

FSM Supreme Court election appeal dismissed for lack of jurisdiction; Underlying Chuuk election issues remain

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 24, 2026

Palikir, FSM — More than a year after an appeal was filed in the disputed 2025 Chuuk gubernatorial election, the FSM Supreme Court Appellate Division has dismissed the case for lack of jurisdiction, concluding that the underlying election contest was not timely and properly filed. The court expressly declined to address the merits of the election dispute, leaving several related issues still pending before the Chuuk State Supreme Court.

The ruling leaves intact the election results that placed Governor Alexander Narruhn and Lieutenant Governor Mekioshy William in office, but it does not constitute a judicial determination that the election was lawfully conducted or that the competing legal claims surrounding the election have been resolved.

In a 16-page order issued June 17 and entered June 23, a three-justice panel consisting of Associate Justice Chang B. William, Yap Chief Justice Cyprian J. Manmaw sitting by special assignment, and Pohnpei Associate

Justice Robert P. Nakasone sitting by special assignment granted motions to dismiss filed by the Chuuk State Election Commission and by Governor Alexander Narruhn and Lieutenant Governor Mekioshy William. The appeal was dismissed with prejudice.

The case stems from the long-running dispute surrounding the March 4, 2025 Chuuk general election and competing claims over which election commission possessed lawful authority to administer the election.

Mark Mailo and Joe Enlet challenged the election results and sought a

revote in Weno, alleging irregularities in the conduct of the election and the counting and tabulation of ballots. The dispute became intertwined with a broader controversy over whether members of a newly appointed but unconfirmed election commission had legal authority to administer the election after the terms of the previous commission expired.

According to the appellate panel, however, the central issue before the FSM Supreme Court was not whether

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Fish die-off reports expand across Yap state as officials investigate cause

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 28, 2026

FSM - What began as reports of unexplained fish mortality on Lamotrek Atoll now appears to involve several of Yap State's outer islands and possibly portions of Yap's main island, prompting Yap State officials to issue a public health advisory while emphasizing that the cause of the phenomenon has not yet been confirmed.

A public advisory issued June 17 by the Yap State Disaster Coordination Office (DCO), Yap Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Division of Marine Resources, and Department of Health Services (DHS) says that reports of discolored seawater and fish mortality have been received from Satawal, Fechailap, Elato, Ifalik, Lamotrek and Eauripik. The advisory marks the first official acknowledgment that the event extends beyond



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ALGAL BLOOM ON ISLANDS

Algal blooms happen when algae grow too quickly in the water. Blooms can discolor the water, harm marine life, affect our health, and impact our island way of life.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR

Be alert! Blooms can change quickly.

- DISCOLORED WATER**
Water may look green, brown, red, or have streaks like spilled paint.
- SURFACE SCUM**
Thick, foamy, or slimy layers on the water surface.
- DEAD MARINE LIFE**
Fish, sea turtles, or invertebrates found dead or floating.
- UNUSUAL ODOR**
Water may have a strong, musty, or rotten smell.

If you see these signs, avoid the water and report it!

ALGAL BLOOM IN YAP

Yap's warm, nutrient-rich waters and calm conditions can sometimes lead to algal blooms.

- Blooms have been observed in nearshore areas and bays, especially during calm, hot periods and after heavy rains.
- Some blooms are caused by naturally occurring algae. Others may produce toxins that can harm people and marine life.
- Our communities, fisheries, tourism, and culture are all connected to healthy waters. Let's protect Yap together.

HEALTH RISKS

Some algal blooms can produce toxins that may affect your health.

- SKIN IRRITATION**
 - Rash, itching, or redness
 - Can occur after swimming or wading
- EYE IRRITATION**
 - Red, itchy, or watery eyes
 - Rinse with clean water if exposed
- RESPIRATORY ISSUES**
 - Coughing, sore throat, or shortness of breath
 - May occur from breathing in mist or spray
- STOMACH ILLNESS**
 - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain
 - Can occur from swallowing contaminated water or eating contaminated seafood
- SEAFOOD SAFETY**
 - Some toxins can build up in shellfish and fish
 - Do not harvest or eat seafood from affected areas

GAO: New Compact funding focused on education, health but implementation faces delays

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 28, 2026

Washington D.C. - A recent report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office has found that the Federated States of Micronesia and the other Freely Associated States are directing the bulk of their renewed Compact of Free Association funding toward education and health, but says implementation of major projects and oversight requirements has been slowed by funding delays, labor shortages, rising construction costs and late reporting.

The 60-page report, released in May as the first in a planned series of congressional oversight reviews under the 2024 Compact of Free Association Amendments Act, examines implementation of the renewed agreements with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

The GAO concludes that while the three Pacific nations have begun implementing the renewed 20-year agreements, many of the accountability mechanisms established under the new compacts are still in the early stages

or have experienced delays.

The report notes that the United States committed more than \$6 billion in assistance through 2043 under the amended compacts, providing grants for government operations, infrastructure, education and health, along with contributions to long-term trust funds. In return, the United States retains exclusive military access and defense rights across the strategically important North Pacific region.

Population decline remains a major concern

Among the report's most striking findings is the continuing decline in FSM's population.

According to the GAO, FSM's population fell 26 percent between the 2010 and 2023 national censuses, dropping from 102,843 to 75,817 people. Officials interviewed by GAO before publication of the 2023 census estimated the country's population had likely fallen even further to between 70,000 and 80,000, with some state officials believing the actual population may now be below 70,000.

The report attributes much of the decline to migration by Micronesians seeking employment, educational opportunities and health care in the United States under Compact migration provisions.

The Marshall Islands experienced a similar trend, losing approximately 20 percent of its population between its 2011 and 2021 censuses.

GAO concludes that this migration has created shortages of skilled workers throughout the region while increasing the cost of providing government services to smaller populations.

Officials told investigators that shortages are particularly severe in construction, education and health care. In some cases, infrastructure projects must rely on foreign contractors because qualified local workers are unavailable. Schools on some outer islands now serve only a handful of students, increasing the per-student cost of education while making it more difficult to recruit and retain teachers.

Education and health receive largest share of funding

The report says FSM plans to devote most of its FY2025 Compact sector grants to education and health, largely supporting salaries for teachers, health professionals and other government personnel.

Infrastructure funding is likewise focused on projects such as schools, hospitals and other public facilities.

During visits to FSM, the Marshall Islands and Palau in 2025, GAO inspectors observed numerous Compact-funded projects, including educational facilities and health infrastructure intended to strengthen long-term public services.

However, officials in all three countries identified common obstacles affecting implementation.

These include delays in receiving Compact funds, increased construction costs following the COVID-19 pandemic, shortages of construction workers and difficulties obtaining building materials for remote island locations.

Oversight requirements behind schedule

While acknowledging that implementation has begun, GAO found that both the Freely Associated States and some U.S. agencies have struggled to meet oversight requirements established under the amended compacts.

Most reports required from FSM, the

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Managing Editor**

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Monday, July 13, 2026

FSM warns El Niño conditions expected to intensify, urges early preparations

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlle Press

June 25, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Office of the President has issued a nationwide public advisory warning that strengthening El Niño conditions are expected to bring prolonged drought, heightened tropical cyclone risks, and significant environmental impacts across the Federated States of Micronesia over the coming months.

The advisory, issued June 18, urges residents and disaster management agencies in Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae to begin preparing now for conditions that are expected to worsen as El Niño strengthens into the Northern Hemisphere winter of 2026-27.

According to the advisory, forecasters

expect the developing El Niño pattern to produce drier-than-normal conditions across the FSM beginning in early 2027, with the most severe impacts anticipated between January and March.

Officials are encouraging communities to begin conserving water immediately, repair rainwater catchment systems, and protect existing freshwater sources before dry conditions become more severe.

The advisory also warns that the changing climate pattern could increase the risk of tropical storms and typhoons across much of the FSM. While the exact number and paths of storms cannot be predicted months in advance, officials said the overall threat is expected to be higher than in recent years.

In addition to drought and storm concerns, the advisory outlines several potential impacts on the marine environment.

It says that ocean water is expected to move away from the islands as El Niño strengthens, causing sea levels to drop below normal. Lower sea levels can expose shallow coral reefs to prolonged sunlight and dry air, increasing the risk of coral damage.

The advisory notes that coral bleaching resulting from these conditions could threaten reef ecosystems and reduce the availability of local seafood, affecting communities that rely heavily on marine resources.

The Office of the President called on residents to begin taking practical

preparedness measures now rather than waiting until conditions deteriorate.

The advisory specifically recommends conserving water, maintaining rain catchment systems, and safeguarding freshwater supplies as immediate priorities.

Residents seeking additional information are encouraged to contact their local National Weather Service offices in Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, or Kosrae.

The advisory serves as an early warning intended to give communities, government agencies, and emergency managers time to prepare for the potential impacts of what forecasters expect could become a significant El Niño event over the coming year.

Australia says North Pacific Connector will continue as current airline contract nears end

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlle Press

June 28, 2026

Pohnpei - Australia says it remains committed to maintaining the Australia-North Pacific Connector air service despite the impending expiration of its current contract with Nauru Airlines, offering reassurance following reports that the carrier could soon discontinue flights serving Pohnpei.

Questions about the future of the route surfaced after The Kaselehlle Press received reports suggesting Nauru Airlines might operate its final flight to Pohnpei as early as next week. The newspaper sought clarification from the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei and also requested comment from Nauru Airlines. The airline had not responded by publication deadline.

In a statement attributable to a spokesperson for Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia said it "remains fully committed to the Australia-North Pacific Connector flight service's continued operation into the future."

The Australia-North Pacific Connector has operated since October 2022, linking Australia with Nauru, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. During that time, the service has transported more than 63,000 passengers and approximately 886 tons of cargo.

The current agreement under which Nauru Airlines operates the subsidized service is scheduled to expire on June 30. A competitive tender process is presently underway to select an operator for the next phase of the regional air service.

Australia did not indicate when the tender process would be

completed or identify which airline would operate the route after the current contract expires. Likewise, it did not state whether Nauru Airlines is among the bidders seeking the new contract.

For the Federated States of Micronesia, the North Pacific Connector has provided an additional international air link connecting Pohnpei with destinations throughout the North Pacific and Australia. The service has been used by government officials, business travelers, aid organizations, medical travelers and other passengers

requiring regional connections.

Whether travelers will notice any change in service after June 30 remains unclear. Australia's statement indicates that it intends for the North Pacific Connector to continue operating, although details regarding the next operating contract have not yet been publicly announced.

Nauru Airlines had not responded to questions from The Kaselehlle Press regarding its future operations in the Federated States of Micronesia as of publication.



Joseph-Movick administration mobilizes cabinet and international partners to implement proactive El Niño Readiness Plan



Pohnpei Public Information

June 23, 2026

Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lt. Governor Herolyn S. Movick convened a cabinet briefing to outline the government's structured, data-driven strategy against the impending El Niño system.

To ensure a well-coordinated response, the administration initiated a formal request to the National Government for an expert briefing and strategic guidance. This collaborative effort brought together leadership from the Pohnpei Weather Service Office, the Department of Environment, Climate, and Emergency Management (DECEM), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to finalize early intervention measures and align state efforts with national support frameworks.

Transparent Data: Understanding the Timeline

The Pohnpei State Government wants to reassure everyone that while an El Niño is coming, we are in a period of planned preparation, not an active emergency. During the briefing, the leadership explicitly agreed that our Southern Islands are the most vulnerable areas during a drought, meaning they will receive close attention and priority support to protect against early water shortages. Following the El Niño Advisory issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on June 11, 2026, weather experts Wilfred Nanpei, Wallis Jacob, Sam Rettin, and Boyd McKenzie shared the expected timeline to help us protect these high-risk areas:

- June–September 2026 (Preparation Window): Anticipated higher-than-average rainfall will continue initially. The official onset of the system is not projected until October.

- November 2026–March 2027 (Peak Impact): A 63% probability exists for a strong event, historically comparable to 1997–1998. Drier conditions will peak in January, February, and March, with projected rainfall dropping to 1 to 4 inches. This period carries a high drought risk, lower sea levels, and a moderate risk of 3 to 5 regional tropical cyclones.
- April–August 2027 (Recovery Phase): Weather patterns are projected to stabilize and return to baseline levels.

DECEM presenters Abby Lambert and Joey Seiola noted that while lower sea levels present a risk for coral bleaching, and peripheral storm activity near the Marshall Islands or Kosrae could trigger heavy localized rain and landslides, these factors are actively factored into state contingency plans.

Decisive Mobilization: Immediate Government Action
Addressing community anxieties regarding the speed of the state's response, Governor Joseph reinforced that structured, quiet preparation behind the scenes ensures long-term stability. The administration has shifted from monitoring directly into an aggressive readiness phase executed between June and August.

To secure the state's critical infrastructure well before dry conditions arrive, the Governor has mandated the following immediate directives:

- Task Force Activation: Governor Joseph has directed the convening of the Pohnpei State's Disaster and Emergency Task Force to immediately start work on action plans.
- Strategic Historical Review: Emergency management teams are extracting data from the previous drought response plan executed early in this administration to apply proven, locally tested operational solutions to the current situation.
- Grid Integrity and Well Assessment: The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) has been ordered to conduct an immediate, exhaustive inventory of all municipal water wells to confirm the exact number of assets and

verify their functional status.

- International Partner Engagement: Active coordination is underway with International partners and Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) to safeguard water and sanitation access across school sites, and with IOM to pre-position Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purification units.

A Message of Calm and Partnership to the Public

The Pohnpei State Government values the public's vigilance and welcomes the community's focus

on this critical environmental shift. Visible indicators, such as the initial browning of vegetation, are anticipated natural markers of the cycle and do not represent a failure of public utilities.

The Pohnpei Weather Service Office will continue to track and publish weekly rainfall metrics to maintain open lines of communication. Residents are assured that their government is fully engaged, prepared, and structurally equipped to manage this environmental cycle safely and confidently.

...GAO

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Marshall Islands and Palau were either submitted late or remained outstanding at the time of the review.

Particularly significant were annual single audit reports, which GAO describes as critical to federal oversight of Compact spending. According to the report, all three countries have submitted these audits late every year since fiscal year 2019.

Government officials told GAO they are working to improve financial management capacity and accelerate completion of future audits.

The report also identifies delays within the U.S. government.

Although the Joint Economic Management Committee overseeing FSM met in August 2025 under the new Compact structure, GAO says delayed appointments of U.S. committee members limited discussion of several planned agenda items.

The report further notes that the Interagency Group on the Freely Associated States submitted its first required annual report to Congress ten months late.

Meanwhile, plans by the U.S. Department of State to establish a dedicated office responsible for Compact implementation have been paused because of a federal hiring freeze and other operational constraints.

U.S. assistance remains central to FSM finances

The report notes that U.S. assistance continues to represent a substantial share of government revenue throughout the Freely Associated States.

For FSM, Compact funding and other U.S. assistance accounted for more than half of total revenue for each of the four state governments during fiscal year 2022, while representing a smaller share of national government revenue because of the national government's additional income from fishing fees and taxation.

Although the United States remains the largest source of foreign assistance, GAO notes that FSM also receives significant development assistance from the People's Republic of China, while Japan, Australia, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank continue to play important roles throughout the region.

First benchmark for future reviews

GAO emphasizes that this report is intended as the first in an ongoing series of congressional oversight reviews required under the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024.

Future reports are expected to examine the quality of required government reports, implementation of Compact-funded programs, economic policy reforms, accountability measures and progress toward achieving the agreements' long-term objective of promoting greater economic self-sufficiency in the Freely Associated States.

...Chuuk election

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the election had been properly conducted, but whether the election contest had been filed in accordance with Chuuk election law. The court noted that election contests are creatures of statute and that strict compliance with statutory filing requirements is necessary before a court can obtain jurisdiction to hear such disputes.

The panel agreed with an earlier Chuuk State Supreme Court Appellate Division ruling that Mailo and Enlet's initial complaint was defective because it was not verified and that a later verified complaint was filed outside the five-day period established by law for challenging election results. The court also rejected arguments that the filing deadline should be measured from a public radio announcement of the results rather than from service of

the certified election results on the candidates.

In reaching its decision, the FSM Supreme Court repeatedly emphasized that it was addressing only whether the election contest had been timely and properly filed and was not deciding the merits of the allegations raised by the appellants.

"The Court is aware of at least three related and ongoing proceedings pending before the Chuuk Supreme Court," the panel wrote, adding that it declined to intervene in or resolve issues presented by those cases.

The opinion also acknowledged a separate November 2025 ruling by the Chuuk State Supreme Court Trial Division that found four of the five members of the so-called "unconfirmed commission" had never been confirmed by the Chuuk Senate and that their nominations were ultimately rejected on March 14, 2025. However, the trial court declined at that time to decide several

key questions, including whether those individuals possessed authority to act before their nominations were rejected and whether members of the prior commission could continue serving in a holdover capacity pending confirmation of successors. The trial court directed additional briefing on those issues.

Because those questions were not resolved in the appeal before it, the FSM Supreme Court expressly declined to determine which commission was the lawful election commission during the disputed period. The panel stated that even allegations that election results were forged could not be considered because the jurisdictional defect prevented the court from reaching the merits of the election contest.

The ruling represents the first final decision issued by the FSM Supreme Court after an appellate panel was convened to hear the appeal, which had remained pending for more than a year following the April 2025

decision of the Chuuk State Supreme Court Appellate Division. However, the decision resolves only the jurisdictional question of whether the election contest was properly filed and does not resolve the broader legal disputes that have surrounded the 2025 Chuuk gubernatorial election.

While the decision ends this particular appeal, it does not appear to resolve the broader legal disputes that have surrounded the election. Based on prior proceedings, several related cases concerning the authority and composition of the competing election commissions remain before the Chuuk State Supreme Court, and no final resolutions in those matters have yet been publicly reported.

Narruhn and William were sworn into office on April 15, 2025, after the Chuuk State Supreme Court dismissed the election contest and denied motions seeking to delay the inauguration.

...Yap fish

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Lamotrek, where residents had previously reported widespread fish deaths and growing concerns over food security.

State officials stressed that the exact cause remains unknown. However, based on visual observations and information available to date, they say a harmful algal bloom (HAB) is one possible explanation and is currently serving as the principal working hypothesis while additional information is gathered.

According to the advisory, affected communities have reported unusual discoloration of seawater, dead or distressed fish and other marine life, unusual odors coming from the water, prolonged periods of calm, shallow water during low tides, warm ocean temperatures, and reduced rainfall or drought-like conditions. Officials say such conditions are consistent with those that can contribute to harmful algal blooms, although they emphasized that no scientific confirmation has yet been made.

The advisory urges residents to avoid contact with affected waters and not to consume fish or shellfish collected from impacted areas until authorities determine they are safe. Residents are also encouraged to report additional sightings of discolored water, fish kills, or other unusual marine conditions.

Health officials cautioned that exposure to affected waters could potentially cause skin irritation, eye irritation, respiratory symptoms, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps.

The National Government also acknowledged the developing situation in a public statement issued June 19.

"The National Government is aware of the concerns being expressed through social media regarding the reports of water discoloration and fish mortality in Yap State," the statement said. It added that the concerns of affected communities are being taken seriously and that the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM) will continue coordinating with the Yap State Government and relevant partners as additional information

becomes available.

Additional information obtained by The Kaselehlie Press indicates that Yap State has not yet made a formal request for National Government assistance.

According to a senior DECCEM official familiar with the situation, the National Government generally provides operational assistance in support of state-led disaster response efforts after receiving a formal request from the affected state government. The official said DECCEM remains informed of developments as the situation continues to evolve.

The official also said reports have now been received indicating that water discoloration may also have been observed along portions of the southern shoreline of Yap's main island, locally referred to as Yap Proper. Those reports have not yet been incorporated into the State's published advisory.

The DECCEM official said the National Government has not received any definitive scientific determination regarding the cause of the event and emphasized that the investigation remains ongoing.

While scientists continue working to determine the cause, assistance already scheduled for Yap's outer islands may provide timely support for some affected communities.

According to the DECCEM official, the National Government had previously organized a shipment of food assistance to two of the affected outer islands in response to Typhoon Sinlaku before reports of fish mortality emerged. Although the shipment was unrelated to the current marine event, its arrival comes at a time when marine food resources have become uncertain in some communities and is expected to provide additional support while the situation is being assessed.

The Yap State Government said it will continue monitoring conditions and provide updates as more information becomes available.

For now, officials are urging residents to avoid discolored waters, refrain from harvesting or consuming seafood from affected areas, and promptly report any additional incidents of fish mortality or unusual water conditions as efforts continue to determine the cause of the event.

Nearly \$3800 in cash prizes awarded at annual Pohnpei LP Gas-Seven Stars fishing tournament



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By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 27, 2026

Pohnpei – Businesses associated with Pohnpei LP Gas and Seven Stars awarded \$3,725 in cash prizes for anglers whose efforts in today's tournament earned them top prizes.

The tournament, and annual event for the club was a big fish tournament with top prizes going to anglers who landed the heaviest single fish of any of the qualifying species and the biggest fish of each species that didn't win a bigger prize in the big fish category.

All of the biggest fish of the tournament were yellowfin tuna. Ryan Hawley was the big winner with a 62.4-pound yellow fin. That fish was worth \$1000 cash. Kenty Spencer had the second largest at 38.6 pounds for a purse of \$700.

Bernar Ifamilik aboard the same boat as Spencer caught a 34.8-pound yellowfin for the third prize of \$500. Acer Apis was the fourth prize winner of \$350 for his 30.4-pound yellowfin. Fifth prize went to Burden Eliam for a 21.8-pound fish winning him \$200.

Ifamilik caught another yellowfin of 19.2 pounds that earned him \$150 for the biggest of species prize. His was followed by the ubiquitous Dave Spencer with and 18.8-pound fish for \$100.

Only two wahoo were caught during the tournament, earning the two anglers \$100 and \$50 respectively. Mark Pangelinan had the biggest at 13.2 pounds. His was followed by the 12.4-pound fish caught by Rospein.

Skipjack winners also earned \$100 and \$50 respectively for the biggest of that species. Limwan Helgenberger took both of those prizes with skippies



of 12 and 11.4 pounds.

The top lady anglers were awarded \$250 and \$150 for the first and second places. A lady angler identified in club results records only as Kalani had the first prize with a yellowfin of 15.4 pounds. Stencia Hawley had a 13.8-pound fish for second place.

Trayden Gabriel was the top junior angler for a prize of \$25 for his 13.4-pound yellowfin.

Several barracudas were also caught during the tournament but were not



among the qualifying species.

As mentioned, the tournament was again funded by businesses associated with Pohnpei LP Gas and Seven Stars. Those businesses are Pohnpei Metal Works, Seven Stars Store, Riverside Restaurant, Lefty's Bar, Seven Stars Inn, Hot Plate, and Snowii's ice cream.

The next fishing tournament will be sponsored by FSMPC-Vital in July. Watch for announcements of that tournament.

Federated States of Micronesia citizens enlist in the United States Armed Forces

United States Embassy to the FSM

June 18, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei — The U.S. Embassy hosted an enlistment ceremony on June 17, 2026, welcoming 17 citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) into the United States Armed Forces.

The ceremony honored the commitment and patriotism of FSM citizens who chose to serve in the U.S. military, reflecting the enduring partnership between the United States and the FSM under the Compact of Free Association (COFA). FSM citizens have a long and distinguished history of U.S. military

service; under the COFA, eligible FSM citizens have the unique opportunity to enlist in the U.S. military, a testament to the deep and historic ties between the two nations.

His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina of the Federated States of Micronesia attended the event, underscoring the significance of this occasion to both nations. “You have made a choice to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, a choice made possible through the special and unique relationship that we have with the United States — a relationship that provide opportunities for you

and, others who will come after you, the chance to contribute to the global efforts to preserve peace, security, and stability,” said FSM President Simina to the enlistees during his speech.

“The relationship between Micronesia and the United States is one built on trust, partnership, and shared sacrifice. Under the Compact of Free Association, your nation and ours have stood side by side. We are especially proud to recognize that the FSM serves in the U.S. military at higher rates than any state in the United States,” said Chargé

d’Affaires Vincent Mut-Tracy in his remarks.

The 17 new enlistees will serve in the United States Army.



President Simina honors new enlistees at 2026 Enlistment Ceremony

FSM Information Services

June 19, 2026

Pohnpei – President Wesley W. Simina congratulated 17 young men and women from across the Federated States of Micronesia during an Enlistment Ceremony held at the U.S. Embassy Compound on June 17, 2026, recognizing their decision to serve in the United States Armed Forces and commending their commitment to service, leadership, and personal sacrifice.

In his remarks, President Simina highlighted the significance of the enlistees’ decision to serve, and the opportunities made possible through

the enduring partnership between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States.

“This is your day. You have made a choice to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, a choice made possible through the special and unique relationship that we have with the United States,” President Simina said.

Through the Compact of Free Association, FSM citizens are eligible to serve in the United States Armed Forces, continuing a longstanding tradition of military service between the two nations. President Simina noted that military

service offers opportunities for personal and professional growth while contributing to global peace, security, and stability.

President Simina also expressed appreciation to the families and friends whose support has helped guide the enlistees to this milestone. He reminded the recruits that, wherever they may be stationed, they will serve not only in uniform but also as ambassadors of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Chargé d’Affaires Vincent Mut-Tracy also recognized the longstanding contributions of FSM citizens serving in the U.S. military and the close ties

between the two countries.

“Under the Compact of Free Association, your nation and ours have stood side by side. We are especially proud to recognize that the FSM serves in the U.S. military at higher rates than any state in the United States,” said Mut-Tracy.

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia congratulates all enlistees and wishes them success, safety, and strength as they begin their military service and carry forward the proud tradition of FSM citizens serving with distinction in the United States Armed Forces.



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Secretary Cantero pays courtesy visit to U.S. Embassy

FSM Information Services

June 25, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei – On June 15, 2026, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ricky F. Cantero, paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of the United States of America as part of his introductory engagements following his swearing-in as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Secretary Cantero was received by U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson and Deputy Chief of Mission Vincent Mut-Tracy, together with Acting Defense Attaché Nicholas Grader, Political Officer Patrick Reidy, and Consular Officer Amy Gradin.

The meeting began with Ambassador Johnson congratulating Secretary Cantero on his appointment and wishing him success in his new role. Secretary Cantero expressed his appreciation for the Ambassador's kind

remarks and that he looks forward to working closely with the U.S. Embassy team.

Discussions covered a range of topics of mutual interest, including recovery efforts following Typhoon Sinlaku, economic diplomacy, U.S. Department of War projects in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the wider region, outcomes of recent bilateral engagements such as the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) and the Joint Committee Meeting (JCM), as well as recent international events of mutual interest. The meeting also included discussion of the FSM Diplomatic Softball Tournament, for which Ambassador Johnson expressed the U.S. Embassy's interest in serving as a co-host later this year.

Both Secretary Cantero and

Ambassador Johnson underscored the importance of the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the United States, noting its unique and enduring nature, and reaffirmed their continued support for the partnership. The meeting concluded with Secretary Cantero presenting Ambassador Johnson with a commemorative gift to mark the occasion and as a farewell gesture as she prepares to complete her tenure as U.S. Ambassador to the FSM.



Secretary of Foreign Affairs receives Governor of Kosrae State

FSM Information Services

June 25, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei —The Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Ricky F. Cantero, received the Governor of Kosrae State, the Honorable Tulensa Palik, for a courtesy call on June 24, 2026, at the Department of Foreign Affairs. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss areas of cooperation and shared development priorities between the National Government and the State of Kosrae.

During the meeting, Governor Palik expressed appreciation for the Department of Foreign Affairs' continued support to Kosrae State, particularly in facilitating international training opportunities and strengthening engagement with development partners. Governor Palik highlighted the importance of strengthening capacity-building initiatives for state personnel, including protocol and diplomatic training, to better equip the state for its growing engagement with foreign partners and investors.

Secretary Cantero welcomed Governor

Palik and reaffirmed the Department's commitment to working closely with all state governments to advance their interest and ensure their priorities are effectively represented in both national and international engagements. He commended Kosrae State's proactive engagement with development partners and its commitment to pursuing opportunities that contribute to the state's economic and social development.

The discussions also covered key development priorities, including fisheries development, infrastructure improvement projects, port expansion, and continued cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners. Secretary Cantero assured Governor Palik that the Department stands ready to assist Kosrae State in securing support for its development priorities and facilitating engagement with foreign governments and international organizations.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of maintaining close coordination and open communication between the National Government and the state governments to maximize opportunities for development assistance and investment.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the strong partnership between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Kosrae, as well as a shared commitment to advancing the interests and the well-being of the people of Kosrae and the Federated States of Micronesia.



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FSM STRENGTHENS BIOSECURITY AS 25 PROFESSIONALS EARN INVASIVE SPECIES CERTIFICATION

In a major boost to the nation's ecological and agricultural defenses, 25 environmental and border security professionals from across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) have officially graduated from a rigorous Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Certification Training program.

The graduation ceremony marks the completion of an intensive 60-hour instructional course and a comprehensive certification examination designed to equip frontline workers with the skills needed to combat biological threats.

The new cohort of certified professionals provides a balanced defensive network across all four FSM states, ensuring local expertise on every major island:

- Pohnpei: 8 certified participants
- Chuuk: 6 certified participants
- Yap: 6 certified participants
- Kosrae: 5 certified participants

The graduates represent a strategic cross-section of FSM's environmental and border infrastructure, drawing from vital government agencies and stakeholders in biosecurity, agriculture, natural resource management, environmental conservation, and border protection. Officials note that bringing these diverse groups together has successfully built a nationwide, interagency network capable of coordinated rapid responses.

"The program aims to build a sustainable network of certified professionals who will help safeguard the FSM's biodiversity, agriculture, natural resources, and communities from the impacts of invasive alien species."

To ensure the training program remains sustainable, five faculty staff members from the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) first underwent the identical 60-hour training and certification process themselves.



The new cohort of certified professionals from Pohnpei.

Now acting as certified trainers, these faculty members took the lead in delivering the program to the 25 graduates across the states—a move that successfully internalizes national capacity-building.

Through the leadership of the Center for Entrepreneurship, the entire non-credit certification course has been developed and uploaded to the College's Moodle learning platform. This includes lecture recordings, presentations, learning materials, practice activities, assessments, and the training manual. As a result, future participants from government agencies, communities, and partner organizations will be able to access high-quality training and continue building their knowledge and skills. This creates a sustainable national training resource that will strengthen FSM's invasive species management capacity for years to come.

This educational initiative is the result of a multi-agency partnership between the COM-FSM Cooperative Research and Extension, the GEF-6 FSM Invasive Alien Species Project, and the FSM Department of Resources and Development, alongside various national and state partners. Together, these organizations are working to secure Micronesia's unique ecosystems from the devastating economic and environmental impacts of foreign pests and plants.

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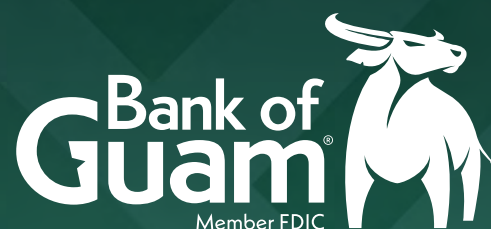
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Yap R&D Conference focuses on economic growth, workforce and marine conservation

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 29, 2026

Colonia, Yap — More than 100 government officials, business leaders, students, development partners and community members have gathered this week as the Yap State Government's Department of Resources and Development (R&D) hosts its inaugural four-day R&D Conference, bringing together agencies and stakeholders to discuss the state's economic future, workforce development, agriculture and marine resource management.

The conference, which began June 23 at the Early Childhood Education Conference Room in Dinay, is intended to provide a forum for dialogue between government agencies, development partners, the private sector and the public as Yap works to strengthen its economy while protecting its natural resources.

Opening the conference, Governor Francis Itimai encouraged participants to remain actively engaged throughout the event and to provide feedback that could help shape the future direction of the Department of Resources and Development. R&D Director Bernard Gorong thanked conference sponsors and emphasized the value of creating opportunities for open discussion among those involved in Yap's development efforts.

The conference's first day centered on commerce and industry.

Representatives from FSMPC-Vital presented updates on fuel supply, fuel pricing and future plans, while the Division of Commerce and Industry led discussions on Yap's business climate. Panelists from the Small Business Development Center, FSM Development Bank and Bank of Guam examined challenges facing local businesses and discussed opportunities for entrepreneurship, investment and economic expansion.

Presentations also covered business startups, corporate formation, licensing requirements and investment opportunities, providing information for existing and prospective business owners.

The second day shifted attention to agriculture, forestry and workforce development.

Speaking to participants, Gorong stressed that both natural resources and human resources will play central roles in Yap's long-term development.

The Division of Agriculture and Forestry outlined its current programs, achievements and future priorities while leading discussions on food security and agricultural development. Officials also invited conference participants to attend live breadfruit preparation demonstrations scheduled as part of the conference's outreach activities.

During the afternoon session, the Workforce Enrichment Division presented its employment services, scholarship programs, workforce training initiatives and traditional skills programs.

Discussions addressed one of Yap's continuing challenges—retaining skilled workers and encouraging students and professionals to return home after completing their education or training abroad. Participants examined ways to strengthen employment opportunities while building a workforce capable of

supporting the state's future development. The division also announced a job fair to coincide with the conference's public outreach activities.

Marine resource management became the focus of the conference's third day.

The Division of Marine Resources Management presented what officials described as the "Yap Model," a community-based approach to balancing economic development with conservation of the state's marine resources.

According to the presentation, the model emphasizes close collaboration with local resource owners to identify threats to marine ecosystems, monitor reef conditions, implement community-based management programs and develop policy recommendations based on scientific data.

Officials said the division continues to prioritize maintaining centralized marine data, supporting community management plans and expanding public education while confronting growing pressures from climate change and changing economic conditions. They cited ongoing reef monitoring and fisheries data collection among the

division's continuing accomplishments.

The division also described its work with local organizations, including Yap EPA, the College of Micronesia Cooperative Research Extension, the Yap Locally Managed Area Network and Island Resources Conservancy of Wa'ab, along with regional and international organizations such as the Micronesia Conservation Trust, OneReef Micronesia, The Nature Conservancy and the Waitt Institute through the Blue Prosperity Micronesia program.

Officials acknowledged continuing challenges, including limited technical capacity, the need for more frequent performance evaluations and overlapping jurisdiction among government agencies involved in marine resource management.

The conference is scheduled to conclude following its fourth day of activities, with organizers saying they hope the discussions will help strengthen collaboration among government agencies, development partners, businesses and communities as Yap continues to pursue sustainable economic development while preserving its cultural and natural resources.



The AF Project Management Unit visits Eauripik on water security issues mission

Yap Department of Youth and Social Affairs

June 17, 2026

Yap FSM - Yesterday, June 16th, the AF Project Management Unit shared highlights on its visit to Eauripik in the week of June 01 to deliver construction materials for new water tanks and inspect progress of the water security activities.

The project was pleased to spotlight the incredible women of Eauripik who played a leading role in the stevedoring of materials from the boat to the island. Their proactive engagement alongside the men in the construction of the new water tanks demonstrated their strong commitment to community development and highlighted the vital role women play at the forefront of building community

resilience.

The mission to Eauripik also provided an opportunity to distribute WASH activity supplies to the island community, conduct awareness activities on the impacts of climate change, and map the locations of the new water tanks using GPS technology.

The mission team was pleased with the progress of the water tank and well renovation works on the island. These improvements have enabled the Eauripik community to restore and reuse two concrete water tanks that had remained unused for a long period due to structural cracks and an incomplete roofing system. The rehabilitation of these facilities will help improve access to safe and reliable water for the community.



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Joseph-Movick administration swears in Mr. Ieske K. Iehsi to the Pohnpei Health Care Plan Board

Pohnpei Public Information

June 24, 2026

Pohnpei— Governor Stevenson A. Joseph officially swore in Mr. Ieske K. Iehsi to the Board of the Pohnpei Health Care Plan during a ceremony held at the Executive Chambers. Mr. Iehsi's appointment completes the Board, enabling it to begin executing its roles and responsibilities.

Following the administration of the oath, Governor Joseph congratulated Mr. Iehsi and outlined his administration's vision for the future of healthcare delivery in Pohnpei. The Governor specifically emphasized expanding options for local citizens who work in traditional and independent sectors, such as fishermen and farmers, ensuring they have robust health insurance coverage. Governor Joseph noted that these enhancements are designed to complement and support

the existing healthcare framework under MiCare, strengthening the overall safety net for the people of Pohnpei.

Mr. Iehsi joins the board as a highly distinguished public servant and leader. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University. He brings decades of administrative expertise derived from extensive service at both the FSM National Government and the Pohnpei State Government.

In his remarks, Mr. Iehsi expressed his gratitude to the leadership for the opportunity to serve.

"Healthcare is not merely a service—it is a lifeline for families, foundation for strong communities, and a reflection of our collective values," Mr. Iehsi said, echoing Governor Joseph's vision of ensuring all people have access to reliable, sustainable, and compassionate care. He thanked Governor Joseph for the honor and the trust placed in him to execute this critical oversight role.

The Pohnpei Health Care Plan Board plays a vital role in directing policy and expanding access to medical services for all residents of Pohnpei State.



Parties to the Nauru Agreement

PNA Office - P.O. Box 3992
Majuro, Marshall Islands (MH) 96960
Phone: (692) 625-7626/7627

PNAO VDS MANAGER

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO) is seeking to hire a Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) Manager to manage the VDS department to ensure effective and efficient administration of the VDS for purse seine and longline fisheries.

Responsibilities include:

- Administration of VDS and pooling arrangements.
- Administration of FIMS contract service agreement and developments on PNA FIMS.
- Manage PNA Inmarsat C DNID, Argos, Thorium, and Faria Activation.
- Manage user access in FIMS and respond to any FIMS/ VDS queries.
- Implementation of fees for bunkers and carriers.
- Training and support for Parties.
- Liaise with Parties and fishing industry and resolve MTU issues when MTUs are not reporting.
- Responsible for managing VDS in accordance with any approved PNAO Business Plan.
- Report to Parties, at the Annual and Special PNA meetings, on VDS PS & LL administrative matters.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the CEO.

Preferred Qualifications

- Minimum of five (5) years of work experience in a related field.
- A degree level qualification from a recognized tertiary education institution in fisheries, natural resource economics, or other degree relevant to the role and the requirements of the position.
- Ability to adapt to change, and continuous business environment.
- Strong understanding of, and familiarity with, the VDS and the PNA FIMS etc. databases, and their management and high-level administration.
- A working knowledge of the tuna fishing industry.
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills in English, including ability to read and write at professional level.
- Team Builder and Player.

The successful applicant will be offered a three-year contract with the possibility of extension.

The position is open to all citizens of the PNA Member Countries.

Apply Now

To apply, please submit a letter of interest to the CEO, a brief CV and 2 reference letters to jobs@pnatuna.com. All applications must be submitted electronically. Manual applications will not be accepted.

Closing date to submit applications is 24 July 2026.

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Typhoon Sinlaku relief operations expand as Chuuk communities recover

International Organization for Migration

June 30, 2026

Chuuk, FSM — The International Organization for Migration (IOM), as part of the United States Government’s support to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), is expanding emergency relief operations in Chuuk after Typhoon Sinlaku displaced thousands and disrupted lives and livelihoods across the state in April.

To date, more than 11,100 people have received emergency relief supplies, including essential household items such as kitchen sets and shelter materials, to



help families recover from the storm.

Tarpaulins and shelter kits are enabling affected households to make repairs to leaking roofs, damaged windows and other critical parts of their homes, ensuring safer and healthier living environments.

IOM is also addressing urgent water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs by providing WASH kits, jerry cans, hygiene kits and a reverse osmosis unit to support access to safe water and essential hygiene supplies.

Relief distributions have been completed across eleven targeted communities in Chuuk Lagoon, under the leadership of the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM) and the Chuuk State Disaster Coordinating Office (DCO), and in close coordination with mayors and community leaders. The targeted communities include Parem, Piis Paneu, Fanapanges,

Tol, Onei, Tonoas, Udot and Fefen, along with the Weno communities of Iras, Meseiset and Sapuk. These locations were prioritized based on assessed needs, particularly among households with destroyed or partially damaged homes.

In addition, IOM supported repairs to the Chuuk State Hospital roof – strengthening the hospital’s capacity to resume operations.

In June, IOM received new funding from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which will enable it to reach an additional 1,500 households with shelter assistance and relief items, including shelter repair kits, solar lights, mosquito nets, blankets, buckets, and jerry cans.

“Thanks to the generous support of the United States Government and CERF, and the strong partnership of the FSM Government, we are able to extend assistance to more families as they recover from Typhoon Sinlaku,” said Ewa Naqvi, IOM Chief of Mission for the North Pacific. “We continue to work alongside DECCEM and DCO, partners and community leaders to reach the most affected communities with timely, needs-based assistance.”



Ambassador Kagomiya pay courtesy call on DECCEM Secretary Florian Yatilman

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

June 25, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei - On June 12, Ambassador Kagomiya paid a courtesy call on T.H. Florian Yatilman, Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM) who assumed office on May 20.

Secretary Yatilman, whose father was the former Secretary of the DECCEM, expressed gratitude for Japan’s assistances to the FSM. Ambassador and the Secretary exchanged views on responses to the damage in Chuuk State caused by the Typhoon Sinlaku in April.

Ambassador sincerely congratulated the Secretary on his appointment and explained Japan's assistance for oil spills from sunken ships in Chuuk State and the water supply projects currently being implemented in Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei States in cooperation with IOM and UNICEF, and stated that Japan would continue to support the FSM.



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Pacific youth leaders call for more mental health services as region tackles drug crisis

Pacific Security College

22 June 2026

Canberra – Pacific youth advocates have called for increased mental health services to support young people, particularly those affected by the region's drug crisis.

Speaking at the Pacific Peace and Security Dialogue, a panel of young Pacific thinkers discussed pressing security issues facing the region, including the drug and HIV crisis and climate change, and their impact on youth.

'Looking ahead: today's youth on a secure future for the Blue Pacific' featured Pacific Youth Council Chairperson Mori-m Mahoney Mori; President of the University of the South Pacific Students' Association 'Isitolo Siale; Abdul Shaheed from Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC); Environmental and Cultural Consultant Vehia Wheeler; and Pacific Conference of Churches Youth Minister Coordinator Olivia Baro.

The panellists raised the importance of addressing the social and economic drivers behind rising drug use in the region, as well as the need for proactive steps to strengthen mental health support and expand opportunities for young people.

Mr Shaheed highlighted the initial "knee-jerk" reactions of governments as the crisis emerged in the region.

"The perspective with which we developed programs was that this is a maritime issue, there's a border security issue, that this is a criminal activity. We did not look at the social factors that led us to this stage," he said.

"For me, the drug crisis is not necessarily only a maritime or border issue, it's a human security issue. It is about the fact that there are not enough economic opportunities for young people who then get very quickly ensnared with the bad actors...coming into the region, using the region as transit points, propagating the use of drugs.

"Until we look at this as a social problem, not as a political or legal problem only, and not criminalising everything that goes wrong with our social issues, we will not protect human beings; we will not protect Pacific Islanders."

Ms Wheeler agreed the region should strive for more economic equality in terms of jobs and social services.

"I'm wondering if...these stark inequalities are pushing people to drug use. I think we should work towards a holistic means of creating a better society, more access to basic needs, basic services, and see how our societies can improve from there."

Several of the panellists discussed the urgent need for more mental health support and facilities, including as a preventative measure.

Mr Siale, from Tonga, said governments must prioritise mental health.

"We tend to focus more on the actual crime itself, instead of focusing on the root causes," Mr Siale said.



"Why are people turning to drugs? It encompasses a lot of social issues [and] inequality in our communities, in our countries.

"Our communities are not supportive of opportunities for people to be open and to be able to share their struggles mentally and emotionally. It is very important for our government to put more emphasis on creating safe spaces for people, not just young people, people of all ages."

Mr Mori raised the high rates of suicide among young people in the Federated States of Micronesia, and the cycle between mental health, drug use and domestic violence. He said it was a common story across the region, but that some countries weren't equipped to provide the necessary support. "There are some countries that just don't have mental health facilities," he said.

He said the increasing detection of drug smuggling vessels caught in the region suggested the crisis was only going to increase.

"We must recognise that we have no regional facility to respond to this issue. There's none, but there's hope. Because we are very capable of coming together and establishing institutions and facilities to protect our tuna. I think we can do the same for our people."

Mrs Baro said the Pacific Conference of Churches had partnered with other stakeholders, including the Ministry of Policing and civil society organisations, on a national pastoral response in Fiji, and was focused on the human and social aspect of the crisis.

She said collaboration was essential.

"The whole of society, whole of government and whole of community must address this together. We must paddle the waka together," she said.

"If people are doing different paddling, we'll go forward, we'll go backwards, sideways, and then we overturn, which is something that we wouldn't want, given the risk that we are facing."

The panel also explored other security issues facing the region including climate change and the Pacific's nuclear

legacy.

Mr Shaheed, Engagement and Outreach Lead at PISFCC, which spearheaded the campaign to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on states' obligations regarding climate change, said the resolution at the United Nations General Assembly in May was a step to operationalising the ICJ's ruling.

He said it gave the region another tool in its efforts to drive global climate action, but also urged the Pacific countries to remain accountable for their obligations.

"We no longer go into COP begging for sympathy and empathy. We go into COP telling countries 'you have a responsibility', but that responsibility... does not only lie on states who are causing this harm. It lies on us in the region also. How many of us in the region have codified a right to a healthy environment for our people?"

"We need to lead the world as frontline communities, but we also need to show that leadership back home."

Ms Wheeler said Pacific youth should strive to maintain their agency and voice in addressing environmental and security issues in the region.

"In French Polynesia, we experienced 193 nuclear explosions from 1966 to 1996 and today we continue to face ongoing environmental impacts, ongoing health impacts," she said.

"We have to make sure that we have our own agency when we're talking about security, and that we're building up our own security before privileging others and outside security."

Municipal Council Association Summit strengthens state-municipal partnerships

Pohnpei Public Information

June 19, 2026

SALADAK, U, Pohnpei — The Municipal Council Association Summit convened at the Saladak Gymnasium from June 18 to June 19, 2026, bringing together leadership from all municipal government councils, state officials, and community stakeholders. The two-day forum served as a key platform for municipal leaders to receive comprehensive operational updates,

engage directly with leadership, and discuss cooperative solutions for the state's development.

Governor Stevenson A. Joseph, accompanied by Chief of Staff Patterson K. Shed, joined the first day of the summit to emphasize the administration's commitment to grassroots governance. The opening of the event was highly honored by the presence of traditional leaders, including Wasalapalap Sahngoro, the Nahnmwarki of U, the IsoNahnken of

U, and Likend Pahu. National legislative leaders, including FSM Congress Speaker Esmond Moses, Senator Jermy Mudong, and Senator Nelbert Perez, also participated to support the inter-governmental dialogue.

The summit featured essential briefings from the private sector and public enterprises. The forum also provided an open venue for municipal representatives to raise questions regarding public services.

A separate press release will be shared on the event, as well as video recording of the event by V6AH which will be shared when available.



Secretary Cantero receives United Nations Resident Coordinator Mamadou Kane

FSM Information Services

June 25, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — On June 3, 2026, the Honorable Ricky F. Cantero, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), received a courtesy call from Mr. Mamadou Kane, United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC) for the United Nations Multi-Country Office (UN MCO). The meeting marked Secretary Cantero's first official engagement with Resident Coordinator Kane in his capacity as Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to reflect on the strong

partnership between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Multi-Country Office, founded on mutual respect, shared values, and longstanding cooperation.

Secretary Cantero expressed his appreciation for Mr. Kane's leadership and service, recognizing his important role in strengthening collaboration between the Department and the United Nations Multi-Country Office.

Discussions focused on key areas of cooperation, including the One UN House Initiative, the security assessment of the UN MCO building, the Country Implementation Plan (CIP), and the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Dialogues.

Mr. Kane expressed his appreciation for the Department of Foreign Affairs' continued partnership and cooperation and reaffirmed the UN MCO's commitment to working closely with the Department on the key issues discussed. He also reiterated the UN MCO's continued support for the FSM and its commitment to strengthening multilateral engagement in the years ahead.

The courtesy call concluded with a cordial exchange of best wishes, as both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintaining a strong multilateral partnership and advancing continued collaboration on issues of mutual interest.



Secretary Cantero receives courtesy call from Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

FSM Information Services

June 23, 2026

PALIKIR, Pohnpei — On June 3, 2026, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky F. Cantero recently received a courtesy call from His Excellency Wu Wei, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Federated States of Micronesia and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting marked one of Secretary Cantero's first official diplomatic engagements following his appointment as Secretary of Foreign Affairs and

provided an opportunity to reaffirm the longstanding friendship and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Federated States of Micronesia and the People's Republic of China.

Secretary Cantero expressed appreciation for China's continued friendship and support to the FSM and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining constructive and mutually beneficial relations with all its international partners.

Discussions focused on ongoing cooperation between the FSM and China, including engagement on regional issues

and opportunities to further strengthen collaboration in support of the FSM's national development priorities. Both sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and underscored the importance of dialogue, mutual respect, and cooperation in advancing shared economic and social objectives.

The meeting concluded in a cordial and positive atmosphere, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations and promoting practical cooperation for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia and the People's Republic of China.

The Federated States of Micronesia values its relationship with the People's Republic of China and all its international partners and looks forward to continued engagement and cooperation in areas of mutual interest and shared development priorities.



Governor Stevenson A. Joseph receives Kosrae Governor Tulensa Palik in courtesy visit

Pohnpei Public Information

June 22, 2026

Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph received a courtesy visit from the Governor of Kosrae, the Honorable Tulensa Palik, at the Governor's Office. The meeting was cordial and underscored the strong level of cooperation and collaboration among the state executives within the Federation.

A primary focus of the discussion was the upcoming 28th Micronesia Islands

Forum (MIF), which Pohnpei State will host next month from July 15 to July 17, 2026. The Governors reviewed regional preparations and discussed the forum as a potential opportunity for FSM leadership to coordinate sideline meetings, noting that such engagements require careful planning and mutual agreement on the agenda to effectively address shared national priorities.

The leaders also addressed critical environmental concerns, specifically focusing on forecasted El Niño conditions

and the proactive measures required to mitigate impact on local communities. They expressed openness to collaborating on their respective El Niño responses and planning, emphasizing the importance of state-to-state cooperation and exchange.

Additional discussions covered various areas of mutual interest, strengthening the commitment of both states to work collaboratively on regional security, economic development, and resource management.



Governor Joseph expressed his appreciation to Governor Palik for the visit and for his commitment to participate in the 28th MIF, noting that regular executive dialogue remains essential to advancing the collective interests of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Heine urges Pacific leaders to turn financial inclusion into action



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 28, 2026

Majuro, Marshall Islands—President Hilda C. Heine has challenged Pacific finance ministers to move beyond discussion and deliver practical solutions to financial exclusion, saying new technology now offers the region its best opportunity in decades to overcome geographic isolation and reconnect Pacific economies to the global financial system.

Opening the 2026 Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) in Majuro on June 23, Heine welcomed ministers, regional leaders and development partners from across the Blue Pacific, describing this year's theme, "Economic and Financial Inclusion in the Pacific," as one that reflects both the region's most persistent challenges and its greatest opportunities.

Speaking shortly after returning from the Berlin Climate Mobility Forum in Germany, Heine went directly from the airport to the International Conference Center, where she urged delegates to work together to build stronger, more resilient and more equitable Pacific economies.

"Our people depend on economies that are resilient, equitable, and capable of withstanding the shocks of an increasingly complex world," Heine said.

Much of her address focused on one of the Pacific's most enduring economic problems — the difficulty individuals,

businesses and governments face in accessing international banking services.

Like many Pacific Island nations, the Marshall Islands operates across vast distances with a small population spread among numerous islands and atolls. While larger economies often take reliable banking services for granted, Heine said many Pacific communities remain disconnected from the global financial system.

"A family on an outer atoll, a small enterprise on a distant island—they are not asking for charity," she said. "They are asking to be connected: to send and receive money reliably, like anyone else."

Heine traced many of today's challenges to changes in international banking following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. As governments strengthened anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulations, international banks increasingly viewed small Pacific markets as carrying high compliance costs with relatively little commercial return.

"The cost and risk of serving our markets began to outweigh the business we represented, and one by one, international banks withdrew," she said.

According to Heine, correspondent banking relationships across the Pacific declined by approximately 60 percent over a decade—roughly twice the global rate—with the smallest and most remote island nations suffering the greatest losses. The resulting loss

of banking connections has made it more difficult for Pacific residents and businesses to transfer money internationally and participate fully in the global economy.

Despite those challenges, Heine said recent technological advances have created opportunities that did not exist only a decade ago.

She pointed to the expansion of low-Earth-orbit satellite internet services, including Starlink, which now provide reliable internet access to many remote islands. At the same time, advances in digital payment systems have dramatically reduced the cost and time required to move money electronically.

"Financial inclusion is no longer a question of whether it is possible," she said. "It is a question of which paths we choose, and how quickly and carefully we walk them."

Heine also said international standards governing digital financial services have matured significantly, allowing even small island nations to develop modern payment systems while maintaining appropriate safeguards against financial crime.

The Marshall Islands has already begun exploring digital financial approaches built around those international standards, she said, although she left further discussion of those initiatives to Finance Minister David Paul, who was expected to present additional details during the ministers' meeting.

While highlighting her country's

efforts, Heine stressed that no Pacific nation can solve the region's financial challenges alone.

"Many of you are advancing other paths—in mobile money, in digital identity, in national payment systems and regional settlement," she said. "That is precisely why you are gathered here: to seek creative solutions for our regional economic and financial isolation."

She said the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting provides governments, financial regulators, commercial banks, development partners and the private sector with an opportunity to share experiences and coordinate solutions to common regional problems.

"The tyranny of distance, the retreat of the banks, the exclusion of our people—these challenges are shared by every nation represented here," Heine said. "And so the opportunity is shared as well."

She encouraged delegates to speak candidly about both successful initiatives and continuing obstacles, expressing hope they would leave Majuro more united in their efforts to improve economic and financial inclusion throughout the Pacific.

Concluding her address, Heine called for urgency.

"We cannot afford the luxury of delay," she said. "I challenge each of us to shift from intentions to immediate results required to protect and advance our people today."



Office of the President welcomes GEM High School students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands

FSM Information Services

June 25, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — The Office of the President was honored to welcome students and faculty from GEM High School in Ebeye, Republic of the Marshall Islands, during the school's third educational visit to the Federated States of Micronesia.

The delegation met with Officer-in-Charge, the Honorable Ricky F. Cantero, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and participated in an engaging question-and-answer session on the functions of the FSM National Government, the Nation's history, cultural diversity, and unique governance structure.

Chief of Staff Ms. Yolanda-Joab Mori also conveyed the Office's sympathy and solidarity with the people of

Ebeye following the recent fire, acknowledging the challenges faced by the community and wishing them strength in their recovery.

The visiting delegation expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn firsthand about the workings of government and the unique structure of the Federated States of Micronesia. The school's Principal Mr. Noble Ned, noted his admiration for the Nation's ability to maintain unity among four diverse states, each with its own government, culture, and traditions. "It takes great courage to work together and understand one another," he remarked.

The visit highlighted the importance of educational exchange, cultural understanding, and the close relationship between the FSM and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



FSM and US hold Joint Committee meeting in Guam

FSM Information Services

June 19, 2026

Nimitz Hill, Guam – The United States hosted a Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from May 27–28, 2026, at the Joint Task Force–Micronesia Headquarters in Guam. This two-day meeting brought together officials from both nations to discuss key issues of the bilateral defense and security partnership as specified under Title III of the Compact of Free Association (COFA).

The FSM delegation was led by H.E. Jackson Soram, FSM Ambassador to the United States, and T.H. Leonito Bacalando Jr., Secretary of the FSM Department of Justice. Also joining the FSM delegation were T.H. Arthy Nena, Lieutenant Governor of Kosrae, and other national and state officials. The U.S. delegation was led by Joint Task Force–Micronesia Commander Rear Admiral Joshua Lasky and U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Jennifer Johnson.

Topics of interest included law enforcement training, economic security, maritime domain awareness, and cybersecurity, among others. The positive and productive atmosphere encouraged networking and collaboration, allowing leaders to strengthen personal relationships and foster a better understanding of shared goals. The meeting also featured discussions on recent and upcoming U.S. military projects and engagements in the FSM, including the recently completed Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Pacific Angel medical exercise and the upcoming Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) Pacific Partnership Humanitarian exercise.

One focus of the meeting was the Compact of Free Association Title III Deep Dive Session, which focused on efforts to expedite services provided by the DOW to the FSM through the JCM process.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with the FSM set to host the next Joint Committee Meeting in November of this year.



President Simina meets with Kosrae Governor on KAMORALE Expo 2026 preparations and State Development Priorities

FSM Information Services

June 26, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina met with Kosrae Governor, the Honorable Tulensa W. Palik, and members of the Kosrae delegation to discuss preparations for KAMORALE Expo 2026 and review key development priorities for the State of Kosrae.

The Governor raised the need for transportation support to facilitate the shipment of presentation materials, event props, and other equipment, as well as the travel of participants for

the Expo. In response, President Simina affirmed that the Office of the President will work closely with the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure (TC&I) to coordinate appropriate transportation arrangements and keep the Kosrae State Government informed as planning progresses.

The Governor also briefed the President on the status of the Kosrae Hospital project and the Police Academy and provided updates on the state's food security efforts, including the expansion of livestock production and crop cultivation. The Kosrae



President Simina commended Kosrae's commitment to strengthening food security and building greater resilience through sustainable agricultural development.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong partnership between the National Government and the State of Kosrae and their shared commitment to advancing development priorities and improving the well-being of the people of Kosrae.

delegation expressed its appreciation to the Department of Resources and Development (R&D) for its continued collaboration in advancing these efforts.

President signs contract for East and West Pou Circular Road upgrade in Chuuk

FSM Information Services

June 17, 2026

PALIKIR, Pohnpei – His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), has signed the contract for the design and construction of the East and West Pou Circular Road Upgrade in Weno, Chuuk.

The project will be carried out under the World Bank-financed Strategic Climate-Oriented Road Enhancements

(SCORE) Project and will upgrade approximately 1.87 miles (3 kilometers) of roadway around Pou Bay.

The road improvements will provide safer and more reliable access for residents, businesses, schools, churches, healthcare facilities, and government offices. The project will address longstanding issues such as deteriorating road conditions, poor drainage, and flooding while strengthening infrastructure resilience to climate-related impacts, including heavy rainfall and erosion.

The SCORE Project supports the FSM's efforts to strengthen critical transportation networks and improve resilience to climate-related challenges.

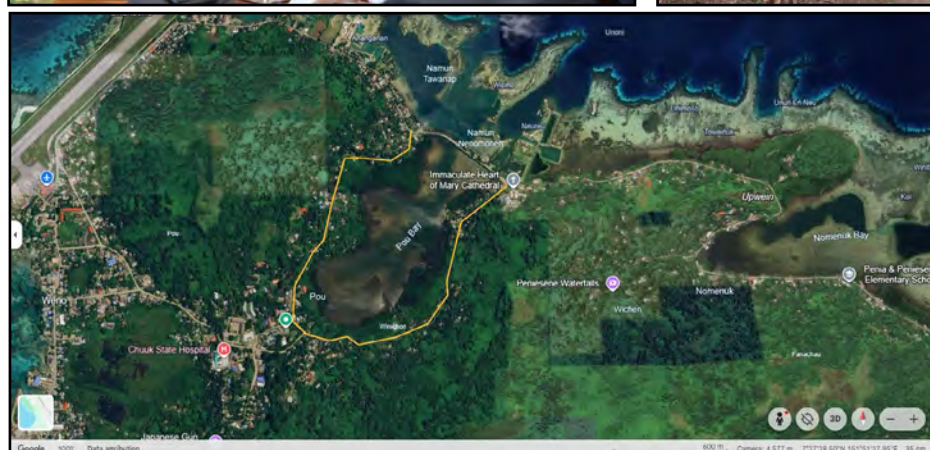
“Reliable roads are essential to the daily lives of our people. Better roads mean safer travel, stronger connections between communities, and more reliable access to schools, healthcare, businesses, and government services. I am pleased to see this important project moving forward for the people of Chuuk,” said President Simina.

Work is scheduled to begin on July 31, 2026. Following a five-month design phase, major construction activities are expected to start by the end of December 2026. The project is expected to reach substantial completion by January 30, 2028.

President Simina expressed appreciation to the Chuuk State Government, community leaders, landowners, technical teams, and the World Bank for their partnership in advancing the project.

The National Government, through its Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure (TC&I), will continue working closely with its partners throughout project implementation and will provide updates as work progresses.

The East and West Pou Circular Road Upgrade reflects the continued collaboration among national and state governments, local communities, and development partners to improve connectivity and resilience across the FSM.



Under the open sky: Japan meets Pohnpei on the pitch

Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club

June 29, 2026

Pohnpei - There are afternoons in Pohnpei that remind you exactly why sport exists. Saturday, June 28th, was one of them. As the golden light of late afternoon fell across the pitch, the whistle blew at 5:00 PM and what followed was an hour and a half of laughter, skill, improbable goals, even more improbable misses, and the kind of warmth that no trophy could capture.

The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) is deeply honored to extend its most heartfelt gratitude to the Embassy of Japan and to JICA for joining us on the field. Mr. Hiro Tanaka, Mr. Shumpei Tomita, and their colleagues — whose names we shamefully admit escaped our notebook in the excitement of the day, but certainly not our hearts — gave up their Saturday evening to play with our children, and in doing so gave every boy and girl present a memory they will carry for a very long time.

Summer? What summer?

It is summer, and anyone who has spent a June afternoon in Pohnpei knows that the heat and humidity are not gentle suggestions to stay indoors — they are outright commands. Our children ignored them entirely. From all corners of Kolonia, from neighborhoods near and far, kids came running, cleats in hand, faces bright with anticipation. The pitch filled with energy that no thermometer could measure.

That, in itself, says everything about what PSAKC has built here: a community where children — regardless of school, neighborhood, or background — know that when there is a match, you show up. And show up they did.

First match: Wingers, Wizards, and a fearless captain

The first match was a masterclass in the unpredictability that makes grassroots football so endearing. From the first few minutes, two names stood out on our side: Jun and Tryden. Running the flanks with the kind of confidence usually reserved for players twice their age, they gave the Japanese

delegation a very early indication that PSAKC's training sessions are not decorative. These two tore down the wings like express trains, and the crowd — children, parents, supporters — roared with delight every time they touched the ball.

All of this unfolded under the calm, brave direction of Christina, whose coaching during the first match was a credit to everything PSAKC stands for. Composed, encouraging, and tactically sharp, Christina guided her team with authority and grace. We could not be prouder.

Second match: a goal for the ages (and a miss for the ages)

If the first match belonged to the wings, the second belonged to the penalty area — and to Mr. Shumpei Tomita in particular. In a move that silenced the crowd for just a half-second before erupting it into cheers, Mr. Tomita unleashed a truly remarkable goal that had even his own teammates staring in mild disbelief. Japan's recent advances on the world football stage, it turns out, are not baseless. When the quality is there, it shows — even on a warm Saturday evening on a diplomatic schedule.

And then, in the grand tradition of the beautiful game, came the miss. We will not name the perpetrator — dignity must be protected — but we will say this: the ball, the goal, and the player were briefly in the same universe and yet failed to connect in a way that defied all laws of geometry. The

resulting laughter was long, genuine, and entirely shared between Japanese guests and Pohnpeian children alike. There is something deeply human about laughing together at football's cruelties, and in that moment, every cultural difference evaporated.

With gratitude, and with hope to do it again

The atmosphere throughout the afternoon was unlike anything that can be planned or scheduled. It was built from small things: a funny touch here, an accidental nutmeg there, a goalkeeper's theatrical dive, a child's absolutely outraged expression at a referee's call. These are the moments that knit people together, and on June 28th, they knit us to our Japanese friends in a way that no formal event could replicate.

To Mr. Hiro Tanaka, Mr. Shumpei Tomita, and every member of the Embassy of Japan and JICA who laced up their boots and stepped onto that pitch: thank you. Thank you for your time, your generosity, your good humor, and your sporting spirit. The children of PSAKC will remember this afternoon. Some of them, we are convinced, went home and practiced Mr. Tomita's shot in their backyards.

We very much hope this is not the last time. The pitch will be ready. The children will be ready. And if Jun and Tryden have anything to say about it, the flanks will certainly be ready.

See you on the pitch!



FSM and OFCF reaffirm partnership for sustainable fisheries development

FSM Information Services

June 25, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — On June 10, 2026, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky F. Cantero received a courtesy call from Mr. Kazuhisa Uchida, Resident Representative, and Mr. Goro Uesugi, Marine Engineering Expert, of the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the ongoing partnership between the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and OFCF in supporting fisheries development and strengthening coastal communities throughout the country.

During the meeting, Mr. Uchida briefed Secretary Cantero on OFCF's recent survey activities conducted across all four FSM states. The surveys reviewed projects implemented during the 2025–2026 period and identified ongoing and prospective activities for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. The reports highlighted OFCF's continued commitment to supporting fisheries development, capacity building, and community-based initiatives throughout the FSM.

A key topic of discussion was a proposed fisheries development project involving the installation of two ice-making machines on Moch Island and Fanapanges Island in Chuuk State. The project is intended to improve fish preservation, strengthen local fisheries operations, and support economic opportunities in remote island communities.

Secretary Cantero noted that the proposed project aligns closely with the FSM Government's commitment to improving services and economic opportunities for remote and underserved populations. Discussions are continuing among OFCF, NORMA, and the Department of Justice regarding a Memorandum of Understanding that would facilitate implementation of the project.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong and productive partnership between the FSM and OFCF and underscored their shared commitment to promoting sustainable fisheries development and enhancing the livelihoods of communities across the nation.

Yap Division of Youth Services hosts a youth beach volleyball tournament

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

June 22, 2026

Yap FSM - On Saturday, June 20, the Division of Youth Services hosted a Youth Beach Volleyball Tournament at Pine Bar and Grill from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. As part of the summer season activities, the event brought together young athletes for a day of friendly competition, teamwork, recreation, and environmental stewardship in a fun beachside setting.

The event began with the registration of participants, followed by a brief

introduction and safety briefing conducted by Youth Awareness Officer Slatellynna L. Leglishyaro. During the introduction, participants were informed of the tournament rules, safety guidelines, and the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Following the briefing, Ms. Leglishyaro led the youth participants on a lagoon cleanup activity, where they collected nonbiodegradable debris from the surrounding area. This environmental initiative encouraged participants to take an active role in protecting and preserving their local environment while promoting

community responsibility.

After returning to Pine Bar and Grill, the Youth Beach Volleyball Tournament officially began, with more than four teams competing throughout the day. Participants demonstrated enthusiasm, teamwork, and athletic skill as they engaged in a series of friendly and competitive matches.

At the end of the tournament, the Division of Youth Services presented awards to the winning teams, the best lineman, and the

MVP, with new volleyballs, hats, and water bottles.



Secretary Cantero receives Australian Ambassador Jenny Grant for courtesy meeting

FSM Information Services

June 25, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Ricky F. Cantero, received Her Excellency Jenny Grant, Ambassador of Australia to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), for a courtesy meeting at the Department of Foreign Affairs on June 4, 2026.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review key areas of bilateral cooperation and discuss preparations for upcoming engagements between the Federated States of Micronesia and Australia.

Among the matters discussed was the outcome of the recent high-level visit to Australia by His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina and then-Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky F. Cantero to Australia. Ambassador Grant reaffirmed Australia's commitment to maintaining close coordination with FSM Ambassador to Australia, Her Excellency Jane Chigiyal, to advance preparations for future high-level exchanges and cooperation initiatives between the two countries.

Secretary Cantero and Ambassador Grant also exchanged views on plans to commemorate the forthcoming 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Federated States of Micronesia and Australia on July 6, 2027. Both sides expressed a shared commitment to ensuring that this milestone is commemorated in a meaningful and

memorable manner. Discussions included possible commemorative activities and opportunities to highlight the longstanding partnership between the two nations.

The meeting also addressed preparations for the upcoming FSM–Australia Biennial Development Cooperation Meeting, scheduled for November 30, 2026. Ambassador Grant emphasized the importance of maintaining a focused and practical agenda, including cooperation on maritime-related matters. Secretary Cantero underscored the importance of ensuring that the full breadth of the bilateral relationship is reflected in the discussions. Both sides agreed that the format and agenda of future meetings should remain flexible and responsive to the evolving priorities of both governments.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong and longstanding partnership between the Federated States of Micronesia and Australia. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation and maintaining close collaboration on matters of mutual interest at the bilateral, regional, and international levels.



Secretary Cantero receives courtesy call from Ambassador of Japan

FSM Information Services

June 25, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — On June 17, 2026, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ricky F. Cantero received a courtesy call from His Excellency Nobuo Kagomiya, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss a range of bilateral and regional matters of mutual interest and reaffirm the longstanding friendship and strong partnership between the FSM and Japan.

During the discussion, both sides exchanged views on upcoming regional engagements, including the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in Palau and Japan's hosting of the 11th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 11) in 2027. They also discussed President Wesley W. Simina's anticipated official working visit to Japan in October 2026 and underscored the importance of continued dialogue and collaboration in advancing shared priorities and strengthening bilateral relations.

The meeting highlighted ongoing cooperation in areas such as climate resilience, disaster preparedness, water security, maritime affairs, infrastructure development, transportation, and capacity building. Secretary Cantero welcomed Japan's continued support, including efforts undertaken in collaboration with international

partners to strengthen preparedness for climate-related challenges, including anticipated El Niño conditions, and to enhance community resilience throughout the FSM. In this regard, Secretary Cantero expressed appreciation for Japan's timely assistance to Chuuk State following the impact of Typhoon Sinlaku.

The two sides also discussed transportation and connectivity, including plans for a new passenger-cargo vessel for the FSM, and noted the progress being made on the Pohnpei Port Expansion Project.

Secretary Cantero expressed appreciation for Japan's longstanding support and valuable contributions to the FSM's development efforts and reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to maintaining close cooperation and further strengthening the friendship and Kizuna between the two countries.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to continued partnership and cooperation in support of shared regional and development priorities.



Yap students return from annual children exchange program in Japan

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

June 25, 2026

Yap FSM - Early Wednesday at 2:00 a.m., members of the Division of Youth Services, together with several members of the Youth Planning Committee, welcomed home the delegation representing Yap State at the Annual Children Exchange Program in Japan.

The group of 12 students departed Yap on June 14 and returned early Wednesday morning, June 24, accompanied by two chaperones from the Department of Youth and Civic Affairs.

The youth exchange initiative, organized under the National Institution for Youth Education, is designed to promote personal development, self-reliance, and cross-cultural understanding among young participants. Through structured activities, community engagement, and experiential learning opportunities, the program encourages students to broaden their perspectives while developing valuable life skills.

This year, twelve students were selected to participate in the program, where they had the opportunity to interact with peers, exchange ideas, and learn practical skills in a supportive environment that emphasizes cooperation, mutual respect, and active listening.

The Division of Youth Services congratulates the participants on successfully completing the program and welcomes them back to Yap, where they can share their experiences and apply the knowledge and skills gained during their time in Japan.

The Delegation that represented Yap State in the Annual Children Exchange Program in Japan includes:

Sylveston Enruwayol En
Evronica Gurwan Fnouay
Oliver Ian Tamagpong
Josh Tyrone Gisog
Meagan Aria Gillyan
Jenna Marie Ilyew Lubweg
Trystal-Lynn Maryen Pong
Maria Magdelin Ljaatman
Tyrenncekayra Luchuen Falan
Alantee Brannon Garadweynam
Alexius John Ezekiel Giltamngin
Andrew Moon Teteth
Dessy G. Gargog (Chaperone)
Everlino Yolomai (Chaperone)

Yap Students Return from Annual Children Exchange Program in Japan



Youth gain valuable health and hygiene skills through summer camp

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

June 19, 2026

Yap FSM - Earlier this week, the Behavioral Health and Wellness Program successfully conducted a one-week Youth Summer Camp at the Milew Community Center, bringing together youth participants between the ages of 6 and 13.

The camp aimed to educate participants on important topics, including alcohol abuse, mental health, and peer pressure. Through engaging activities, interactive discussions, and age-appropriate learning sessions, participants gained a better understanding of the risks and impacts associated with these issues. They also learned practical strategies for making healthy choices, building resilience, and avoiding negative influences.

In addition to developing personal awareness, participants were encouraged to share what they learned with their peers, family members, and community members, helping to promote positive behaviors and increase awareness beyond the camp setting.

During the camp, representatives from UNICEF and the WASH

Program provided an educational presentation explaining the meaning of "WASH" (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and highlighting key practices that help individuals stay clean and healthy. Following the presentation, representatives invited volunteers to demonstrate proper handwashing techniques, giving participants a fun and interactive opportunity to practice healthy hygiene habits.

The Youth Summer Camp started last year with over 20 participants and provided a valuable learning experience for participants, equipping them with knowledge and skills that support healthy decision-making, personal well-being, and positive community engagement.

Youth Gain Valuable Health and Hygiene Skills Through Summer Camp



Division of Youth Services launches summer youth sports outreach program

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

June 18, 2026

Yap FSM - The Division of Youth Services successfully kicked off its Summer Youth Sports Outreach Program on Tuesday, June 16, at the St. Mary's School Gymnasium. The first day of activities was held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and welcomed

youth participants eager to engage in sports and recreational activities.

The program featured volleyball and soccer, providing participants with opportunities to develop athletic skills, build teamwork, and enjoy healthy physical activity in a positive and supportive environment. Throughout the morning, youth actively participated in both

sports, demonstrating enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and a willingness to learn.

The Summer Youth Sports Outreach Program is designed to promote active lifestyles, positive social interaction, and personal development among young people during the summer season. Through organized sports and recreational activities, the Division

of Youth Services aims to encourage healthy habits while fostering a sense of community and engagement among participants.

Additional outreach sessions and activities are planned throughout the summer as part of the Division's continued commitment to supporting youth development and well-being.

FSM, Tuvalu back UN call for stronger global action on methane emissions

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 28, 2026

Pacific — The Federated States of Micronesia and Tuvalu have joined the United Nations Secretary-General's call for stronger international action to reduce methane emissions, arguing that immediate cuts are essential to slowing climate change and protecting vulnerable island nations.

In coordinated statements released this week, the two Pacific nations endorsed UN Secretary-General António Guterres' appeal for accelerated global action on methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases contributing to near-term global warming. The statements also call for stronger international mechanisms to ensure governments and industry follow through on emissions reduction commitments.

FSM Secretary of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management Florian J. Yatilman said methane reductions represent one of the fastest ways to slow global warming and protect countries already experiencing severe climate impacts.

"The Federated States of Micronesia applauds the UN Secretary-General's urgent call to cut methane emissions," Yatilman said.

He noted that the FSM was among the first countries to sign the Global Methane Pledge and said the nation would continue advocating for ambitious methane reductions in international climate negotiations.

Yatilman pointed to the recent marine crisis affecting parts of Yap State as an example of the climate impacts already confronting Pacific island nations.

"This month, the first signs of El Niño devastated communities in our archipelago," he said. "The waters heated and turned black, and tens of thousands of the reef fish

we depend on for food suffocated and washed up on our shores."

Scientists have cautioned that warming ocean temperatures can contribute to harmful marine events, although investigations into the exact cause of the recent fish kills in Yap remain ongoing.

"For small island states at the forefront of climate impacts, methane action is not a secondary solution," Yatilman said. "It is a primary, immediate answer to the crisis we are experiencing firsthand."

The FSM statement argues that while technologies and practices already exist to significantly reduce methane emissions, voluntary international efforts have not produced sufficient results.

Instead, the government expressed support for a binding international agreement aimed at rapidly reducing methane emissions, particularly those associated with fossil fuel production and the waste of natural gas.

"It is unconscionable to delay action on methane when millions are in danger but the solutions are in our hands," the statement concludes.

Tuvalu likewise endorsed the Secretary-General's initiative, describing methane reduction as one of the most effective ways to limit near-term warming while the global transition away from fossil fuels continues.

Tuvalu Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Maina Vakafua Talia said every fraction of a degree of additional warming threatens low-lying island nations.

"For Tuvalu, as one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world, every fraction of a degree of warming threatens our land, our lives, and our future," Talia said.

He called methane reduction "the best near-term prevention

of temperature rise," while acknowledging that it remains underutilized despite its potential benefits.

Tuvalu also announced that it intends to place greater emphasis on methane reduction when it serves as co-chair of the Global Conference Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in 2027 and invited countries participating in the Santa Marta Process to actively engage on the issue.

Both governments called for stronger international implementation mechanisms that would help countries build technical capacity, deploy emissions-reduction technologies, attract investment and ensure greater accountability for commitments made under international climate

agreements.

The statements also reference last year's Pacific Islands Forum communiqué, in which Pacific leaders collectively called for greater action to reduce methane emissions as part of efforts to limit near-term warming, and the recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which identified methane as one of the three principal greenhouse gases requiring urgent action.

Methane has a much shorter atmospheric lifetime than carbon dioxide but traps significantly more heat over the short term, making emissions reductions one of the fastest available tools for slowing the pace of global warming while longer-term efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions continue.



Parties to the Nauru Agreement

PNA Office - P.O. Box 3992
Majuro, Marshall Islands (MH) 96960
Phone: (692) 625-7626/7627

PNAO POLICY OFFICER

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO) is seeking to hire a Policy Officer to provide assistance to the Policy Manager with prompt and effective support in the area of Policy.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing day to day strategic and technical advice on the policy issues to the Parties, CEO, PNAO staff, customers, and other stakeholders.
- Contributing to policy discussions with analytical and innovative thinking that takes into account all available information on the resource, the economics of the Parties fisheries, and best practice fishery management.
- Preparing and presenting, as required, papers for meetings of the VDS Committee, Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, PNA, Palau Arrangement, FSMA, and US Treaty.
- Supporting Parties on policy matters at all meetings.
- Providing support to the PNAO CEO and other staff on technical and policy issues, in accordance with the PNAO Business Plan.
- Liaising with industry and other stakeholders on relevant technical and policy issues.
- Provide technical support and training for Party approved activities.
- With respect to the broad scope of the role, undertake special projects and activities as directed by the Parties from time to time.

Preferred Qualifications

- Relevant Diploma or Fisheries Degree.
- Good analytical skills and ability to organize own time effectively to follow work schedules.
- Commitment and personal accountability.
- Appropriate and relevant professional and technical expertise, including staying abreast of professional changes and development.
- Effective communications and relationship management.
- Ability to transfer information/knowledge to a non-technical audience.
- Recognizes and responds appropriately to the ideas, interests and concerns of others.
- Respects individual and cultural differences.
- Utilizes diversity to foster teamwork, and is able to adapt to change.

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CBR Project Steering Committee meets in Majuro to advance regional financial connectivity

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

June 22, 2026

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands - The 2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Pacific Strengthening Correspondent Banking Relationships (CBR) Project convened today in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, on the margins of the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting.

The meeting brought together Project Steering Committee members and key stakeholders to review progress, discuss implementation priorities, and consider key decisions related to project delivery.

Discussions focused on major areas of work under the CBR Project, including the Pacific Payments Mechanism Feasibility Study, the CBR Service Provider initiative, technical assistance on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism, payment systems support, the CBR Resilience Index, data collection, and Project Management Unit activities.

Correspondent banking relationships are essential to the Pacific's economic connectivity, enabling international payments, trade, remittances, tourism transactions, and access to the global financial system. As Pacific economies continue to face a complex global environment, strengthening and sustaining access to correspondent banking services remains a critical regional priority.

The project contributes to the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, particularly

its vision for a resilient and integrated Pacific region that is connected to global markets, supported by secure and inclusive financial systems, and able to advance sustainable economic development for Pacific peoples.

"Correspondent banking is more than a financial sector issue; it is a regional development priority. By working together to strengthen access to international banking services, Pacific countries are advancing the 2050 Strategy's vision of a connected, resilient, and prosperous Blue Pacific Continent. This project demonstrates the power of collective action in addressing shared challenges and securing our region's economic future," said the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Divavesi Waqa.

The Pacific Strengthening CBR Project is supported by the World Bank and implemented by the Forum Secretariat in partnership with participating Pacific Island countries. The project aims to help safeguard access to the global financial system and support stronger financial resilience across the Blue Pacific.

The outcomes of the Steering Committee meeting will help guide the next phase of implementation as the project continues to support practical regional solutions to strengthen correspondent banking relationships across the Pacific.

Eight Forum Island countries are members of the Strengthening CBR project; Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands.



Nearly 40,000 coral juveniles produced at PICRC to support reef restoration

PICRC

June 19, 2026

Palau - Rising ocean temperatures, the intensification of typhoons, and other climate change-related impacts are placing coral reefs under increasing stress, leading to large-scale bleaching events and coral mortality worldwide.

Palau's reefs represent a particular case, as they have generally fared better against these global threats than reefs in many other parts of the world. Nevertheless, some have experienced damage from which recovery without assistance remains difficult. This, combined with the need to strengthen reef resilience and improve response capacity to future threats, continues to motivate the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) to further implement and enhance its coral research and restoration efforts.

As part of these initiatives, PICRC researchers recently facilitated the natural spawning of the branching coral species *Acropora tenuis* at the Center, resulting in the production of nearly 40,000 coral juveniles that will be used to support the restoration of degraded reefs.

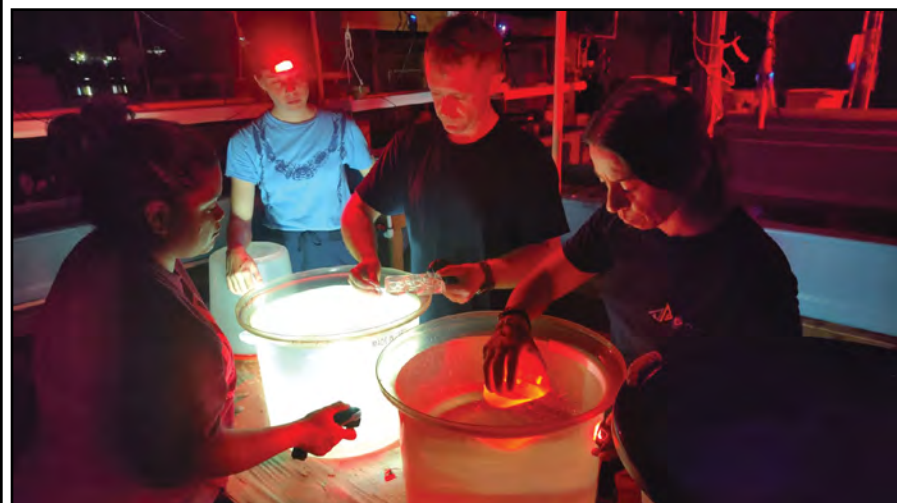
To achieve this, the team monitored 37 coral colonies at PICRC in early April around the full moon period, when spawning—the release of coral gametes, or reproductive cells—was expected to occur. Once spawning took place, researchers worked to facilitate high fertilization rates among the coral colonies and create suitable conditions for embryo development. The embryos

later transformed into coral larvae, which eventually settled onto substrate devices placed by the researchers, where the larvae will remain permanently attached and continue to grow. These devices were specifically designed by the Coralassist Lab and SECORE International to enhance coral settlement, survival, and growth.

The coral juveniles will continue developing at PICRC until they reach a suitable size to be transferred to current restoration sites. There, they will grow under the monitoring and care of the Center's researchers, contributing to the recovery of damaged reefs.

This marks the second time the PICRC team has successfully raised corals at its facilities. The first took place last year, when researchers produced and outplanted 1,600 substrate devices containing up to 12,000 coral juveniles at restoration sites in Koror. This initiative adds to PICRC's ongoing coral restoration projects, which also include the installation of reef stars—structures designed to hold coral fragments and be placed on the seafloor to become part of the reef—and the selection of coral colonies with the potential of being more tolerant to higher temperatures for use in climate-smart restoration efforts.

PICRC extends its sincere gratitude to its partners from Coralassist Lab, whose training delivered last year with funding support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) was instrumental in enabling the successful spawning and development of coral juveniles this year.



Forum Secretariat calls for deeper Pacific economic integration amid global uncertainty

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 22, 2026

Majuro, Marshall Islands — Pacific Island countries must move beyond incremental economic reforms and pursue deeper regional integration if they are to withstand mounting global shocks, Pacific Islands Forum Deputy Secretary General Desna Solofa told senior officials gathered for the 2026 Forum Economic Officials Meeting.

Opening the officials' meeting ahead of the annual Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, Solofa said recent global events have once again demonstrated the vulnerability of Pacific economies to developments far beyond the region's control.

Although many Pacific economies have recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, she said escalating geopolitical tensions, fuel supply disruptions and rising energy prices have slowed that recovery while increasing inflationary pressures and straining government finances.

"Business as usual will not deliver the resilience, growth and sustainability our region now demands," Solofa said.

She pointed to the conflict involving Iran and resulting disruptions to global energy markets as the latest example of how external events can quickly

affect Pacific economies despite the region having no direct involvement in the conflict.

According to the World Bank's May 2026 Pacific Economic Update, regional economic growth is now projected at 2.8 percent this year, down from an earlier forecast of 3.2 percent. Rising fuel and shipping costs, supply chain disruptions and continued global uncertainty have increased pressure on government budgets while driving up the cost of living throughout the Pacific.

Although easing geopolitical tensions could provide some relief over time, Solofa cautioned that many of the higher costs have already become embedded in government spending, business operations and consumer prices.

She noted that tourism has performed better than initially expected in several Pacific economies, providing an important source of economic support. However, she said the overall outlook remains uncertain and will continue to depend heavily on global oil prices and broader international economic conditions.

Rather than viewing these challenges as isolated events, Solofa said they expose longstanding structural weaknesses shared by many Pacific



Island countries.

She argued that the region's response must therefore extend beyond short-term measures such as responding to fuel price increases and instead focus on strengthening long-term economic resilience.

Central to that approach, she said, is the Pacific Islands Forum's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which provides the region's long-term vision for economic security and prosperity.

Supporting that vision is the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED), endorsed by Forum Economic Ministers in 2025 and welcomed by Pacific leaders. Solofa described the roadmap as translating the broader regional strategy into practical economic policies designed to strengthen cooperation among Forum member countries.

She said recent global disruptions have demonstrated the limits of countries acting independently.

"Regional economic integration is now not just important; it is essential," she said, arguing that coordinated regional policies can produce stronger and more resilient economic outcomes than fragmented national responses.

The agenda for this week's Forum Economic Ministers Meeting has been designed to demonstrate how the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development can move from policy to implementation through coordinated regional action, she said.

Solofa also noted that the annual Forum Economic Ministers Meeting serves as an opportunity for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to report on progress made over the past year, identify emerging economic challenges and present its priorities and work program for the year ahead.

The 2026 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, hosted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands in Majuro, brings together finance ministers, senior officials and development partners from across the Pacific to discuss regional economic cooperation, resilience and financial inclusion.

2026 commemoration of the signing of the UN Charter

by Kenneth Welles
Permanent Mission of the FSM to the United Nations

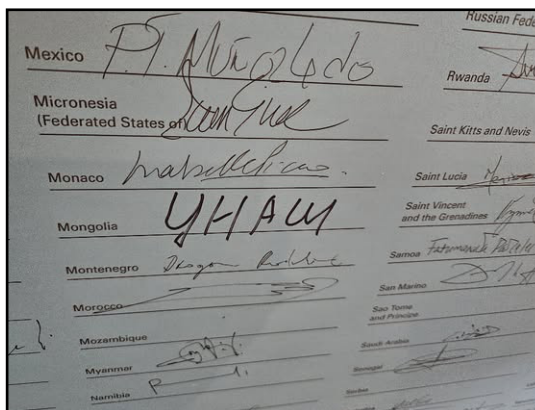
June 24, 2026

New York - On June 23, 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters, the Federated States of Micronesia marked the 2026 commemoration of the United Nations Charter Signing by participating in a special symbolic initiative reaffirming commitment to multilateralism and the Charter principles.

Micronesia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Jeem Lippwe, joined with other Member States' Permanent

Representatives in the symbolic signing of the UN80 Charter, a renewed expression of collective dedication to the purposes and principles that have guided the United Nations since 1945. For Micronesia, its signing underscores the nation's continued support for the sovereign equality of all States, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and the promotion of sustainable development and human rights.

Micronesia reaffirms that the United Nations remains indispensable in addressing today's global challenges and reiterates its commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation for a more peaceful, just, and sustainable future.



FSM urges greater recognition for Small Island States in global humanitarian response

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 18, 2026

New York — The Federated States of Micronesia has called on the international community to ensure that small island developing states receive greater attention in global humanitarian planning, warning that climate-driven disasters affecting remote Pacific nations often go largely unnoticed despite their devastating impact on vulnerable communities.

Speaking before the UNICEF Executive Board's 2026 Annual Session on June 16, FSM Permanent Representative Jeem Lippwe thanked UNICEF for its Annual Report on Humanitarian Action while stressing that humanitarian response for Micronesia is not merely a policy discussion but an everyday reality for its people.

"Our children stand on the front lines of a climate emergency they did not create," Lippwe said, noting that disasters affecting small island developing states, particularly in the North Pacific, seldom receive significant international attention even when they cause widespread damage.

The FSM representative pointed to the response following Typhoon Sinlaku, which struck Micronesia in April 2026, bringing destructive winds, flooding, and extensive damage to schools, health facilities, and water systems.

Lippwe praised the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the coordinated response of the UN Country Team, including UNICEF's Multi-Country Office in Micronesia. According to the statement, UNICEF rapidly assessed damage and delivered emergency supplies shortly after the storm, ensuring that affected children and families received assistance when it was most urgently needed.

He said the response demonstrated the importance of maintaining a permanent UNICEF presence in the region that understands local conditions, has established relationships

with communities, and can mobilize quickly during emergencies.

"For small island States, this speed is not simply helpful—it is lifesaving," Lippwe said.

The FSM also endorsed priorities identified in UNICEF's annual report, including predictable humanitarian financing, stronger disaster preparedness, and child-centered emergency response systems. At the same time, Micronesia urged the organization and its partners to ensure that remote island nations are fully represented in global humanitarian planning and reporting.

"Our vulnerabilities may be less visible, but they are no less severe," Lippwe said.

Looking ahead, the FSM called for continued investment in early warning systems, resilient education and health services, and community-based disaster preparedness tailored to the unique geographic challenges facing Pacific island countries. Lippwe also encouraged closer cooperation between humanitarian agencies and national governments to strengthen long-term resilience alongside emergency response efforts.

The statement concluded with Micronesia expressing appreciation for UNICEF's continued partnership and commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of children regardless of the size or remoteness of the communities in which they live.

The intervention was delivered during the UNICEF Executive Board's Annual Session under the agenda item reviewing the agency's 2026 Annual Report on Humanitarian Action.



Pacific finance ministers urged to pursue more inclusive growth amid global economic pressures

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 23, 2026

MAJURO, Marshall Islands — Pacific leaders must ensure that economic policies benefit all members of society as the region continues to face rising living costs, global instability, and increasing vulnerability to external shocks, Republic of the Marshall Islands Minister of Finance, Banking and Postal Services David Paul said Tuesday in opening the 2026 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting.

Addressing finance ministers, senior officials, development partners and observers gathered in Majuro, Paul said this year's meeting focuses on "Economic and Financial Inclusion in the Pacific," expanding on last year's emphasis on resilience and sustainability.

He said Pacific Island countries continue to face mounting pressure from higher costs for energy, transportation, food and fuel, exposing the region's dependence on imported goods and global markets.

"The increase in the cost of living experienced at the present time tests the resilience of our communities and people," Paul said, noting that lower-income households, persons with disabilities and those with limited social protection have been especially affected.

He said the meeting's theme recognizes that economic resilience must be accompanied by policies that are inclusive and centered on improving the lives of Pacific people.

Paul noted that the Marshall Islands shares many of the structural challenges common among Pacific nations, including geographic isolation, small domestic markets, narrow economic bases and heavy reliance on imports and external financial assistance.

Those vulnerabilities, he said, were intensified by conflict in the Middle East, which drove sharp increases in global fuel and commodity prices. In response, the Marshall Islands declared a 90-day state of emergency in March after fuel costs surged.

Government measures implemented during the emergency were intended to help cushion households, maintain essential public services and manage fiscal pressures, Paul said.

He also acknowledged support from development partners, particularly the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, for helping the Marshall Islands strengthen its economic resilience during the crisis.

Financial inclusion formed a central part of Paul's address.

Recognizing that the Marshall Islands' widely dispersed islands create significant barriers to traditional banking services, Paul said the government has introduced the Lomalo digital payment application as part of its efforts to improve financial access. The country's digital wallet system was scheduled to be demonstrated during the ministers' meeting as an example of how technology can expand financial services throughout remote island communities.

Paul said discussions over the two-day meeting are organized around the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development and its strategic priorities, with delegates examining opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation, economic integration and coordinated policy development.

The agenda also includes discussions with representatives from the private sector and civil society to identify ways governments and stakeholders can work together to strengthen economic and financial inclusion across the Pacific.

Paul said the region already possesses a framework for collective action through existing regional agreements and institutions. The challenge now, he said, is improving coordination and identifying additional measures that can strengthen regional economic integration while helping Pacific economies withstand future shocks.

Despite the significant challenges facing the region, Paul expressed confidence that Pacific governments could continue making progress by working together.

"As stewards of our economies, we have a responsibility to guide and direct our countries to navigate and mitigate the challenges we face," he said. "With our collective wisdom, expertise, experience, and God's blessing, we can weather the storm together and continue to enhance our economic cooperation and integration."

The 2026 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting is being hosted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands in Majuro and brings together finance ministers and senior economic officials from countries across the Pacific region to discuss shared economic priorities and regional cooperation.



Decarbonization necessary for a sustainable future, Pacific experts warn

Pacific Security College

Canberra - Energy experts from across the Pacific have warned the transition to renewable energy must learn from the past, speaking at a panel during the Pacific Peace and Security Dialogue.

The current fuel crisis has shown the critical importance of fast tracking the energy transition, the panellists said. But they urged policymakers to heed the lessons of the past, including the importance of community leadership.

The Regional cooperation for the energy transition panel included Pacific Community's Deputy Director of the Georesources and Energy Programme, Ngedikes Olai Uludong; Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa's Manager of the Environment and Renewable Energy Division, Toleafoa Annie Tuisuga; Pacific Community's Coordinator of the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulator Alliance, Antony Garae; and Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport Scientific and Technical Adviser, Dr Peter Nuttall.

Ms Tuisuga pointed to the uneven effects of rising fuel prices in Samoa and the importance of responding to the short-term crisis without undermining the region's longer term climate ambitions.

"The fuel crisis doesn't hit everyone the same. It's obviously felt hardest in the low socio-economic households. It's felt hardest in our rural areas and our outer areas," she said.

"For our regional response, it's crucial for us to think beyond emergency fuel supply logistics – important as that is – and also look at accelerating the kind of locally-led renewable alternatives that reduce our underlying dependency [on fuel]."

Dr Nuttall said he didn't know whether to "laugh or cry about this current crisis", noting that the region experienced similar fuel shocks previously, in the 1980s and then in 2008.

"Here we are in another oil crisis, and everyone is surprised. But the reality was that this was always going to happen, and we are totally unprepared for something that we should be so prepared for."

Dr Nuttall advocated for a prompt shift to low carbon shipping, noting that if there had been a regional focus on

renewable energy 15 years ago, many countries would not be experiencing the transportation crisis they are presently. He described decarbonising shipping as "the most important economic decision this region makes going into the future."

"It just requires prioritisation, the local willingness, and the access to the finance," he said.

"We're the most import-dependent region in the world. As long as we're going to rely on those imports and not change the way we operate our most essential transport modality, nothing else is going to change.

"The only way we get a global transition is when it is cheaper to have alternatives to fossil oil – that means the price of world shipping has to go up. The era of cheap fuel is over, so we need to learn really fast from this and react to it."

Ms Uludong, the first woman to head the energy portfolio at SPC, said the region needed a plan for tackling the fuel crisis in the short, medium and long term.

"What a regional response could look like is in the immediate to address the coordinated fuel access for critical services. In the medium term, it's important to look at regional information sharing ... everyone wants solutions and to make informed decisions, but without data, you don't have available information to make those decisions.

"In the long term, what that could look like is looking at the reduction of being so dependent on fossil fuels and looking at alternative sources of energy – that includes renewables, that includes electrification."

Ms Tuisuga observed that implementing renewable energy solutions is not always straightforward.

"EVs are being identified as an option for a greener transport sector, but we're also mindful of bringing in so many when you're just connecting or charging them to the grid, and your grid is mostly diesel," she said.

Ms Uludong pointed to other opportunities for changing how the Pacific uses energy, citing the Blue Concrete Initiative, an effort to transition away from the expensive importing of cement to low carbon concrete.

Bonn Climate Conference: Civil Society calls for tripling of adaptation finance

Climate and Health Alliance

June 17, 2026

Bonn, Germany - Civil society organizations have called for a dramatic increase to public, grant-based adaptation finance during a press conference held during the annual Bonn climate conference (SB 64).

"Clearly, governments must agree to triple public, grant-based adaptation finance to at least USD 120 billion by 2035", said Jess Beagley, Policy Lead at the Global Climate and Health Alliance. "Without adaptation finance, lifesaving action to build resilience in the health sector and in health determining sectors, such as water and sanitation, disaster planning, and food systems, will be impossible - risking malnutrition, waterborne disease, exposure to extreme weather, and lack of access to health services at the very moments they are most needed."

"The communities we work with are not experiencing climate change as an environmental issue — they are experiencing it as a health crisis that moves through every dimension of their lives", said Niona Nakuya Kasekende, Programs Manager at Regenerate Africa. "The evidence is not the problem. We have documented it, published it, and brought it into these rooms. What vulnerable communities need now is finance — public, grant-based, gender-responsive adaptation finance that reaches the sectors determining whether women and girls survive climate change: their food, their water, their homes, their roads, and the health facilities that cannot function without any of these. Tripling adaptation finance to USD 120 billion by 2035 is the floor, not the ceiling. And the quality of that finance matters as much as the quantity — because

more debt for the world's most climate-vulnerable countries is not adaptation. It is a different kind of crisis."

"Failing to provide adaptation finance is a denial of human rights, particularly to women, girls, and gender-diverse people, as the ever-escalating impacts of climate change affect their right to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights", said Tara Daniel, Associate Director of Policy, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). "In this first year of implementation of the Belém Gender Action Plan, which recognizes health, violence against women, and care as relevant issues, we call on Parties to resolve the inherent dissonance in promoting gender-responsive climate action yet not committing to provide adaptation finance, including to the perennially-underfunded Adaptation Fund. Upholding global mandates on health, human rights, and gender equality requires drastically scaling up climate finance in fulfillment of the New Collective Quantified Goal, as a necessary first step toward a world where climate chaos doesn't destroy the possibility for living a full and healthy life."

"There is no public health protection without adaptation finance," said Pooja Dave, Policy Coordinator at Climate Action Network. "Every delay in delivering adaptation finance means more preventable deaths from heat, more disease outbreaks after floods, and more communities left exposed to climate risks. "The adaptation finance gap is not measured only in dollars - it is measured in lives lost. If we are serious about protecting people, the commitment to triple adaptation finance must move from promise to delivery."

The fund also offers additional subsidies, depending on the needs of the relevant public institution, and strives to serve nearby communities.

"We try as much as possible to [electrify] households that reside within close proximity of the schools or health centres," Mr Garae added.

He noted that one easy way to manage energy usage is often overlooked.

"Promoting energy efficiency and conservation at home, even in offices, [can] reduce the demand for utilities to ramp up the generators," he said. "If we were to promote end-use efficiency, we reduce the demand."

"Long-term solutions could be built on from these small pilot projects that we have," she said. "In terms of how we then reduce our dependency on importing fuel, importing oil – how can we reduce that by finding solutions in different spaces, and learning from each of the islands?"

Mr Garae shared his experience of working as the Deputy Director of Vanuatu's National Green Energy Fund, which has delivered more than 300 small-scale energy access projects.

"It started off with supporting the education sector, the health sector, promoting microsystems or solar home systems to electrify the schools and health centres – especially in the remote islands," he said.