

Joseph-Movick administration back PUC during Nanpohn Mal plant visit; new generators to provide over 7 megawatts to island grid



Pohnpei Public Information

July 15, 2026

Nanpohnmal, Pohnpei — July 15, 2026 — Today, Pohnpei State Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lieutenant Governor Herolyn S. Movick conducted an on-site visit to the Nanpohn Mal power plant, delivering a strong message of solidarity, support, and appreciation to the management and hard-working staff of the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC).



Pohnpei has recently experienced higher-than-usual power outages, a challenge that PUC leadership has assured the Governor is being actively addressed. These temporary disruptions are due in large part, if not entirely, to the technical integration and installation process of the plant's new generators.

[Click here for continuation](#)



Pacific leaders criticize Chinese nuclear-capable missile test as 'reckless'

Stephen Dziedic and Tom Lowry
ABC News

July 7, 2026

Pacific - Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has labelled a ballistic missile test carried out by China destabilising and provocative, while the prime minister of the Solomon Islands has said it was "not the act of a friend".

The nuclear-capable missile that China test-fired from a submarine yesterday flew over multiple Pacific nations and appears to have hit waters close to Tuvalu's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

China had called the launch "routine", but both Australia and New Zealand sharply criticised the missile test.



[Click here for continuation](#)

James Marape says Pacific demands for peace need to be respected. (ABC News)

Pohnpei braces for prolonged El Niño as drought risk grows

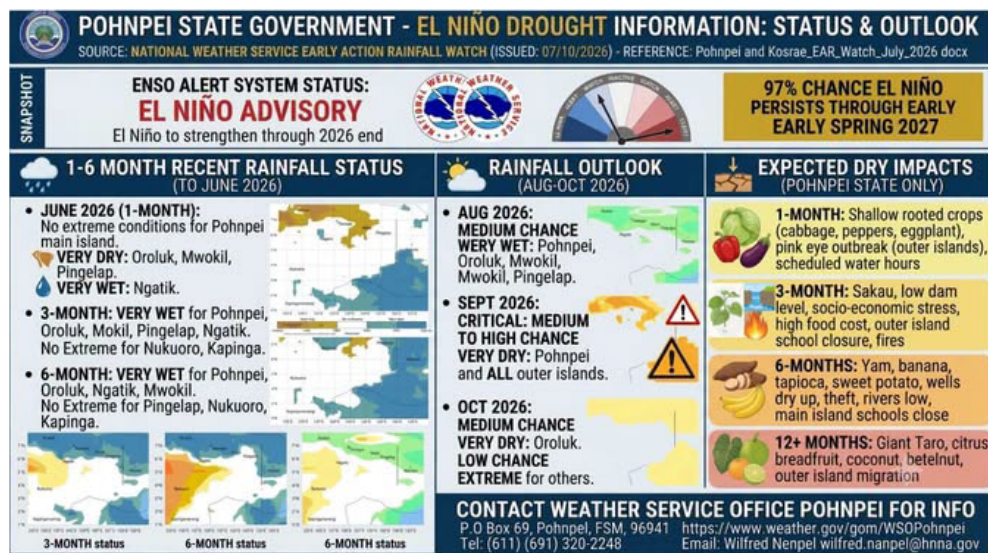
By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlle Press

July 13, 2026

POHNPEI—Pohnpei State officials are warning that dry conditions are expected to worsen over the coming months as El Niño continues across the Pacific, increasing the risk of water shortages, crop damage and broader social and economic impacts.

According to the Pohnpei State Government's latest El Niño drought status and outlook, issued using information from the U.S. National Weather Service's Early Action Rainfall Watch, there is a 97 percent chance that El Niño conditions will persist through early spring 2027. Forecasters also expect the event to strengthen through the end of 2026.

While recent rainfall has generally kept conditions from becoming severe on Pohnpei's main island, weather patterns have varied across the State. During June, Oroluk, Mwoakilloa and Pingelap



experienced very dry conditions, while Ngatik received unusually heavy rainfall. Over the past three and six months, most of Pohnpei State has remained wetter than normal, although no extreme conditions were reported for Nukuoro or Kapingamarangi.

Forecasters expect conditions to change beginning in August.

The outlook indicates a medium chance of very wet conditions for Pohnpei, Oroluk, Mwoakilloa and Pingelap during August. However, by September, conditions are expected to deteriorate significantly, with a medium to high probability of very dry weather affecting Pohnpei and all of the state's outer islands. The September forecast is identified as a critical period.

Conditions are expected to improve only slightly in October, when Oroluk may still experience wetter-than-normal weather, while the remainder of the state faces continued dry conditions.

Officials also outlined the potential impacts if dry weather persists.

Within the first month of drought, shallow-rooted vegetable crops such as cabbage, peppers and eggplant could be affected. Health officials also warn of increased cases of pink eye on the outer islands, while water conservation measures, including scheduled water service, may become necessary.

If dry conditions continue for three months, sakau production could decline, reservoir levels may fall and communities could face increased economic hardship as food prices rise. Outer island schools could also be forced to close because of water shortages.

After six months, the impacts are expected to become more severe. Yam, banana and tapioca crops could suffer significant losses, sweet potato production may decline, wells could dry up, rivers may fall to critically low levels and schools on the main island could also face closure.

A year of persistent drought could threaten longer-term crops including giant taro, citrus, breadfruit, coconuts and betelnut. The outlook also warns that prolonged drought could force migration from some outer islands if water and food supplies become insufficient.

The Pohnpei State Government is encouraging residents to closely monitor weather updates and begin conserving water before conditions worsen. The Weather Service Office in Pohnpei continues to monitor the evolving El Niño event and will issue updated forecasts as conditions change.


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phone: (691) 320-6547
email: Kpress@mail.fm
Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor
THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLLE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON:
July 29, 2026
Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:
Monday, July 27, 2026

New free digital sea level rise and flood mapping tool publicly available for Pohnpei and Yap

Victoria Keener, Colin Lee, and Kayla Yamamoto
East-West Center

July 3, 2026

Pohnpei - As the Federated States of Micronesia continues to face the “absolute frontlines” of the global climate crisis, a new scientific partnership is providing state leaders and residents with a clearer picture of the sea level rise challenges ahead. A team of scientists from the University of Hawai‘i and Arizona State University, supported by a NOAA Adaptation Sciences grant, has spent the past year developing two high-resolution online GIS Viewers designed to model the projected impacts of sea level rise in the most populated and vulnerable areas of Kolonia, Pohnpei and Colonia, Yap.

The project began last year with extensive surveying fieldwork using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and drones to capture precise elevation data relative to the local tide gauge. This information was processed and used to build an interactive digital map that allows users to visualize exactly which areas will be inundated as the ocean rises. The Viewers feature one-foot increments of sea level rise, providing a granular look at how coastal areas, public infrastructure,

private homes, and public spaces may change over time as sea level rises.

In late May and early June 2026, the project team met with government officials and community members in both Pohnpei and Yap to showcase the Viewers’ capabilities. A key feature of this tool is the integration of critical infrastructure layers provided by the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation and the Yap State Public Service Corporation. By overlaying transportation networks and water and energy distribution systems, the Viewers help identify which roads, power lines, and communities are most vulnerable to rising waters and storm-driven flooding.

This tool is particularly helpful for Pohnpei, where Governor Stevenson A. Joseph has recently highlighted the urgent need to protect coastlines and water security. The state is already grappling with coastal erosion and drainage issues that threaten road infrastructure. Similarly, in Yap, where the foundation of cultural identity is tied to the sea, rising waters pose an increasing threat to coastal resources and community sustenance. This tool provides information for planning ahead and updating critical infrastructure.

Call for Community Input

A central goal of this project is to serve the residents of Pohnpei and Yap, ensuring that the Viewers and data are useful for the people living in these areas. To that end, the Viewers are free to access and include a public flood reporting function. The project team is asking for the public’s help to improve the map by reporting where they are currently experiencing flooding.

Your local knowledge is essential. By comparing scientific models with real-world experiences on the ground, the project team will refine the tool to be as accurate as possible and also welcome any feedback on how the Viewers could be made more useful for your planning and daily life.

Moving Forward

The project team is currently integrating additional infrastructure layers recently provided by state agencies. Based on feedback received while meeting with users in Pohnpei and Yap, the project team is also working on adding timelines based on the latest sea level rise projections for the islands, which will help communities plan for the decades to come. By merging local knowledge with cutting-edge science, the project team hopes to help build the localized defense mechanisms necessary for a resilient future.

The project team is working on additional documentation about the methodology of the data collection, sea level rise projections, and Viewers’ functions. This documentation will be available soon at the Viewers’ websites provided below. Please contact us at crcinfo@apps.soest.hawaii.edu with comments and suggestions.

How to Use the Viewers and Report Flooding

Access the free, publicly available Viewers at:

Pohnpei: <https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/crc/viewer/pohnpei-climate-viewer.html>

Pohnpei viewer short link: <https://bit.ly/4eqzzQJ>

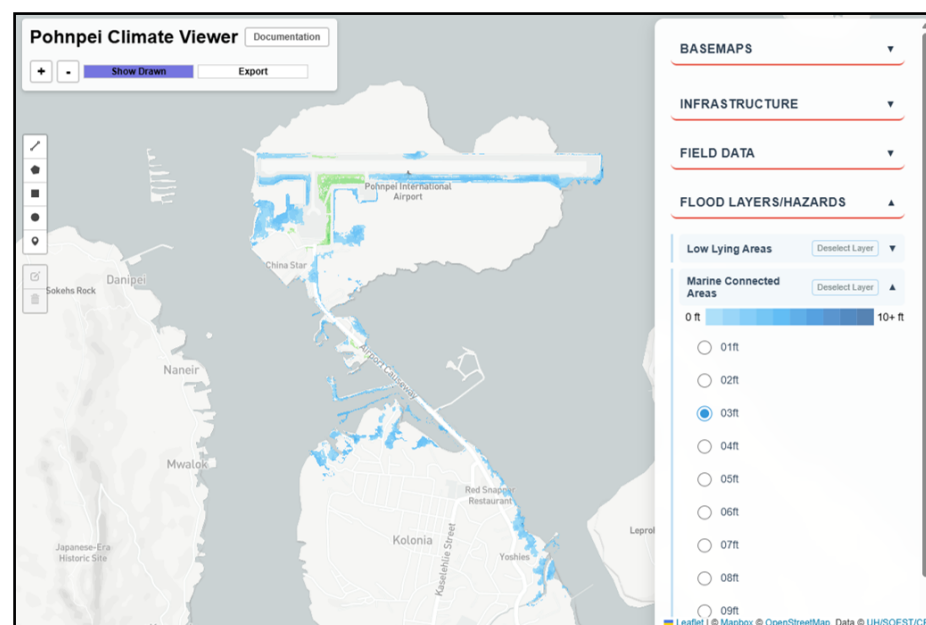
Pohnpei viewer QR:



Yap: <https://soest.hawaii.edu/crc/viewer/yap-viewer.html>

Yap viewer short link: <https://bit.ly/3QSEpNr>

Yap viewer QR:



This screenshot from the online Pohnpei Climate Viewer shows the extent of flooding (in blue and green shading) with three feet of sea level rise (expected by the end of century) above Mean Higher High Water (MHHW). Vulnerable areas in Pohnpei include the airport, port, and airport causeway. (Photo Credit: University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Climate Resilience Collaborative)



Members of different relevant Yap State agencies met with a team of researchers to review the coastal viewer and provide suggestions to improve the data and web interface. (Photo Credit: University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Climate Resilience Collaborative)

New volunteers from Australia support children and families in Micronesia

Pohnpei Public Information

July 8, 2026

Pohnpei - The Joseph-Movick Administration met with a group of volunteers from Australia to talk about helping children and families, especially children with autism. This meeting served as a courtesy call on the Governor and Lt. Governor by the Australian Ambassador to the FSM, H.E. Jenny Grant, to introduce new Australian volunteers. These volunteers will be working in Pohnpei's schools and hospital on assignments related to autism assessment, special education, and arts for individuals with disabilities.

The volunteers are:

- Dr. Donna Gayton – Psychologist-will assist in advancing psychological services and strengthening comprehensive support for individuals and families affected by autism.
- Ms. Gabrielle Vascotto – Special Education Autism Specialist, who will provide expertise in developing inclusive autism education and support services.
- Mr. David Maney – Children's Inclusive Librarian Mentor

(Pohnpei Public Library).

- Mr. David Taylor – Senior Physical Therapist (retired), who will be supporting and strengthening our Physical Therapy Unit.

Kiji Faktaufon, Regional Director of the Australian Volunteer Program, helps match volunteers with places that need them in Micronesia. Volunteers can be matched suitably to the needs requested by the host country/state.

This initiative with the Australian Volunteers was championed by the Lieutenant Governor, particularly to assist with autism, and all involved are happy to see these efforts finally off the ground. The Office of the Governor is also actively seeking an Economist to join the team and further support these development goals.

- Children with autism
- Health services

- Learning and support in schools

There are already volunteers in Yap and Pohnpei, and more will come to help in Hospitals, Youth programs, and local schools, including Xavier High School in Chuuk and Pohnpei Catholic School.

Governor Joseph and Lt. Governor

Movick thanked the volunteers for leaving their homes and families in Australia to come and help. They asked the Volunteers to share honest ideas about what needs to be improved in their respective areas of work, so that services for the people of Pohnpei can improve.



...Pohnpei generators

[Click here to return](#)

Tech teams and engineers are working around the clock to manage this complex transition and restore the island's power grid to full normalcy. Currently, the plant is operating on seven active generators to sustain the island's load while these upgrades are completed.

During their comprehensive tour of the facility, Governor Joseph and Lieutenant Governor Movick were briefed on operations and inspected the new generators currently being prepared for commissioning. Once fully installed, these new units will inject 7.5 megawatts of stable power into the island's grid, directly resolving the root causes of recent disruptions and securing reliable energy for homes and businesses across Pohnpei.

Governor Joseph and Lieutenant Governor Movick used the visit to firmly align the administration behind the utility's workforce, conveying their deep appreciation for the relentless, 24/7 efforts of the PUC team. Addressing the crew, Governor Joseph noted that while public complaints are inevitable during major system upgrades, managing those expectations is a shared responsibility when delivering a service as vital as power generation to an entire island.

The Joseph-Movick administration stands fully and always behind Team PUC as they push through this vital transition period to deliver a stronger, more

resilient energy infrastructure for all of Pohnpei.



...Missile test

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Speaking in Honiara alongside the prime minister of the Solomon Islands, Matthew Wale, Mr Albanese said Australia has raised the test with China directly.

"We have made clear our concerns to China in both Beijing and Canberra, and I am making clear our concerns here as well in Honiara," he said.

"We don't want to see any action that is destabilising, or which undermines the peace, security and stability of the Pacific and the region.

The Australian prime minister also noted that ordinarily a test like this would come with 48 hours' notice, which he said was not provided by China.

Mr Wale directly criticised the missile test, becoming the first Pacific leader to do so and acting as the current chair of the Pacific Islands Forum.

"China is a good friend of the Solomon Islands, but this is not something a friend does. This is not good in our region," he said.

"And as chair of the Pacific Islands Forum I have registered my strong protest yesterday with the ambassador. Solomon Islands also lodged a protest note.

"We don't want to see any more countries — China, America, anybody — testing [intercontinental ballistic missiles] in the Pacific Islands region, that's the bottom line.

"Be our friend, but don't threaten us."

Pacific leaders speak out against missile test
More Pacific leaders have added their voices of concern about China's actions.

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister James Marape said all global military powers should respect the wishes of those who live in the Pacific.

"Our region has lived through war, nuclear testing and military activities imposed upon us by larger powers. We do not want history repeated," he said.

"We want our waters to be free from nuclear testing and from the testing of harmful weapons and military arsenals of every kind, whether launched from the air, from the sea or from the land."

Military leaders in the Philippines also criticised the testing, calling it a "reckless display of military power".

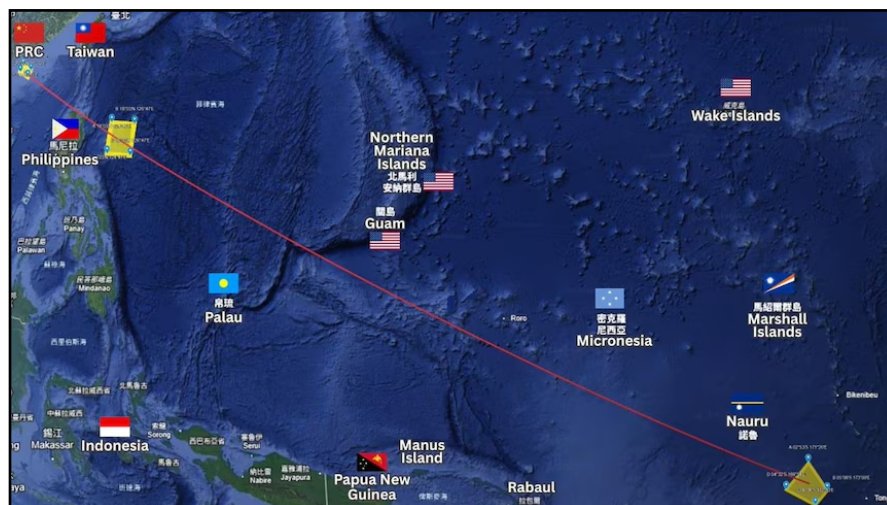
The Philippines has become more outspoken in its criticisms of China, particularly about disputes in the South China Sea, under the leadership of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

"This launch serves no peaceful purpose and is a calculated act of taunting and provocation against those who reject China's illegal expansionism and coercive conduct," said Department of National Defence spokesperson Arsenio R. Andolong.

"The Philippines stands with its Pacific partners in calling on China to act responsibly and stop turning shared seas into arenas of intimidation and imperial ambition."

Missile shows 'significant' range capability of China
Overnight, the head of Taiwan's national security council, Joseph Wu, posted an image on social media showing the missile arcing across Micronesia and Melanesia, before plunging into the ocean roughly 1,000 kilometres north-east of Solomon Islands.

Mr Wu, who has long been a vocal critic of China, called the test "a provocation



The trajectory of a test-fired Chinese ballistic missile in the Pacific, according to the Taiwanese government. Taken 772026. Supplied Joseph WuGovernment of TaiwanX

that destabilises the Indo-Pacific".

The ABC has been told the missile, which was armed with a dummy warhead, flew over the EEZs of at least three Pacific Island states, including the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru and Kiribati.

It landed closest to the EEZs of the Pacific nations of Tuvalu and Kiribati, about 1,000km north-east of Solomon Islands, and seems to have hit the water near the border of Tuvalu's EEZ, or potentially even just inside it.

The United States has been highly critical of the missile test.

A spokesperson for the US State Department, Tommy Pigott, said the US monitored the test as it took place.

"At a time when the United States is working harder than ever to prevent nuclear proliferation, China is doing the opposite," he said.

"Beijing's rapid and opaque nuclear weapons build-up is of great concern to the region and the world."

Defence Minister Richard Marles would not be drawn on the missile's trajectory, saying it "wasn't particularly close to Australia" but that he would not "go into the detail".

"I think it's less about the precise point as it is about the capability here," he said.

"This is a very significant capability in terms of the range that's been

demonstrated and the means by which it's been launched from a submarine."

He also called the launch "very concerning and deeply destabilising".

"This is a long-range missile which China itself has said would be nuclear-capable, which has been launched from a submarine, which also implies something in terms of extending China's range to deploy nuclear weapons," he said.

"What we are about is trying to establish a peaceful Pacific, and what this is about is undermining that."

Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Pat Conroy said the short notification window, a mere few hours, went against the Hague Convention's "best practice".

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor labelled the missile launch "unacceptable", stating it needed to be raised at the "highest levels".

"The truth of the matter is, the best pathway to peace is strength, and that is why we need to increase defence spending," he said.

Shadow Defence Minister James Paterson said while it was unlikely the test was in direct response to the signing of a new alliance between Australia and Fiji, it was indicative of China's attitude more broadly.

"It is consistent with the People's Republic of China's approach to the region, which is not only destabilising and unwelcome, but also threatening and coercive," he said.

"They want to intimidate the region, and we should be very clear that we are not intimidated by it."



Solomon Islands Prime Minister Matthew Wale urged China not to threaten its neighbours. (ABC News Adam Kennedy)

President Simina joins U.S. Embassy in celebrating America's 250th anniversary of independence



FSM Information Services

July 3, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — President Wesley W. Simina and Vice President Aren B. Palik joined U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Vincent Mut-Tracy, members of the diplomatic corps, government leaders, and distinguished guests at the United States Embassy to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Independence of the United States of America.

The reception commemorated a defining milestone in American history, honoring two and a half centuries of independence, democratic governance, innovation, and service to the enduring ideals of liberty and self-determination. On behalf of the Government and people of the Federated States

of Micronesia, President Simina extended warm congratulations to the Government and people of the United States on this historic occasion.

President Simina reflected on the enduring relationship between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States, recognizing the sacrifices and service of Micronesian veterans and active-duty service members in the United States Armed Forces. He noted that their service has helped safeguard the freedoms and shared values cherished by both nations.

"This day is not only a celebration of your independence, but a deeply felt reminder of the enduring friendship and partnership between the FSM and the United States.

A bond shaped by the Compact of Free Association, by history, compassion, and shared hope," President Simina said.

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Vincent Mut-Tracy reflected on the significance of the United States' Semiquincentennial, noting that the occasion celebrated not only America's history but also the enduring partnership between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, we also celebrate the spirit of freedom, courage, and partnership that defines both of our nations. Together, we honor the past, embrace the present, and look forward to a future filled with opportunity and hope," Chargé

d'Affaires Mut-Tracy said.

As both nations look to the future, President Simina reaffirmed the Federated States of Micronesia's commitment to building upon its longstanding partnership with the United States and advancing shared priorities that promote peace, security, resilience, and sustainable prosperity throughout the Pacific for generations to come.

As the United States celebrates 250 years of independence, the Federated States of Micronesia extends its best wishes to the Government and people of the United States of America and looks forward to many more years of friendship, cooperation, and shared prosperity.



Palliative care training conducted in Yap

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

July 2, 2026

Yap, FSM - On Tuesday, June 30, 2026, the Yap Comprehensive Cancer Control Program shared highlights from the successful Palliative Care Training conducted in Yap from June 16–23, 2026.

Kōkua Mau, which means "Continuous Care" in Hawaiian, is a movement dedicated to improving care for individuals living with serious illnesses and supporting their loved ones. As Hawai'i's trusted resource for advance care planning, palliative care, and hospice care, Kōkua Mau promotes meaningful conversations that empower individuals to make informed decisions about their healthcare while emphasizing quality of life at every stage.

Recognized as a leader in advancing quality palliative and hospice care, Kōkua Mau advocates for compassionate, patient-centered care within healthcare systems and communities. Their vision is to create a culture where advanced care planning conversations are a natural part of life, ensuring

that every individual has greater choice, dignity, and control over their care.

Drawing on their extensive expertise, the Yap Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and the Yap Area Health Education Center partnered with Kōkua Mau to bring three experienced facilitators to Yap to introduce the concepts of total pain and palliative care to current healthcare providers, future healthcare professionals, and family caregivers.

Over five days of engaging sessions, participants gained valuable knowledge and practical skills that were warmly received by all in attendance. During the closing ceremony, participants from the final afternoon session were presented with certificates of completion, while the Director of the Department of Health Services, Mr. Theo Thinnifel, presented local gifts as a token of appreciation to the visiting trainers.

Congratulations to all participants who completed the training and demonstrated their commitment to improving compassionate care for individuals and families in Yap.

A heartfelt mahalo nui loa is extended to the dedicated trainers—Jeanette Koijane, Dr. Emma Grote, and Dr. Pat Nishimoto—for generously sharing their expertise, experience, and passion for

palliative care. Their guidance, dedication, and willingness to share their knowledge have made a meaningful and lasting impact, leaving a strong foundation for continued growth in palliative care services throughout Yap.



Australia is investing in future FSM leaders: Farewells Australia Awards Scholars



Embassy of Australia to the FSM

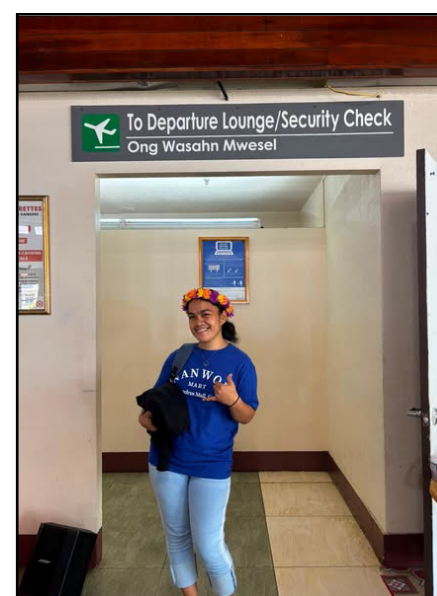
July 13, 2026

Pohnpei – The Australian Embassy recently bid farewell to Galliat James and Reileen Joel as they departed for Australia to commence their studies under the Australia Awards Scholarships program. They join four other Australia Award Scholars from the FSM who commenced their studies earlier in the year

Galliat will undertake a Master of Public Health/Master of Physiotherapy at the University of Canberra, while Reileen will pursue a Master of Digital

Communications at the Queensland University of Technology. Through Australia Awards, recipients gain access to world-class education and opportunities to develop skills and networks that support lasting development outcomes.

"Australia Awards reflects Australia's strong partnership with the Federated States of Micronesia, investing in people and shared prosperity. These students will return with much needed skills and experience to support the FSM's continued social and economic development," said Ambassador Grant.



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Australia helps to build stronger investigative skills and professional State policing

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

July 3, 2026

Chuuk - The Australian Federal Police (AFP) are proud to be supporting professional development of FSM's state police to help strengthen police investigative capability.

This week-long AFP training program for state police and trainers from Chuuk, Yap, Pohnpei and Kosrae was generously hosted by the Director of Chuuk Public Safety Mack Mailos.

The training included police powers, evidence management and offence analysis. Through interactive discussions, practical exercises and scenario-based learning, participants

enhanced their understanding of evidence-based investigations, accountability and professional standards.

"This training provides an opportunity for officers from the four states of FSM to build skills, share experiences and reinforce their commitment to serving the people with integrity and professionalism," said Ambassador Jenny Grant.

The Embassy thanks AFP trainers Ron McFadyen and Quinton Harris for delivering this important training.

Police trainers from Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap will deliver the Basic Investigations training modules to their colleagues.

Australia remains a valued and trusted partner of the Federated States of Micronesia, working

together to strengthen security, build institutional capability, and support safe and resilient communities.

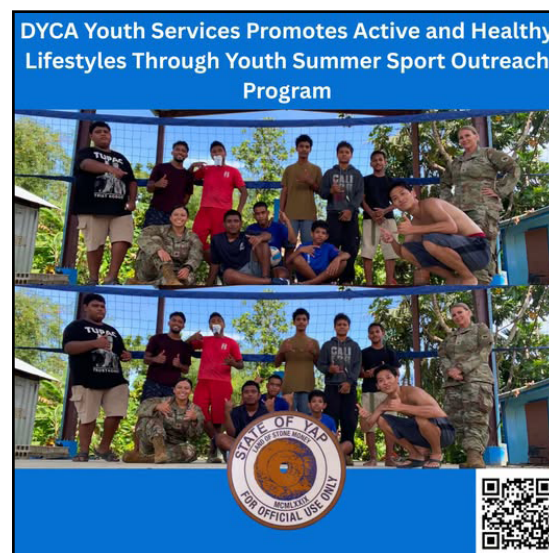


DYCA Youth Services promotes active and healthy lifestyles through Summer Sport Outreach Program

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

July 10, 2026

Yap, FSM - From June 16 to July 9 2026, the Youth Services Division of DYCA conducted the Youth Summer Sport Outreach Program at Saint Mary School. Sessions were held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., two to three times each week during the school holiday period.



The program brought together 46 participants from schools and youth groups within the target communities. It was organized to provide children and young people with structured sports coaching and enjoyable physical activities during their school break.

The Summer Sport Outreach Program aims to promote physical health, teamwork, and positive youth development by offering accessible sports instruction in a

safe and supportive environment.

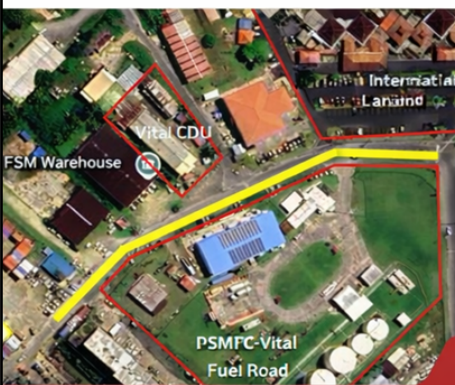
Throughout the program, participants took part in a variety of sports coaching sessions, team games, fitness activities, and skill-building exercises. These activities encouraged cooperation, discipline, sportsmanship, and healthy lifestyles while giving young people the opportunity to stay active, build friendships, and develop confidence.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**
Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure

Public Notice & Invitation to Attend

Infrastructure Consultation Meeting



The FSM Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure invites all interested stakeholders to participate in an infrastructure consultation regarding Preparatory Civil Works for the **Kapwar E Sou Road** and **Deketik Pilot Road** project.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

 **August 5th, 2026**

 **9:00AM - 11:00AM**

Who Should Attend:

- Community members
- Traditional leaders, landowners
- Business/private sector representatives
- Government agencies/NGOs

 **Location:**

Pohnpei Port Authority
Conference Room,
Deketik

want more information?
Unable to attend?
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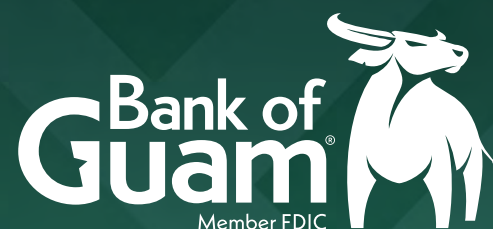
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Compact Budget consultation enhances planning, coordination, and accountability

FSM Information Services

July 10, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei – Eighty budget officials and technical representatives from the National Government and the four states of the Federated

States of Micronesia (FSM) gathered in Palikir from June 22-25 for the Compact Budget Consultation. The consultation was conducted by the Office of Compact Management and Overseas Development Assistance (CMODA) under the Office of the President as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen coordination for the implementation of the renewed Compact of Free Association.

Building on the outcomes of the January Compact Budget Consultation, the sessions focused on budget priorities, planning assumptions, reporting requirements, and implementation timelines to support the execution of the approved Annual Implementation Plans (AIP). Discussions also provided an opportunity for national and state representatives to share budget updates, discuss common implementation challenges, and exchange practical approaches to strengthen planning and oversight.

The consultation concluded with a shared commitment among national and state officials to maintain continued collaboration throughout the budget cycle, strengthening budget planning, accountability, and the effective implementation of Compact assistance in support of national development priorities.



KOSRAE INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

RUNWAY 5-23 REHABILITATION
CONSTRUCTION PACKAGE 2

ITEM C-111 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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PALIKIR, POHNPEI

KOSRAE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY 5-23
REHABILITATION
CONSTRUCTION PACKAGE 2

General Notice:

The Federated States of Micronesia Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure, Division of Civil Aviation (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Kosrae International Airport Runway 5-23 Rehabilitation
Construction Package 2

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the offices of the Federated States of Micronesia Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure, Division of Civil Aviation located at FSM National Government, Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM 96941, until July 29, 2026 at 10:00am local time in Pohnpei. At that time the Bids received will be "publicly" opened and read on July 29, 2026 at 11:00am local time in Pohnpei.

The Project includes the following Work:

1. Coldmill and disposal of the existing asphalt pavements
2. Construction of new asphalt overlays
3. Provide new runway pavement grooves
4. Provide temporary and permanent runway and taxiway pavement markings
5. Airfield electrical lighting repairs, as needed
6. Construction shall be performed in accordance with the approved Construction Safety and Phasing (CSPP).

Bids are requested for the following Contract: Runway 5-23 Rehabilitation, Construction Package 2.

Owner anticipates that the Project's total bid price will be approximately \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 US dollars. The Project has an expected duration of 780 calendar days.

The Bidder shall perform, with his/her organization, an amount of work equal to at least 25% percent of the total contract cost.

Chinese Ambassador H.E. Wu Wei attends the signing ceremony of the implementation agreement of the project of upgrading road in Chuuk State and reconstructing bridges in Pohnpei State

Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the FSM

July 15, 2026

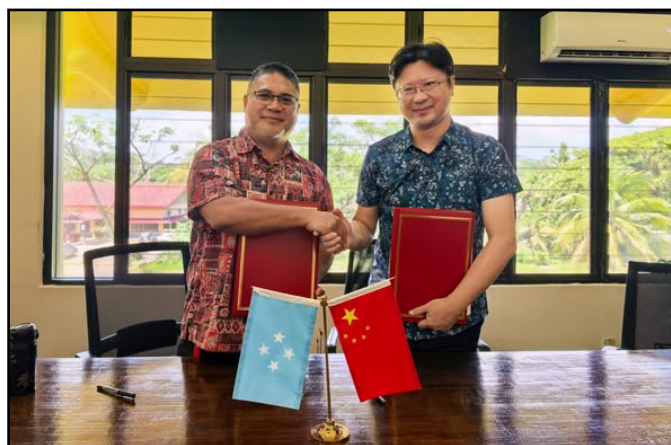
FSM - On July 14, 2026, Chinese Ambassador H.E. Wu Wei and T.H. Carlson D. Apis, Secretary of Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure of the FSM signed the Implementation Agreement of the Project of Upgrading Road (on Tonoas Island) in Chuuk State and Reconstructing Bridges in Pohnpei

State. Mr. Sohses Ehmes, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and others attended the event.

Ambassador Wu highlighted that advancing this project is a tangible outcome of implementing the important consensus reached by H.E. President Xi Jinping and H.E. President Wesley W. Simina, and a vivid practice

of deepening and enriching the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. China stands ready to work with the FSM on the basis of the one-China principle, continuously advance practical cooperation across all sectors, and deliver greater benefits to the two peoples.

Secretary Apis expressed appreciation for China's support to economic and social development of the FSM, and expressed hope that the project will be completed to a high standard and deliver tangible benefits to local communities at an early date.



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FSM and Timor-Leste sign joint communiqué establishing diplomatic relations

FSM Information Services

July 2, 2026

Canberra, Australia – The Office of the President is pleased to announce the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste following the signing of a Joint Communiqué on June 24, 2026.

The Joint Communiqué was signed by Her Excellency, Jane J. Chigiyal, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to Australia, and the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, H.E. Ines Maria de Almeida, and was witnessed by H.E. Benito Dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The desire to establish relations between the two sovereign nations was not merely to expand diplomatic relations across the globe but to open doors for bilateral dialogue and to deepen people-to-people relationship. Both Ambassadors reaffirmed their governments' commitment to collectively address current and emerging challenges regionally and globally on climate change, ocean governance, peace and

security, and sustainable development.

In her statement, Ambassador Chigiyal stated that the two "nations share values that transcends our borders and our colonial past." She recognized that the two countries have worked together in many fora and are now cementing that cooperation by establishing bilateral relations. Ambassador Chigiyal also commended Timor-Leste for their role in securing SDG16.

In her responding remarks, Ambassador Almeida conveyed that this partnership serves to remind us once again that the vast ocean that cradles our islands is merely a highway that connects culture, customs, and countries. She further emphasized that when "Micronesia speaks on the realities of rising sea levels and ocean conservation, Timor-Leste hears its own voice echoing back. Together, that voice is louder and stronger."

The signing ceremony was attended by the members of both diplomatic missions.

Timor-Leste is the 105th country with which the FSM has established diplomatic relations. The signing also marks an important date—the International Day of Women in Diplomacy.

The Office of the President welcomes this important milestone and looks forward to strengthening the friendship and partnership between the Federated

States of Micronesia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in the years ahead.



Opinion Editorial

There are many factors that can hinder meaningful progress and sustainable development in a country. However, one of the most significant challenges is the widespread acceptance of mediocrity and the status quo. When people begin to view inadequate conditions as normal or acceptable, it becomes increasingly difficult to drive the change necessary for long-term growth and development.

This mindset manifests in many ways. When poor infrastructure—such as deteriorating roads, inadequate ports, under-resourced hospitals, struggling schools, unreliable energy systems, and insufficient water services—is accepted as "good enough," the urgency to improve these essential services diminishes. Similarly, when communities tolerate substandard healthcare, poor customer service, or weak educational outcomes, the foundations for economic and social advancement are weakened.

Perhaps most concerning is the acceptance of mediocre leadership. Effective development requires leaders who are visionary, accountable, and committed to raising standards. When citizens come to accept poor performance and low expectations from their leaders, progress becomes

increasingly difficult to achieve.

The danger is even greater when younger generations grow up believing these conditions are normal. Without exposure to higher standards or successful alternatives, they may lack a point of comparison and come to view the status quo as acceptable. This can perpetuate a cycle where ambition, innovation, and the pursuit of excellence are gradually eroded.

In my view, this is one of the challenges facing the Federated States of Micronesia today. We must be careful not to normalize conditions that fall short of our potential. Rather than accepting mediocrity, we should strive to raise expectations, demand better outcomes, and work collectively toward a future defined by excellence, accountability, and sustainable development.

Countries and islands such as Palau and Guam have demonstrated that maintaining high standards and a commitment to continuous improvement can help drive national progress. The same aspiration should guide us as we work to build a stronger future for FSM.

Willy Kostka

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FSM National Postal Service reaches key milestone toward resuming package mail service to the United States

FSM Information Services

June 29, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei – The National Postal Service (NPS) of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), on June 11, 2026, has entered into an agreement with one of the required U.S.-based firms, SafePackage, to resume outbound package mail service to the United States, while ensuring compliance with the new U.S. customs requirements.

Earlier this year, in January, the Office of the President and NPS announced the temporary suspension of outbound package mail service to the United States until a customs compliance mechanism was established to meet new U.S. customs requirements.

With the agreement now in effect, the NPS is working with SafePackage to establish the customs compliance mechanism necessary to enable the resumption of package mail service, as soon as possible and no later than early August 2026. The public will be informed as soon as our post offices are ready to receive parcels for mail to the US.

SafePackage is a U.S.-based customs compliance provider that will assist the NPS in meeting U.S. Customs



and Border Protection (CBP) requirements for outbound package shipments. Under the agreement, SafePackage will process required customs information, remit applicable duties on behalf of the NPS, and support customs compliance for package shipments entering the United States.

"The National Postal Service has taken the necessary steps to comply with the new U.S. customs and import requirements," said FSM

Postmaster General Epel K. Ilon. "This agreement will help facilitate the return of package service to the United States. Although it is limited to items for personal use only, as items for commercial purposes have remained prohibited from shipment through the post office since the first Amended Compact. I see this agreement as important to giving our people some benefits rather than nothing at all."

Customers should not expect significant changes to existing mailing procedures under the new service agreement. However, additional information regarding the contents of outbound packages will be required to meet U.S. customs requirements. Customers should also expect additional charges associated with the new customs process, including applicable tariffs and a service charge. Details of these charges will be published and available at all post offices.

Further information, including the official service resumption date, updated mailing requirements, and customer guidance, will be announced by the NPS as implementation progresses. Updates will also be available on the National Postal Service website at <https://nps.fm>.

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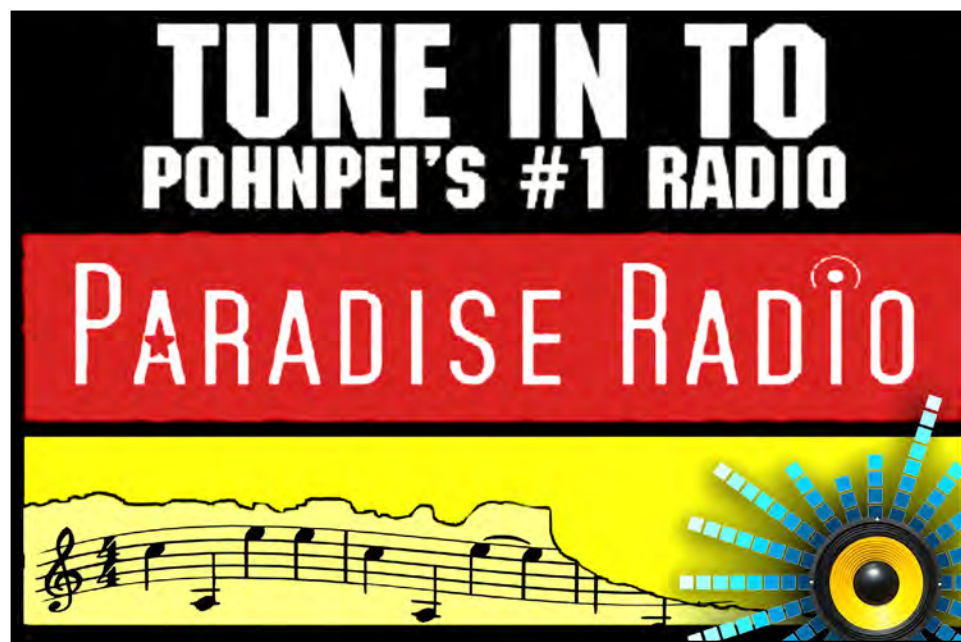
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Joseph-Movick Administration welcomes Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB) President/CEO Timarong

Pohnpei Public Information

July 13, 2026

PEILAPALAP, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lieutenant Governor Herolyn S. Movick met today with Lindsay Timarong, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB), during a formal courtesy visit at the Executive Chambers.

The meeting focused on strengthening regional economic cooperation, addressing local infrastructure funding, and finalizing preparations for the bank's upcoming Board of Governors meeting. Timarong is currently in Pohnpei conducting comprehensive fiduciary training for local leadership and institutional stakeholders to enhance asset management and governance standards.

Regional Alignment and Growth

The discussions centered on aligning Pohnpei State's development priorities with the credit and capital facilities

offered by PIDB. Both parties reviewed ongoing regional development initiatives, emphasizing the critical need for affordable financing in agriculture, local commerce, and public infrastructure projects.

The upcoming Board of Governors meeting will serve as a platform for the shareholders to review the bank's expanding balance sheet and adjust credit policies to better serve the evolving economic landscape of Micronesia.

PIDB History and Strategic Importance

Chartered on July 5, 1989, the Pacific Islands Development Bank was established by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) to accelerate economic and social progress across the region. As a crucial development finance institution, PIDB serves the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of



the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more than three decades, PIDB has bridged critical financing gaps within the Freely Associated States by providing commercial, residential, and multi-family housing loans that conventional commercial banks often deem high-risk. By injecting capital into underserved markets, the institution remains a foundational pillar for economic self-reliance and regional integration across Micronesia.

U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires pays farewell visit to Governor Joseph

Pohnpei Public Information

July 8, 2026

Pohnpei - Vincent Mut Tracy, currently the Chargé d'Affaires and recently the Deputy Head of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, paid a courtesy farewell call on Governor Joseph. Chief of Staff Patterson K. Shed also attended the meeting.

During the visit, Mr. Mut Tracy thanked Governor Joseph and his team for their strong cooperation and support during his time in the country. He reflected on his time in the country and expressed pride in the close partnership between the United States and the Governor's office.

Mr. Mut Tracy also spoke about his family's positive experience living

in the country. He noted that serving here has been "a very enjoyable and unforgettable experience."

Governor Joseph and Chief of Staff Shed thanked Mr. Mut Tracy for his service and wished him success in his future assignments. Both sides expressed hope that the strong relationship will continue under the embassy's new leadership.



Vice President Palik welcomes Upward Bound Students

FSM Information Services

July 10, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — Vice President Aren B. Palik welcomed 62 students from the Upward Bound Program, led by Program Director Diaz Joseph, during a visit to the Office of the President.

The visit provided students with an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the structure and functions of the National Government while engaging in a discussion on leadership, public service, current issues facing the nation, and the important role young people play in the future development of the Federated States of Micronesia.

In his remarks, Vice President Palik encouraged the students to remain focused on their goals and to persevere through the challenges of life.

"Do not be afraid of failure," Vice

President Palik said. "There will be setbacks along the way, but those moments should never discourage you. View them as opportunities to learn, grow stronger, and build the resilience needed to achieve lasting success."

Vice President Palik also encouraged the students to make the most of their educational opportunities and to strive to become responsible citizens and future leaders committed to serving their communities and contributing to the continued progress and development of

the nation.

The Office of the President commends the Upward Bound Program for its continued efforts to empower students through educational enrichment and leadership development.



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Joseph-Movick Administration welcomes Chuuk Lt. Governor for courtesy visit

Pohnpei Public Information

June 29, 2026

Pei Lapalap, Pohnpei — On June 25, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph recently welcomed Chuuk State Lieutenant Governor Hon. Mekioshy William for a courtesy visit at the Governor's Office. Lieutenant Governor William was accompanied by Economist Roger Arnold and Njoy Rain, Director of the Chuuk Department of Marine Resources.



The visit also focused on preparations for the upcoming Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) and the associated Expo. Lieutenant Governor William confirmed that he will be leading the Chuuk State delegation to the FSM Expo. The joint efforts highlight a period of close collaboration and shared planning on regional priorities.

The delegation is in Pohnpei to participate in a workshop for the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), a critical requirement under the Amended Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States.



Governor Joseph expressed his appreciation for the visit, reinforcing Pohnpei's commitment to supporting these vital planning efforts and welcoming the neighboring delegation.

President Simina highlights key matters for consideration during special session of Congress

FSM Information Services

July 2, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei — The 3rd Special Session of the 24th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia convened on July 1, 2026, following a call by His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina to consider key matters requiring congressional attention.

Following the opening of the Special Session, President Wesley W. Simina and Vice President Aren B. Palik, together with members of the Executive Branch, met with the Committee to Wait to present the Administration's priorities for the Special Session.

Among the matters discussed was a supplementary budget request of approximately \$2.8 million to support priority government needs, including additional funding for the Pacific Connect project, the second installment of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan, and other urgent government funding requirements.

"The proposals submitted for this Special Session are the result of careful assessment by our departments

and agencies to address identified national needs. I appreciate the Speaker and Members of Congress for their consideration as we continue working together to address those needs," President Simina said.

The discussions also covered key legislative and governance matters, including the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Bill, the Cybersecurity Bill, pending nominations to the College of Micronesia Board of Regents and the FSM Social Security Board, the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) Treaty, preparations for the upcoming

Micronesian Island Forum to be hosted by Pohnpei State, the establishment of a revolving fund for the National Convention Center, and a proposed \$50,000 contribution to support recovery efforts in Ebeye, Republic of the Marshall Islands, following the recent fire.

The President and the Committee also reviewed the Government's response to Typhoon Sinlaku, including the need for the emergency declaration to remain in force to sustain ongoing response and recovery efforts in Chuuk State. President Simina emphasized that

maintaining the declaration remains necessary to address the continuing needs of affected communities, noting that the deteriorating condition of Chuuk State Hospital and the need to ensure continued access to essential healthcare services require national attention.

The meeting also included updates on El Niño preparedness, noting that public awareness activities are underway in all four FSM states and that progress reports will help guide continued coordination and preparedness efforts.

The Committee also raised concerns regarding reports of an oil spill affecting Woleai Atoll in Yap State. President Simina acknowledged the matter and directed the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure (TC&I) to look into the reports and coordinate the appropriate government response.

The Simina-Palik Administration thanks the Speaker, Members of Congress, and the Committee to Wait for the constructive discussions and reaffirms its commitment to continued collaboration with Congress throughout the Special Session.



28th Micronesia Islands Forum postponed to August due to Typhoon Bavi

Pohnpei Public Information

July 7, 2026

Pei Lapalap, Pohnpei — The Pohnpei State Government announces that the 28th Micronesia Islands Forum (MIF), originally scheduled for next week, has been tentatively rescheduled for the week of August 17, 2026, pending final confirmation from the MIF Secretariat.

The decision was made in close

consultation with the MIF Secretariat after several Forum members expressed deep concern over the severe weather and travel disruptions caused by Typhoon Bavi.

Key Details:

New Dates: The week of August 17, 2026, tentatively

Reason for Delay: Disruptions to regional air travel corridors and

infrastructure caused by Typhoon Bavi. Regional Solidarity: The adjustment allows member jurisdictions, particularly Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), to focus fully on local disaster response and recovery efforts.

As an island region, safe travel relies entirely on fair weather. This postponement reflects the practical

realities of our environment and our shared commitment to ensuring all heads of state and delegations can participate safely and fully.

Pohnpei remains completely prepared and looks forward to hosting a successful summit next month. The MIF Secretariat will coordinate directly with member delegations regarding updated itineraries and agendas.

Not all bad news: SPREP highlights potential benefits of El Niño for some Pacific Island countries

SPREP

June 29, 2026

Pacific - While El Niño is often associated with drought and extreme prolonged dry conditions for the western Pacific and wetter than normal conditions in the central and eastern Pacific, experts from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) say the naturally-occurring climate phenomenon can also bring opportunities for some Pacific Island countries.

Representatives from the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific Phase 3 (COSPPac3), the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Applications (ClimSA) project and the Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services (ROK-PI CliPS) project reaffirmed that an El Niño event has been declared and outlined what Pacific communities can expect in the coming months.

According to ROK-PI CliPS Project Coordinator, Mr Tile Tofaeono, El Niño is one of three phases of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a naturally occurring cycle and part of the global climate system that influences rainfall, winds, and ocean conditions across the Pacific.

"There are three phases of ENSO – Neutral, El Niño and La Niña. These phases typically change every two to seven years and usually last between nine and 12 months, although some events can persist for up to two years," Mr Tofaeono said.

During El Niño, warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures and weaker trade winds increase the likelihood of below-normal rainfall across much of the western Pacific, including American Samoa, southern Cook Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, southern French Polynesia, Guam, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, northern Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, southern Tokelau, Tonga, southern Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

For countries in the central and eastern Pacific, El Niño will mean cooler-than-normal sea surface temperatures and above-normal rainfall.

According to COSPPac3 Senior Climatologist, Mr Philip Malsale, these wetter conditions could bring important benefits for low-lying atoll nations.

"Countries such as Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu depend heavily on limited freshwater resources. While increased rainfall during El Niño will mean potential flooding for these countries, it will also be an opportunity to replenish freshwater lenses and improve water security, providing long-term benefits even after conditions return to neutral," Mr Malsale said.

Kiribati could also experience increased tuna catches as ocean temperatures around the area become warmer than normal. The warm pool area is loved by the tuna, which will migrate towards the central and eastern Pacific following the movement of this warm pool during El

Niño. This warm water will meet the colder, nutrient rich waters of the eastern Pacific packed with planktons and small fish which tuna rely on for feed. This biological shift pushes international fishing fleets to these countries as well, increasing fishing licenses and boosting national revenue.

Meanwhile, countries in the western Pacific experiencing drier conditions could also find opportunities amid the challenges.

Mr Malsale said prolonged dry periods can provide favourable conditions for infrastructure development, particularly projects that are often delayed by heavy rainfall periods. It is a time for the national government to roll out big infrastructure projects because there will be below normal rainfall and lot of sunshine hours and cooler temperatures.

Dry weather may also benefit tourism by bringing more sunshine and allowing visitors to enjoy a wider range of outdoor activities which can bring these economic benefits to the rural communities.

Increased sunshine and sometimes windy conditions could further support greater use of renewable energy, with increased contribution of wind and solar to the main power grid. This will greatly help countries mitigate the impacts of the ongoing global fuel crisis which has caused fuel prices to increase dramatically. This will also provide farmers with the opportunity to explore



Teaoraereke Fish Market

alternative livestock feed options and better manage existing stock during the dry season.

Despite these opportunities, Mr Malsale stressed that Pacific communities should continue preparing for the impacts of El Niño.

"El Niño is a slow-onset event and its impacts will not be felt immediately, but rather gradually over time," he said.

"These events are all part of our normal climate system and are completely natural. While we may be entering El Niño now, we won't always be in this state. What is taken away during this phase will be replenished during the next phases, and the cycle will continue."

"While it won't all be bad news, we urge our Pacific communities to prepare now, reach out to their National Meteorological and Hydrological Service and sectors for specific advice, so that they and their families can benefit later," Mr. Malsale concluded.

Agriculture and Forestry Division holds fair to showcase local produce

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

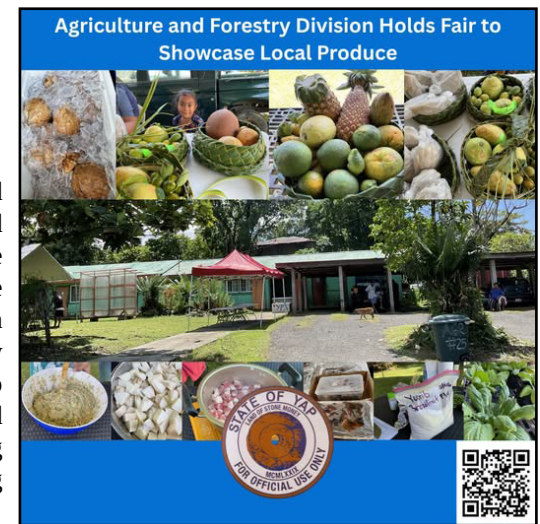
July 10, 2026

Yap, FSM - Today at 11:30 a.m., the Agriculture and Forestry Division held a fair after bad weather prevented the full display of its products during the Research and Development (R&D) Conference. Staff, the Chief of Agriculture, invited guests, and

community members attended the event.

The fair showcased local produce, including maar and the breadfruit flower, while promoting local agriculture and ongoing research. Live chickens, pork, vegetables, and other local crops were sold, with discounted chicken prices due to overstocking.

Local farmers were encouraged to sell their produce, and breadfruit recipes were displayed to promote the production and consumption of breadfruit and other locally grown foods. The event also featured presentations and product displays highlighting the importance of supporting local agriculture.



Milew advocates for health, unity, and the power of local food

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

July 7, 2026

Yap FM - The Milew Community of Rull with the help of the women groups of Kanifay, Gilman, and Likaychag communities conducted a successful health fair event in which more than 250 participants attended in collaboration with the Waab Community Health Clinic (WCHC) on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at the Milew Multi-Purpose Center near the old-airport. This successful event was conducted to promote healthy lifestyle and provide health education to the people in the communities.

The health fair was made possible with support from the Yap Interagency Nutrition Education Council (YINEC), College of Micronesia-FSM Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE), and the Farmers Association of Yap. These partners added value to the health fair where they demonstrated healthy local-cooking and promoted nutrition, food security, and a healthy lifestyle.

The event featured free health screenings including blood pressure, blood sugar, BMI checks, and vision assessments. Milew community acknowledges WCHC for bringing these services right into their community and for their collaboration.

All Speakers including Mayor of Rull Mr. Jeffrey Adalbai, WCHC CEO Mr. John Gilimtam, Dr. Jake Edilyong, Nimgil Community Health Clinic Vice-Chairman of the Board Mr. Jeffrey Wuthel, Community Representative Mrs. Mary Gilsowuth, YINEC advocator Mr. Martin Runyol, and the One People One Reef emphasized the importance of preventative health care, environmental stewardship, and community partnership in building a healthier Yap.

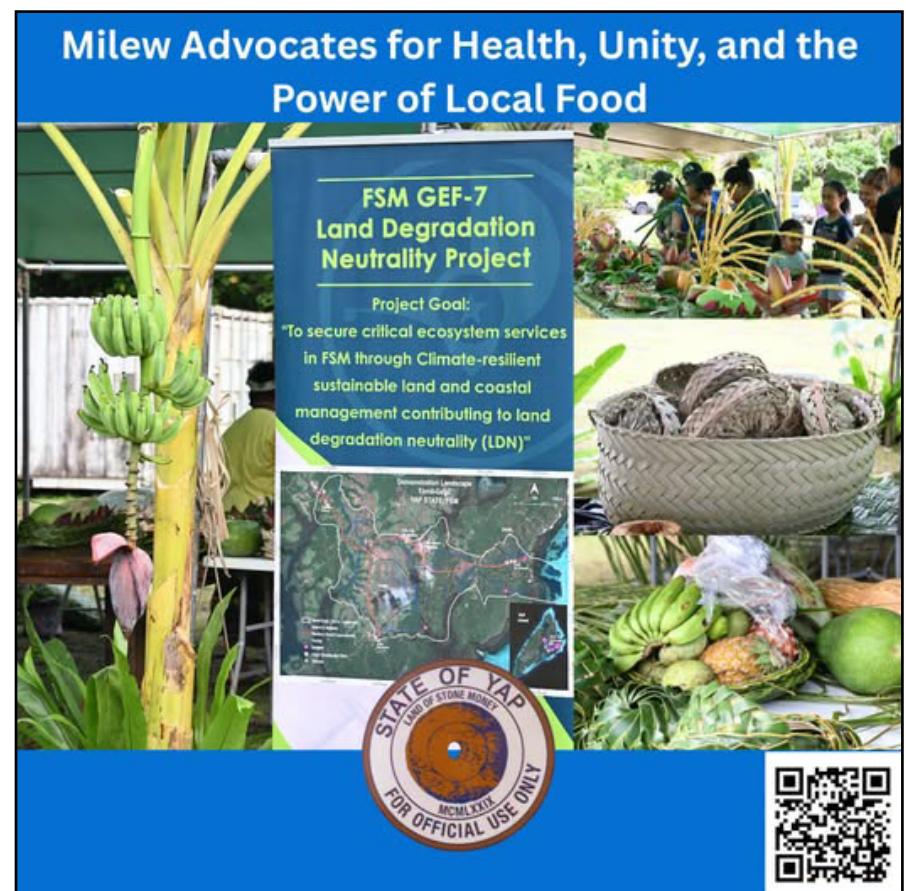
One of the many highlights during the health fair in regards to providing health education was the spotlight of having the Milew youth members including Demetria Mtag, Jemarson Adalbai, Ezekiel Fathal, Miles Fineg, Frederick Thin, Derrick Yuwun, Josh Gisog, and Milew Community representative Ms. Linda M. Teteth spoke on Mental Health, Flu Prevention, Clean Teeth habits, and the power of Local Food.

The health fair concluded with a walkathon around Bla'ar-Fra' loop and back to the Milew Multi-Purpose Center featuring raffle prizes for participants to encourage a healthier lifestyle and community unity along with various participants that participated outside Milew and Rull Municipality in which more than 70 people participated. Special thanks to raffle prize donors that the walkathon raffle was made possible through the generous support of

GEF7- FSM Land Degradation Neutrality Project, U.S. Army Oceania Engagement Team, College of Micronesia- FSM CRE, Island Resource Conservancy of Wa'ab, and One People One Reef.

Milew wishes to extend heartfelt appreciation to everyone who made the health fair an unforgettable one for many years to come, especially to the media for their presence in capturing photos and footage of the event to share Milew's promotion in health with Yap and beyond. Milew acknowledges the women groups

of Likaychag, Kanifay, Gilman communities including the WCHC, YINEC, College of Micronesia- CRE, Farmers Association of Yap, One People One Reef, GEF7- FSM Land Degradation Neutrality Project, U.S. Army Oceania Engagement Team, Island Resource Conservancy of Wa'ab, Master of Ceremony during the health fair Mr. Mark Loochaz, speakers, volunteers, and every family who came out to support the advocacy in health, unity, and local food spearheaded by Milew Community.



Yap holds appreciation gathering for the 2026 Japan Student Exchange Program

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

July 8, 2026
Yap, FSM - Last Friday, July 3, 2026, students, parents, and organizers gathered for an Appreciation Gathering celebrating the successful completion of the 2026 Japan Children Exchange Program.

The event began with welcoming remarks from Master of Ceremonies Everlino Yolomai, followed by opening remarks from Acting Director John Waayan Fillmed, who acknowledged the dedication and achievements of the student participants throughout the exchange program.

The program also featured a traditional dance presentation, showcasing cultural appreciation and adding a festive atmosphere to the gathering.

One of the highlights of the event was the sharing of experiences by the children and their parents. They reflected on the valuable lessons,

cultural experiences, and personal growth gained during their time in Japan. The speakers expressed their gratitude to everyone who made the exchange program a meaningful and memorable opportunity.

During the gathering, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Martin L. Ruwniyol in recognition of his support and contribution to the success of the program.

The celebration concluded with refreshments and words of appreciation from the Master of Ceremonies, thanking the students, parents, organizers, and supporters for their commitment to strengthening friendship and cultural exchange through education.

The appreciation gathering served as a fitting conclusion to the 2026 Japan Children Exchange Program, recognizing the participants' accomplishments while encouraging future opportunities for international learning and cultural understanding.

Yap State DOE concludes successful 2026 Micronesian Teachers Education Conference

Yap Department of Youth and Social Affair

July 6, 2026
Yap, FSM - The Yap State Department of Education successfully hosted the 2026 Micronesian Teachers Education Conference (MTEC), bringing together educators, school leaders, and education stakeholders from across the Federated State of Micronesia for three days of professional learning and collaboration.

Wednesday, July 1, through Friday, July 3, 2026, the conference featured presentations centered on the theme, "Strengthening Indigenous Culture and Language for Lifelong Learning." The conference officially opened on Wednesday with a Welcome Reception hosted by the Yap State Department of Education, where delegates, guests, and education partners gathered to celebrate the beginning of the three-day event and strengthen professional relationships through fellowship and cultural exchange. The sessions provided participants with opportunities to strengthen teaching

practices, exchange innovative ideas, and discuss strategies for improving educational outcomes throughout the FSM.

As host of the 2026 conference, the Yap State Department of Education welcomed participants from across the FSM, along with international partners and educational institutions, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening education through professional development, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices.

The conference concluded on Friday with a Closing Reception, where delegates from each FSM state reflected on their experiences, exchanged gifts, and presented cultural performances showcasing their traditions. During the program, Chuuk State was officially announced as the host of the 2028 Micronesian Teachers Education Conference. The event highlighted the shared commitment of educators to improving education while preserving the region's cultures and languages for future generations.

Appreciation gathering for the 2026 Japan Student Exchange Program





Yap State DOE Concludes Successful 2026 Micronesian Teachers Education Conference





Division of Youth Services and Yap Workforce Enrichment Division hold second summer workshop

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

July 8, 2026

Yap, FSM - On Friday, July 3, the Division of Youth Services, in collaboration with the Yap Workforce Enrichment Division, successfully hosted its second Summer Workshop at the YapCap Conference Room beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The workshop featured two engaging presentations aimed at promoting personal growth and environmental awareness among participating youth.

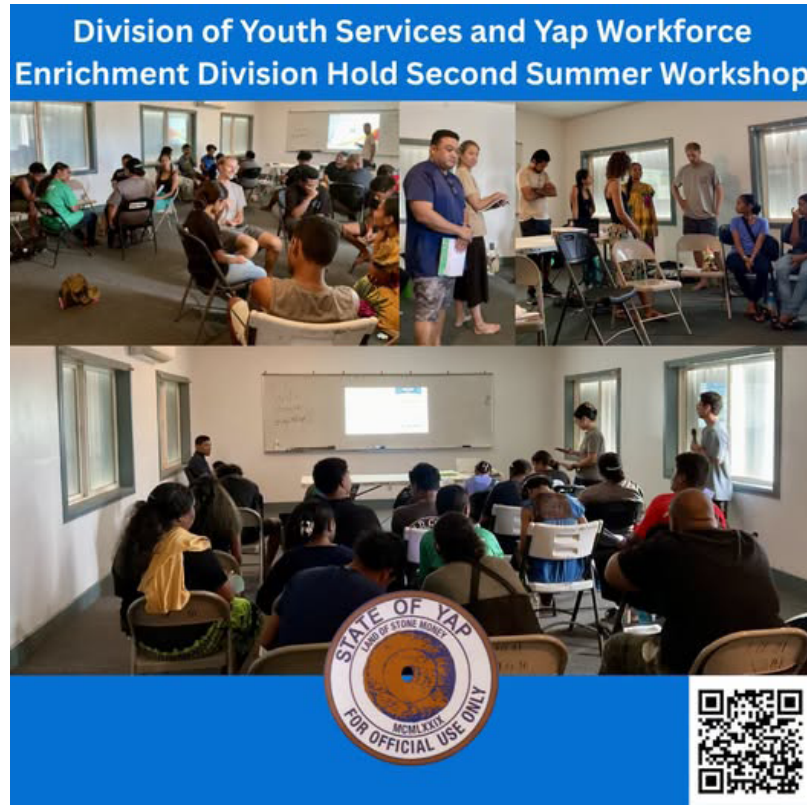
Representatives from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Kenta Otsubo and Yuka Segawa, led an interactive Personality Test session, helping participants better understand themselves, recognize their strengths, and appreciate individual differences.

The second presentation was delivered by a youth group with One People, One Reef, who shared their knowledge about Yap's reefs, corals, and fish species. Through their presentation, participants highlighted the importance of protecting the marine environment and the island's

natural resources.

The workshop provided an opportunity for youth to build self-awareness while learning about the importance of environmental conservation, reflecting

the Division of Youth Services and Yap Workforce Enrichment Division's commitment to developing informed, responsible, and engaged young leaders.



DPW&T and Upward Bound students unite for island-wide road maintenance

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

July 10, 2026

Yap, FSM — The Yap State Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T), together with the Upward Bound (UB) Program, successfully carried out an island-wide road maintenance project on Friday, July 10, 2026.

UB staff, student volunteers, and DPW&T employees worked side by side along the island's main road corridor, from the northern to the southern end of Yap. Their teamwork and dedication helped make the road maintenance effort a success while providing students with valuable experience in community service.

The Bank of Guam–Yap Branch supported the project by donating refreshments to keep all participants hydrated throughout the day.

DPW&T Director Joe C. Giltug expressed his appreciation to the UB Director, staff, chaperones, students, and the Bank of Guam for their support and commitment. He noted that this was the fourth successful collaboration between DPW&T and the Upward Bound Program and emphasized the importance of hard work, teamwork, and service to the community.

The department looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Upward Bound Program in future community projects.



PacIOOS and Micronesian Conservation Society Coalition bring ocean science to Yap Students

Yap Department of Youth and Civil Affairs

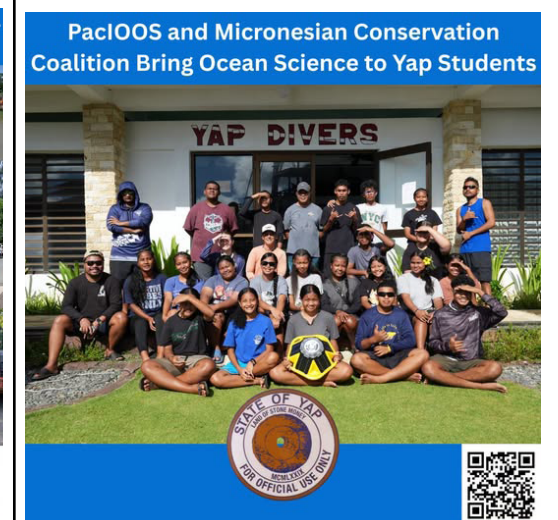
July 3, 2026

Yap, FSM — On Wednesday, July 1, 2026, the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) shared highlights from the successful Backyard Buoys project conducted in Yap. The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS), in partnership with the Micronesian Conservation Coalition (MCC), recently joined the Yap Marine Island Ecology Course (MIEC) to introduce Yap Catholic High School students to the Backyard Buoys project.

Students participated in hands-on demonstrations using a wave tank and a miniature buoy, learning how ocean observing technology collects real-time wave data that supports marine safety, coastal management, and environmental stewardship.

A highlight of the program was the deployment of Yap's first Backyard Buoys Spotter at Gilman Reef. The buoy will provide the community with real-time wave information, improving access to local ocean conditions for mariners, fishers, researchers, and the public.

PacIOOS and MCC extend their appreciation to PacIOOS liaison Ginger Carter, MIEC instructors Ami Vice and Pablo De La Vega, Chief Michael Gilngor of the Baleabaat' community, and Chief James Limar of the Gilman community for their partnership and support in making this initiative possible.



Wale calls for Pacific-led regional agenda as Solomon Islands assumes Forum Chair

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 2, 2026

Suva, Fiji — Solomon Islands Prime Minister Matthew Wale has called on Pacific nations to take greater ownership of the region's future, warning that increasing geopolitical competition should not determine the Pacific's development agenda or security priorities.

Speaking July 2 at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva after assuming the chairmanship of the Pacific Islands Forum, Wale said the region must remain united in defining its own future while working with international partners on Pacific terms.

"The future of our region will not be determined by the interests of others," Wale said. "It will be determined by the choices we make together as one Blue Pacific family."

Wale acknowledged that the Pacific is navigating an increasingly complex strategic environment marked by geopolitical competition and climate change. While international interest in the region continues to grow, he said Pacific leaders must ensure that regional priorities remain conceived, driven and owned by Pacific nations themselves.

"Our partners should help us realize and complement our ambitions — not define, nor shape them for us," he said.

The Solomon Islands leader said the Pacific Islands Forum should remain the region's principal political institution and urged leaders to preserve the annual Forum Leaders Meeting as a venue where Pacific governments first discuss regional priorities before engaging development partners.

He also reflected on assuming both the office of prime minister and, shortly afterward, the Forum chairmanship, describing it as an unexpected privilege at a significant moment in the Pacific's regional

development.

Throughout his address, Wale returned repeatedly to the concept of the "Blue Pacific Continent," saying the region's shared identity and common interests provide its greatest source of strength.

Referring to the 2025 Forum theme, "Lumi Tugeda – Act Now for an Integrated Blue Pacific Continent," Wale said the slogan represents more than a conference theme.

"It reflects our shared identity, respect, our interconnectedness and our enduring responsibility to one another as one Pacific family," he said.

He argued that regional cooperation has already enabled Pacific countries to influence global discussions on climate change, protect maritime boundaries, advance ocean governance and strengthen resilience in ways individual nations could not have accomplished alone.

Rather than viewing Pacific nations primarily as vulnerable small island states, Wale urged leaders to embrace the region's identity as "big ocean states," emphasizing that collective action gives the Pacific greater influence internationally.

Security also featured prominently in the address.

Wale said Pacific security should not be viewed through the lens of competition among major powers but instead as protecting Pacific peoples, sovereignty and the region's way of life.

He noted that existing regional agreements, including the Biketawa Declaration and the Boe Declaration, have provided important foundations but suggested the Forum should consider strengthening its regional security architecture.

Wale proposed exploring whether a stronger regional framework



could better reflect Pacific security principles while ensuring decisions affecting regional security continue to be led by Pacific governments.

He also called for protecting the annual leaders meeting from outside influences and suggested creating a regional mechanism capable of safeguarding the Pacific's long-term security interests while supporting the Forum's vision of an "Ocean of Peace."

Turning to regional development, Wale said the Pacific has produced no shortage of declarations, strategies and policy commitments over the years. The greater challenge, he argued, is implementation.

"The challenge before us now is not one of good ideas — it is one of implementation," he said.

He called on Forum members, regional organizations and development partners to better coordinate their efforts around priorities established by Pacific governments.

Wale also offered a personal reflection on political leadership, noting that elected leaders often have only a brief period to demonstrate meaningful results before facing voters again.

"Our people are looking to us not simply for statements of intent, but for tangible progress and lasting results," he said.

Looking ahead to preparations for the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, Wale urged Pacific governments to match regional ambitions with practical action, saying implementation should become the measure of the Forum's success.

He encouraged Pacific nations to place greater emphasis on opportunities rather than vulnerabilities, pointing to the region's combined exclusive economic zones, covering nearly 40 million square kilometers, as one of its greatest strategic assets.

"If we remain united in purpose, steadfast in our values and confident in our own leadership, there is no challenge that the Blue Pacific cannot overcome," he said.

Wale concluded by encouraging a regionalism that includes the voices of all Pacific peoples, particularly young people, whose leadership he said will shape the region's future, before quoting Romans 12 to illustrate the value of unity within diversity.

"Our strength is unity in the diversity of our Forum Family," he said.

USP research helps deliver Tuvalu's first Waste Plastic-to-Fuel Project

University of the South Pacific

July 10, 2026

Tuvalu — Tuvalu has taken a major step towards transforming plastic waste into a valuable source of energy with the launch of the country's first plastic waste and used engine oil pyrolysis machine, through a research project by The University of the South Pacific (USP).

The initiative addresses two of the most pressing challenges facing Pacific Island nations – waste management and energy security – by converting plastic waste and used engine oil into alternative fuel sources.

The project was spearheaded by USP Master's research student Miriama Uluiviti, under the supervision of Associate Professor David Rohindra. Their research focused on transforming plastic waste, an increasing environmental concern across Pacific islands, into practical energy solutions using pyrolysis technology.

The project was supported through funding from The Pacific Community (SPC) under the Pacific Adaptation of Waste to Energy Solutions (PAWES) Programme. The pyrolysis machine, supplied by Nufuels New Zealand, was officially launched and installed recently in Tuvalu.

The machine uses biomass for the heating process that converts plastic waste and waste engine oil into fuel in the absence of oxygen. It can process 10 kilograms

of waste plastic per batch, producing approximately 10 litres of liquid fuel and 4 m3 of hydrocarbon gas.

Testing also showed that 15 litres of waste engine oil could produce around 12 litres of diesel-like fuel and 3 m3.

The resulting fuels have been successfully tested in generators, machinery and household gas stoves, demonstrating how waste can be transformed into practical energy solutions for households and communities while strengthening local energy security.

Uluiviti, who is also an employee of the Tuvalu Waste Department, acknowledged the support received throughout the project.

"It is inspiring to see how our collective efforts can lead to such impactful change for our community. I am proud to be part of this pioneering initiative that not only addresses waste issues but also provides practical energy solutions for our families," she said.

Reflecting on the successful completion of the project, Associate Professor Rohindra commended the collaborative effort behind the initiative.

"This project began in 2024, and I am proud to see it culminate with the successful installation of the pyrolysis system in Tuvalu. I am grateful to USP for

providing this opportunity to contribute to regional sustainability initiatives. As a supervisor, I am delighted to see how dedicated students can turn innovative ideas into practical solutions that benefit communities," he said.

Director of Waste and Recycling, Epu Falega, highlighted the significance of the technology for Tuvalu's environmental future.

"This innovative pyrolysis system represents a significant step forward for Tuvalu's waste management and renewable energy strategies," the USP alumnus said.

Speaking at the official launch ceremony, Chief Guest Walter Pulogo, Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment, emphasised the importance of innovation and regional cooperation in advancing climate resilience.

"This project exemplifies the kind of innovative thinking and regional collaboration needed to address climate change and waste management issues. Tuvalu's leadership in adopting renewable energy solutions not only benefits our environment but also sets a powerful example for other Pacific nations," he stated.

Like many small island developing states,

Tuvalu faces increasing environmental pressures. Rising sea levels threaten land and freshwater resources, while limited waste disposal infrastructure contributes to pollution that affects marine ecosystems and community livelihoods. Dependence on imported fossil fuels also presents ongoing economic and energy security challenges.

The pyrolysis project delivers environmental and socio-economic benefits by reducing plastic and waste oil pollution, generating alternative fuel, strengthening local energy security, providing practical energy for households and communities, and supporting climate resilience through sustainable waste utilization.

The project demonstrates the value of collaboration between USP, SPC, the Government of Tuvalu and private sector partners in delivering sustainable, climate-resilient solutions for Pacific communities.



Forum Troika leaders meet in Suva on regional governance and strategic priorities

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

July 1, 2026

Suva, Fiji - Pacific Islands Forum Troika Leaders met today in Suva, Fiji, for strategic discussions on the future governance of the Pacific regional system and key regional priorities in the lead up to the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Palau.

The Forum Troika comprises the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum and Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Honourable Matthew Wale, the Prime Minister of Tonga, Honourable Lord Fakafanua, and the President of Palau, His Excellency Surangel Whipps Jr.

The meeting formed part of Prime Minister Wale's first Official State Visit to Fiji since assuming the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum. Opening the meeting,

Prime Minister Wale emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Pacific's regional institutions continue to evolve to meet an increasingly complex strategic environment.

"The question before us is not whether the region will change. It will. The question is whether we, as a region, are positioned to evolve quickly enough to continue serving our Leaders and our people in an agile and efficient manner," said Prime Minister Wale.

Troika Leaders held frank and candid discussions on the continued strengthening of Pacific regionalism, including progress on the implementation of the Suva Agreement and the broader Review of the Regional Architecture reforms aimed at ensuring the regional system remains fit for purpose, responsive and Member-led.

Leaders also exchanged views on preparations for the region's engagement in the lead-up to COP31, including Fiji and Tuvalu hosting of the Pre-COP31 meeting later this year, recognising the importance of maintaining a strong and united voice on climate action and sustainable development.

Leaders also reflected on the progress of the Pacific Resilience Facility and underscored the importance of engaging and advocating for its capitalisation with all genuine partners.

Preparations for the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, to be hosted by Palau from 31 August - 4 September also featured prominently in their discussions.

Throughout the meeting, Troika Leaders

reaffirmed the value of the Forum as the region's premier political institution and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining Pacific unity, strengthening regional governance and accelerating implementation of Leaders' decisions.

The meeting in Suva was the third meeting of the Forum Troika in 2026 and reflects the Troika's ongoing role in providing strategic guidance between annual meetings of Forum Leaders.

