible medical services, including the popular acupuncture treatments, have long been part of daily life for ordinary Chinese. This is underpinned by over seven decades of persistent efforts since the founding of the People's Republic of China to develop medical and health services, promote modern and traditional medicine, and safeguard people's health. It has been achieved over the past decade through a comprehensive implementation of principles for health-related work in the new era, which features that we will focus on the grassroots, pursue reform and innovation as a driving force and disease prevention as the priority, give importance to both traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine, incorporate health into all policy-making, and strive for participation by all and benefits to all. It also represents the vivid practice of translating the blueprint of Healthy China Initiative into reality.

The just-concluded Session of National People's Congress and Session of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference once again brought the Healthy China Initiative into the global spotlight. On March 6, President Xi Jinping, while attending a joint group discussion during the Sessions, emphasized that building a Healthy China by 2035 is a strategic decision made by the CPC Central Committee. He noted that the period of the 15th Five-Year Plan will be a critical period for achieving this goal, calling for coordinated planning, intensified efforts, and the pursuit of decisive progress. At present,

China is accelerating the implementation of the Healthy China Initiative in line with the tasksheet and roadmap set out in the 15th Five-Year Plan, striving to provide the people with equitable, accessible, and integrated health services. These efforts will not only benefit the Chinese people, but also inject strong impetus into the building of a global community of health for all.

Implementing the health-first strategy

President Xi Jinping emphasized that life is the most precious for human beings. China has put the people and its lives first. Protecting the lives and health of its people could be pursued at all costs. Health is '1', and all other things are '0's following the '1'. Without the '1', the '0's mean nothing. The CPC and the whole society must firmly uphold the philosophy of putting the people and their lives above all else, prioritize the protection of people's safety and health, and implement a health-first strategy to provide comprehensive, whole-process health services for the people. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, President Xi Jinping has personally set the direction for deepening the reform of the medical and health care system, removed obstacles, and made strategic plans for important work concerning health and people's well-being, including infectious disease prevention and control, maternal and child health, myopia prevention among adolescents, chronic disease management, elderly health care, and mental health services. These efforts have charted the course for accelerating the building of a Healthy China.

The urgent needs and pressing concerns of the people regarding medical treatment and healthcare are the top priorities that must be addressed. China has made concerted efforts to extend and expand medical resources to the grassroots levels, with its healthcare network reaching from cities to remote villages and islands, thereby solving the problem of inaccessibility to medical care in remote areas. It has carried out centralized bulk-purchasing of medicines and medical consumables on a regular basis, addressing the global challenge of inflated medicine prices. For instance, the price of insulin used for diabetes treatment dropped from an average of approximately RMB 180 yuan per vial to around RMB 70 yuan after centralized procurement, saving each patient approximately RMB 4,000 yuan annually. China has established the world's largest health service system, disease prevention and control system, and medical insurance system. Today, over 1.33 billion people were covered by China's basic medical insurance, with the coverage rate remaining stable at around 95 percent. Over 90 percent of the population can reach their nearest healthcare facility within 15 minutes. The average life expectancy of the Chinese increased from 77.9 years in 2020 to 79.25 years in 2025.

Upholding the public welfare nature of basic

medical and health services

China continues to deepen the reform of public hospitals to see that they better serve the public interest, establishing a new operational mechanism that maintains public-welfare nature, motivates staff, and ensures sustainable operation. It aims to resolutely eliminate profit-seeking mechanisms, promote medical service practices, and prevent unreasonable growth in medical costs, enabling the people to access affordable, quality, and trustworthy medical services. Meanwhile, China guides and regulates the development of private hospitals, strengthens their connection with commercial health insurance to meet diverse needs of the people.

Combining tradition with innovation, and empowering Healthy China with technology for a new chapter

China places great importance on scientific and technological innovation in the health sector and on fostering new quality productive forces. China's research and development of new drugs accounts for over 20% of the global total, while high-end medical equipment such as fully digital PET/CT can be manufactured in China. Cutting-edge technologies including AI-assisted diagnosis, telemedicine, and surgical robotics, are advancing rapidly. Brain-computer interface technologies have already helped paraplegic patients to stand and walk again, turning what was once the science fiction into reality. China is vigorously promoting inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), encouraging the complementary and coordinated development of TCM and Western medicine. TCM has spread to 196 countries and regions worldwide, and, with its ancient wisdom of preventive treatment of disease, is working in synergy with modern medicine to form a unique bond that fosters closer ties among peoples and safeguards global health. Adhering to a prevention-oriented approach, China has built a robust public health system. China advocates healthy and positive lifestyles and promotes the integration of national fitness and public health. It is also committed to fostering a green, safe, and healthy environment, and to better balancing the relationship between humanity and nature. From the blueprint outlined in the "Healthy China 2030" initiative to the implementation of strengthening the foundations of health system during the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China is gradually shifting the priority of its health sector from treating disease to enhancing people's health.

Actively advancing the building of a global community of health for all.

In the face of global public health security challenges, President Xi Jinping has proposed building a global community of health for all, widely welcomed by the

international community. China firmly supports multilateralism and the WHO's leadership and coordination in global public health affairs, and has scaled up financial support to the WHO and other relevant organizations through various channels. China also has been deeply involved in consultations on international rules, including the Pandemic Agreement, and signed cooperation agreements on health with over 160 countries and international organizations, thus continuously building consensus for promoting health and well-being for people around the world. China has also extended timely assistance to friend countries in needs. For 63 consecutive years, Chinese medical teams have been dispatched to 77 countries. More than 30,000 Chinese medical personnel have worked on the front lines of global public health, delivering medical care to over 300 million patients.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is an old friend and good partner of China. Under the guidance of the two heads of state, bilateral cooperation in the health sector has been continuously deepened. In April 2024, President Xi Jinping and President Wesley W. Simina jointly witnessed the signing of Protocol Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia on Dispatching China Medical team to work in the FSM. The Chinese medical team arrived in the FSM and commenced clinical services in October of the same year. Over the year, Chinese doctors learned from local doctors, serving the local people with sincerity and expertise. The vivid scenes remain fresh in our memory: donating medicines and medical equipment, conducting community outreach clinics, treating difficult and complicated cases with traditional Chinese medicine techniques such as acupuncture, tui na (Chinese therapeutic massage), cupping, and scraping therapy, and successfully performing the first-ever precision enucleation of maxillary cyst. These moments compose a vivid chapter of China-FSM friendship in the medical field.

The year 2026 marks the beginning of China's 15th Five-Year Plan, and implementing the Healthy China Initiative has entered a new phase of quality enhancement and efficiency improvement. On social media, the world is turning its attention to Healthy China. Adopting Chinese healthy lifestyles, sharing traditional Chinese medical practices, and comparing the medical service costs among China and Western countries are becoming popular topics in world netizens.

A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far. China stands ready to work with the FSM and all other countries to uphold the principle of putting the people and their lives above all else, take health as a bridge and cooperation as a bond, and jointly write a new chapter in building a global community of health for all.

PASAI supporting cooperative audits on how Pacific Island governments are tackling skills shortages

PASAI

March 23, 2026

Nadi, Fiji: The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is supporting auditors to plan and conduct performance audits on their governments' efforts to tackle skilled worker shortages this week.

The 16 participants (11 female and 5 male) have gathered for an in-person workshop in Fiji from the government audit offices of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Kosrae, FSM Yap, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu.

PASAI Program Director, Meegan Reinhard, is co-facilitating the 5-day workshop with senior staff from the

New Zealand Office of the Auditor-General, Karen Wong and Clara Pau.

The training complements support provided by the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), which is the capacity development arm of the global umbrella organisation for the external government audit community, the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

IDI has been supporting those who audit governments' implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to conduct high-quality, high-impact performance audits.

Ms Reinhard explained, "Workshop participants have already completed

online modules as part of the IDI's SAI SDG Auditor Initiative.

"This week we'll be getting auditors to understand how the issue of skilled worker shortages in their jurisdictions relates to SDG targets on health, education and clean water and guiding them to plan and conduct audits on the sector of highest relevance."

Before delivering presentations on their proposed audits, participants will also discuss anticipated challenges, plan realistic audit timeframes, and learn techniques for managing their audit projects and monitoring progress.



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).

Kosrae advances sustainable ocean management with draft Marine Spatial Plan

Waitt Institute

April 2, 2026

Kosrae, FSM— Kosrae has reached a major milestone in protecting and sustainably managing its ocean. The Kosrae Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Working Group has completed a



draft Marine Spatial Plan for the state's nearshore waters, an achievement that positions Kosrae as a leader in ocean governance.

The draft plan reflects years of community engagement, scientific research, and collaboration across government agencies, resource management committees, and civil society. It represents a holistic, locally-driven vision for how Kosrae's waters will be managed, protected and used for generations to come.

A Plan Rooted in Community

Kosrae's draft Marine Spatial Plan is built on a foundation of local knowledge. The process began in 2022 with the Blue Prosperity Micronesia Ocean Use Survey in Kosrae, a comprehensive mapping effort in which community members identified the ocean spaces they use and value most. In 2024, the MSP Working Group was formally established and developed a set of Principles, Goals and

Objectives to guide the planning process.

In 2025, Blue Prosperity Micronesia, Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs (DREA) and the Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization (KCSO)

engaged directly with local fishers to document when and where important fish species gather to reproduce in Kosrae's waters. This critical data on fish spawning aggregations will be integrated into the plan to ensure that Kosrae's most important spawning areas are protected and can continue to sustain communities into the future.

What the Draft Marine Spatial Plan Includes

The current draft Marine Spatial Plan includes designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard critical habitats, as well as clearly defined zones for sustainable aquaculture and renewable energy development, including floating solar. By organizing the ocean space thoughtfully, the plan aims to support all ocean users while ensuring the long-term health of Kosrae's reefs and marine ecosystems.

Next Steps: Community Consultation

The draft plan is not yet final. In the coming months, the draft Marine Spatial Plan will undergo public consultation, providing all community members an opportunity to review the draft, ask questions and provide feedback. This step is essential to ensuring the plan is as transparent, inclusive and reflective of Kosrae's communities as possible.

Upcoming work includes analyzing the economic potential of aquaculture and renewable energy, which were two priority sectors identified by the Kosrae MSP Working Group. The BPM team will also advise on how to strengthen Kosrae's fisheries monitoring.

Broad Collaboration, Shared Ownership

Kosrae's MSP Working Group that led this effort brings together a wide range of voices and institutions, including the Governor's Office, Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization (KCSO), Department of Resources and Economic Affairs (DREA), Kosrae Visitors Bureau (KVB), Port Authority, Office of the Attorney General, Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), Historical Preservation Office (KHPO), Kosrae Utility Authority (KUA), the four municipal Resource Management Committees (RMCs) of Malem, Tafunsak, Lelu, and Utwe Biosphere Reserve

(UBR), and Blue Prosperity Micronesia.

Leading the Way for FSM

As part of the Micronesia Challenge and FSM's commitment to protecting 30% of its national waters, all four FSM states have pledged to protect 30% of their respective waters.

Ocean health is the foundation of food security, cultural identity and economic opportunity across all of FSM. Kosrae's progress shows what is possible when communities, government and partners work together with a shared vision. Upcoming public consultations will ensure that all community voices are heard before the plan is finalized.

ABOUT BLUE PROSPERITY MICRONESIA

Blue Prosperity Micronesia (BPM) is a program to support the sustainable growth of marine resources in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This program is a partnership between the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, Micronesia Conservation Trust, and Blue Prosperity Coalition, with the goal to optimize ocean uses, protect 30% of FSM's waters, strengthen fisheries management, and support the development of marine industries.

Master Navigator Spotlights Indigenous Navigation Systems

Master navigator and carver Lamotrek Pairourou H. Larry Raigetel visited the University of Auckland last week highlighting traditional navigation systems.

Raigetel visiting from Guam spoke with Pacific Studies' students from Pacific Embodied Practices on 24 March, about ancestral navigation traditions, ahead of a major upcoming exhibition at the New Zealand Maritime Museum. The session held at the Fale Pasifika introduced Pacific navigation as an embodied Indigenous science, that understands the human body as relationally connected to the ocean, stars, environment and community.

Raigetel's teachings highlighted the intellectual depth and precision of western Pacific voyaging knowledge systems, which enabled ocean travel across vast distances for generations.

"I have gone around the world, to exchange dialogue with young brilliant minds, to share with them the significance of who we are as Pacific Islanders. We are people of the ocean, who have lived on the land for centuries."

A co founder of Waa'gey, a community based organisation preserving traditional Micronesian technologies and arts, addresses issues including climate change, urbanisation and

economic vulnerability in remote outer islands. A master navigator and canoe carver from Lamotrek Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia, he holds talks internationally about Micronesian navigation knowledge.

His visit coincides with preparations for a major exhibition at the New Zealand Maritime Museum Hui Te Ananui a Tangaroa, opening in mid August 2026. The exhibition will centre Micronesian maritime knowledge, embodied technologies and intergenerational transmission of Indigenous expertise.

"I was invited to contribute to the exhibition, I brought a sail that I had commissioned a decade ago. It's a woven sail, that we almost lost the art and skills of weaving. Through the kindness of 95 year old master weaver Maria Labusheilam, we were able to transfer those skills to 20 other people, who wove it."

The large woven pandanus sail from the Lamotrek voyaging canoe Lucky Star, will be a central feature of the exhibition; Raigetel emphasised how master weaver Maria Labusheilam was a exemplary example of women's leadership to sustain voyaging and weaving traditions.

Pacific Studies Professional Teaching Fellow Julia Mageau Gray, teaches Pacific Embodied Practices at the

University; she said the session affirmed Pacific knowledge systems that have long been marginalised within Western academic frameworks.

"It is incredibly important to have knowledge holders like Larry sharing how Pacific bodies are understood in relationship with the environment, the ocean and one another," she said.

"What he shared shows how advanced our ancestors have always been. He spoke about organisations like NASA seeking validation for their own knowledge systems, while our grandmothers already knew those stars."

Gray said centring Indigenous knowledge holders in universities and cultural institutions restores the authority and legitimacy of Pacific ways of knowing.

"When our knowledge holders are brought into these spaces, it raises our knowledge systems and restores the mana they deserve — not as alternatives, but as enduring and deeply intelligent sciences."

Raigetel has previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Micronesian Department of Foreign Affairs, Director of the Yap State Department of Youth and Civic Affairs, and Chairman of the FSM National Banking Board.

He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Guam's Micronesian Area Research Center. The visit reflects a growing recognition across Aotearoa of Pacific Indigenous knowledge as living, contemporary and internationally significant.



Australia's Foreign Minister welcomes President Simina

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

March 27, 2026

Canberra - President Simina and his delegation met with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong, reaffirming the strong partnership with the FSM and our joint commitment to the Pacific family.

"Australia and FSM have a strong and enduring partnership grounded in our shared commitment to a safe and secure Pacific," said Minister Wong.

During the meeting, President Simina and Minister Wong discussed shared Pacific priorities, including climate action, development cooperation, regional security, people to people ties, and the importance of working together to support a resilient and prosperous Pacific region.

"Our relationship with Australia is built on mutual respect, shared values, and a common commitment to the Pacific," said President Simina.

Australia looks forward to continuing to work closely with the FSM to strengthen cooperation, deepen friendship, and advance shared priorities for the benefit of Pacific communities.



Opinion Editorial

Why the Iran–US–Israel conflict will hit the Pacific closer to home

Sione Taufa, Associate Dean Pacific, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Auckland

When tensions flare in the Middle East, as they have with Iran, the United States and Israel, it is tempting in the Pacific to see these events as distant and symbolic. We live far from the flashpoints dominating global headlines. Yet in an interconnected global economy, distance is not protection. For Pacific Island countries, instability rarely arrives as a military threat; it arrives as an economic shock, transmitted through fuel prices, freight costs and airfares — and those pressures are felt quickly by households and small businesses.

This commentary examines the economic knock on effects that global instability can create for Pacific economies, communities and governments, and how the region can strengthen its resilience in response.

Most Pacific nations import nearly all their fuel and depend heavily on shipping and aviation to move people, goods and services across vast ocean distances. In many countries, electricity generation still relies substantially on



diesel. That dependence means global oil price movements translate rapidly into higher power bills, transport costs and the price of everyday essentials.

In that sense, conflicts far from our shores can feel very close to home.

How the shock is likely to arrive

The first impacts are typically felt through electricity and fuel costs. When oil prices rise, power tariffs often follow within weeks. Households face higher bills, small businesses see margins squeezed, and governments come under pressure to subsidise fuel or electricity to protect vulnerable consumers. For families already spending a high share of income on energy and food, the burden is immediate.

Fuel costs are embedded throughout Pacific economies. They power inter island ferries, underpin shipping and aviation, and determine the cost of trucking essentials from port to village. When fuel prices rise, supermarket shelves quickly become more expensive and transport less affordable, pushing up inflation.

Countries where tourism plays a major economic role — including Fiji, Sāmoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands and Vanuatu — are particularly exposed. Sustained increases in jet fuel costs translate directly into higher airfares and surcharges. Visitors delay or downgrade travel, arrivals soften, and revenues for hotels, tour operators and hospitality workers decline. Because tourism employs large numbers of people, these effects ripple rapidly through local economies.

Pacific countries also depend on imports for staples such as rice, flour and medicines, as well as construction materials and fuel. Higher bunker fuel prices raise freight rates; importers pass costs down the supply chain; and carriers may consolidate sailings. The result can be a difficult combination of higher prices, delivery delays and stock shortages — especially challenging for housing, infrastructure and public works.

Each Pacific country will experience these pressures differently, depending on energy mix, tourism exposure and fiscal capacity. But the pattern is familiar across the region.

When volatility persists

Short-term spikes are disruptive, but prolonged volatility can leave deeper scars. Persistently high or unpredictable electricity costs make budgeting difficult for households, businesses and utilities. Governments face ongoing pressure to fund subsidies, crowding out investment in health, education, climate resilience and infrastructure.

Unstable energy costs also raise the cost of doing business. Investors hesitate when operating expenses cannot be forecast confidently. Tourism recoveries stall if long-haul travel remains expensive. Exporters lose competitiveness when freight, refrigeration and processing costs rise. Growth slows, fiscal space narrows and job creation suffers.

As always, price shocks land hardest on lower-income households, rural and outer island communities, and workers in precarious employment. When essentials consume a growing share of income, families cut back on education, healthcare and nutrition, risking longer-term inequality.

Building resilience, not just response

Global conflicts are beyond Pacific control. Preparedness is not.

Accelerating the renewable energy transition is the most important structural response available. The Pacific has strong potential for solar, wind, hydropower and emerging ocean energy. Every additional unit

of locally generated renewable power reduces exposure to global oil markets, stabilises long-term electricity costs and strengthens energy sovereignty. Investment in grid upgrades, storage and demand management amplifies these gains.

Strengthening regional cooperation can also reduce vulnerability. Through existing regional mechanisms, Pacific countries can coordinate fuel procurement, share technology and expertise, and develop common standards to accelerate energy transitions. Agreed emergency protocols can prevent disruptions in one country from cascading across the region. In energy security, scale and solidarity matter.

Building and maintaining strategic fuel reserves remains essential while transitions are underway. Adequate storage provides a buffer against supply interruptions and sudden price spikes, giving governments time to respond sensibly and protect consumers without panic-driven policy.

Diversifying economies further reduces exposure to external shocks. Practical avenues include expanding digital and remote services; adding value to fisheries within the region; supporting sustainable agriculture and aquaculture; and growing blue economy industries that create jobs while safeguarding ecosystems.

Finally, **investing in local food production** strengthens both economic and social resilience. More local production means less exposure to volatile shipping costs and import disruptions, while supporting rural livelihoods and improving nutrition.

A connected region, shared solutions The current Iran–US–Israel tensions will not be the last episode of geopolitical instability to test Pacific resilience. But vulnerability is not inevitable. With clear priorities — renewable energy, cooperation, reserves, diversification and food security — the Pacific can turn exposure into strength.

In our region, the ocean connects rather than divides us. The same interconnectedness that carries global shocks to our shores can also carry collective solutions across them.

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Pacific Ministers position regional priorities for WTO 14th Ministerial Conference

Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum

March 26, 2025

Yaoundé, Cameroon - Pacific Trade Ministers and senior officials convened in Yaoundé on the margins of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14), reinforcing a unified regional voice at the global Trade meeting.

The meeting brought together the six Pacific WTO members represented by the Honorable Sakiasi Ditoka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji and the Honorable Fata Ryan Schuster, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor of Samoa, and senior government officials from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The meeting was chaired by the Honorable Fata Ryan Schuster and supported by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Deliberations reflected a shared commitment to advancing trade outcomes

that supported a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable Blue Pacific Continent. The meeting highlighted the importance of leveraging the multilateral trading system to drive economic prosperity, safeguard ocean-based livelihoods, promote food security, and strengthen climate resilience across the region. The meeting also considered a coordinated Pacific approach to MC14, reaffirming a cohesive strategy to elevate the region's influence in global trade decision-making.

A priority focus of MC14 is on advancing WTO reform, to ensure the WTO remains relevant, inclusive, and development oriented. For the Pacific WTO members, meaningful reform must be development-focused, address capacity constraints, deliver practical outcomes that strengthen participation, and secure equitable benefits from the global trading system.

Progress on fisheries subsidies remains a central priority for the region. Ministers emphasized the importance of advancing

negotiations on harmful subsidies that support overcapacity and overfishing whilst welcoming the entry into force in September 2025 of the Agreement on prohibiting subsidies to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

For Pacific WTO members, a clear Ministerial decision from MC14 is essential to inject momentum to continuing negotiations and conclude additional provisions on overcapacity and overfishing that would help protect ocean resources, support sustainable livelihoods, and uphold the long-term interests of the Blue Pacific.

Minister Schuster highlighted the importance of unity and strategic clarity and encouraged the Pacific delegations to secure outcomes that addressed structural inequities in global trade, safeguard livelihoods, and enhance climate and economic resilience, stressing the urgency of solutions tailored to the Pacific region's



unique circumstances.

Ministers concluded their meeting with a strong commitment to sustained collaboration and strategic advocacy throughout MC14.

The Forum Secretariat's delegation is led by Desna Solofa, Deputy Secretary General – Governance supported by H.E Ambassador Mere Falemaka, Professor Chris Noonan, and PIFS officials from Suva and Geneva.

President Simina witnesses first-hand Australia's Pacific Policing Development Coordination Hub and Humanitarian Logistics Capability Warehouse

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

March 23, 2026

Australia - As part of President Simina's visit, we were proud to showcase the Pacific Policing Development Coordination Hub in Pinkenba and Australia's Humanitarian Logistics Capability Warehouse.

The visit showcases Australia's close

cooperation with our Pacific family on policing, supported through training, coordination, and operational planning.

The visit also highlighted Australia's capacity to respond quickly in times of crises, with systems in place to mobilize and deliver lifesaving assistance across the region.

This commitment reflects Australia's ongoing support for the FSM and our broader Pacific family, to strengthen resilience and ensure timely help when it matters most. It follows the recent groundbreaking ceremony for a new Humanitarian Warehouse in Pohnpei, funded by Australia.



Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation signals potential fuel price adjustments amid sustained global market volatility

24 March 2026

FSM- Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (“Vital FSMPC”) advises that international fuel markets have experienced sustained upward pressure in recent weeks, driven by heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, including reported disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world’s most critical oil and LNG transit corridors.

Vital FSMPC confirms that supply chains for all FSM states remain secure. Existing inventory buffers and contracted arrangements continue to support continuity of supply. There are no immediate shortages anticipated. These developments have resulted in increased price volatility across refined petroleum products, elevated regional trading premiums, and higher shipping and freight costs into the Pacific region. By week ending 16 March 2026, indicative price ranges have been:

- Unleaded Petrol (ULP): up to US \$150/BBL
- Diesel (ULSD): up to US \$220–225/BBL
- Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK): up to US \$220–227/BBL

These increases reflect product-specific market dynamics, refining margins, and

regional supply constraints, rather than crude price movements alone.

Based on current market conditions, Vital FSMPC advises that retail and wholesale fuel prices (ULP, ULSD, DPK) are expected to have moderate upward adjustments starting within the next 4 to 8 weeks, subject to cargo arrival timing and confirmed landed costs. Consumers should expect a similar trend with electricity prices as these are determined by a utility corporation’s electricity tariffs fuel cost pass-through mechanisms.

The pricing policy framework (PPF) is a Board-approved and controlled policy. It defines the governance, methodology, and control environment for the determination and adjustment of domestic fuel prices. The PPF requires that pricing decisions are derived from the fully allocated and verifiable landed cost of fuel supply, including international reference pricing (Mean of Platts Singapore – MOPS), contractual procurement premiums, freight and insurance costs, and inventory holding and supply risk factors. The PPF reduces volatility compared to regional markets and incorporates Responsible and Prudent Operator (RPO) cost recovery principles.

“Our priority remains the reliable supply of fuel to all States. We are actively managing global price volatility through disciplined procurement, inventory management, and risk controls. Any adjustments to domestic pricing will be undertaken in a measured and transparent manner, consistent with our responsibility as a state-owned enterprise, to operate prudently, maintain supply security and deliver sustainable pricing outcomes for our communities.” — Mr. Jared Morris, Chief Executive Officer, Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation.

Global fuel markets remain subject to ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, supply chain disruptions, and volatility in refining margins. Vital FSMPC will continue to monitor market developments closely and will optimize procurement and inventory strategies and provide timely updates to stakeholders as conditions evolve.

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



As illustrated, domestic wholesale (grey) and retail (yellow) prices adjust more gradually than regional markets such as Guam (orange), reflecting Vital’s inventory and procurement strategy, thereby reducing short-term price volatility for domestic consumers

SPC appoints Dr Andrew Jones as Deputy Director-General, Science and Capability

By The Secretariat of the Pacific Community

April 2, 2026

Suva, Fiji - The Pacific Community (SPC) has announced the appointment of Dr Andrew Jones as Deputy Director-General, Science and Capability, bringing more than 25 years of experience in advancing science and building technical capability across national and international contexts.

Dr Jones has worked across national science agencies and international development settings, applying his expertise to strengthen science and capability in the Pacific and Southeast Asia for more than two decades.

His commitment and dedication to the Pacific region are reflected in his

expertise, having formerly served as SPC’s Director of Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (2017-2021) and most recently serving the region as General Manager of International Development at Australia’s Bureau of Meteorology, which included work across the Pacific.

Dr Jones’s brings strong international leadership, deep respect for Pacific peoples and SPC staff, and a perspective shaped by experience both within and beyond the organisation.

“Andrew’s leadership and experience will be a strong asset to SPC as we continue to support our members and advance our shared priorities for the Pacific region,” said Dr Paula Vivili, Director-General of SPC.

Dr Jones will officially commence in the role on 11 May 2026, based in Suva, Fiji, and will join SPC’s Executive Leadership Team.

Dr Jones holds a PhD in Sedimentary Geology and Palaeoclimatology and began his career as a scientist in a national technical agency in Australia. He progressed through senior scientific leadership roles, serving as a lead author on numerous peer-reviewed publications and leading multidisciplinary technical teams.



Pacific emergency responders to gain accredited logistics training under new SPC–WFP partnership

By the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

April 1, 2026

Suva, Fiji – The Pacific Community (SPC) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a Letter of Agreement to develop the Pacific’s first accredited training program in humanitarian supply chain and logistics, aiming to build a regional cadre of professionals who can move aid faster when disasters strike.

The agreement, signed in February this year, will fund new specialized modules in Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics (HSC&L) within the Certificate IV in Disaster Risk Management (Team Leadership).

The modules are designed to give emergency management professionals practical skills in logistics coordination, supply chain management and humanitarian response. The need is acute: Pacific Island countries sit on the Pacific Ring of Fire, and within the cyclone belt, and face overlapping threats from geological hazards, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones and flooding.

According to the World Risk Index, six Pacific Island nations are among the 20 most disaster-prone countries in the world. In 2019, disasters cost the region USD 1.07 billion per year,

with 49% of losses due to cyclones and 20% due to droughts, reports the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

New accredited modules and micro-qualifications will be developed and integrated into the existing disaster risk management qualification. The modules and micro-qualifications will also be made available online through SPC’s digital learning platforms, widening access for learners across Pacific Island countries and territories. This inclusive approach will particularly enable greater participation of women in the Pacific, many of whom balance dual roles at home and in their communities.

SPC, through its Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) and WFP, will lead the development and accreditation of the modules, train instructors and coordinate outreach to learners across the region. WFP will also contribute its global expertise in humanitarian logistics by supporting the development of competency frameworks and relevant content, identifying funding opportunities for learner cohorts and strengthening partnerships to expand the program’s reach.

“The signing of the LOA between WFP and SPC PIEMA marks an important milestone in strengthening

humanitarian logistics capability across the Pacific,” said Emma Conlan, Acting Country Director, WFP Pacific.

“This partnership directly supports priorities identified by National Disaster Management Offices, ensuring responders have access to standardized, accredited, and professional qualifications in humanitarian supply chain and logistics.”

The program is expected to run from 2026 to 2029, with an estimated total value of USD \$328,000, supporting curriculum development, training delivery and the enrolment of multiple learner cohorts across the region.

The program will also contribute to a Pacific surge roster - a standing pool of logistics specialists who can deploy at short notice when disasters strike. SPC’s Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division Deputy Director, Litea Biukoto, said the partnership reflects SPC’s commitment to strengthening regional resilience through knowledge, training and collaboration.

“The support to implementation or operations needs to be complemented with institutional capability,” said Ms Biukoto.

“When disasters strike, effective

logistics and supply chains are essential to delivering lifesaving assistance without delay. Our partnership with WFP to strengthen logistics capability in the Pacific, including formal qualifications alongside core disaster risk management competencies, will enhance emergency preparedness and help ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches the communities who need it most,” she added.

The Certificate IV in Disaster Risk Management was developed jointly by USP’s Pacific Technical and Further Education (Pacific TAFE) and SPC, and it was officially launched in September 2021.

Supported by the New Zealand and Australia governments, PIEMA is at the forefront of emergency and disaster management training across the Pacific. Through its partnerships, PIEMA leads the way in strengthening preparedness and the response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

WFP’s Pacific strategy is centered on supporting government-led readiness for climate and disaster shocks across one of the world’s most exposed and logistically isolated regions. The Pacific Multi-Country Office works with national and regional institutions to reinforce capability before crises hit.

