

Pohnpei celebrates Fifth Annual World Tuna Day

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 5, 2021
Pohnpei—Though the commemoration was one month after the fact, Pohnpei celebrated World Tuna Day today with the theme, “Tuna, for my Family, my Country, my Future”. The celebration was held at the Kolonia-China Friendship Gym. The all-day celebration that included a coloring contest for kids, dancing and music, and booths highlighting various aspects of the tuna industry.

World Tuna Day was officially established by the United Nations General Assembly in December of 2016. It aims to draw attention

See “World Tuna Day” on page 11



In this EDITION of the KPress:

U Council member Kesday Ray Ladore resigns his position

Page 4

President Panuelo unanimously elected as Chair of the Pacific Island Conference of Leaders

Page 15

OPA lauds Kitti improvement over previous audit but points out several areas still needing correction

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 3, 2021
Kitti, Pohnpei—A recent audit on Kitti’s cash receipts and disbursement procedures and activities for the fiscal year 2019 and 2020 shows what the Pohnpei State Auditor’s office calls “a worth move forward” over the previous audit. The government is still exposed to the possibility of abuse, misuse, theft and fraud. The previous audit covered activities in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

“We have observed opportunities and have included in our recommendations for the government to

further strengthen and improve its fiscal accountability to provide reasonable assurance that its cash receipts and cash disbursements are safeguarded from significant unintentional error and/or potential wrongdoing,” the audit said.

The audit said that it found essential control activities over Kitti’s cash receipts were not applied consistently and correctly. It found that bank deposits were not consistently made in a timely manner ranging from eight days to three months after receipt. Monthly bank reconciliations were not performed. The

Kitti Government instead kept track of its running book balance by summarizing monthly disbursements and deposits. It said that all collections except for \$25 were eventually deposited in the bank. It found a deposit of \$37,948.98 that was not properly documented and that \$386,077.27 was not recorded appropriately. It found receipts for income that were dated after deposit dates and receipts that were issued out of sequence.

It said that the above deficiencies

See “Kitti Audit” on page 5

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President Panuelo launches Social Protection Community Grants

FSM Information Services

Palikir, Pohnpei—On June 4th, 2021, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—launched the FSM Social Protection Community Grants in an opening ceremony. Developed by President Panuelo and funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Social Protection Community Grants are a key component of the Nation’s larger Social Protection infrastructure.

Citizens will recall that ADB is generously providing 14 million dollars (\$14,000,000) for the purpose of the FSM’s Social Protection programming. Of this amount, two million dollars (\$2,000,000) are allocated for assisting Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and community groups. The community-based COVID-19 awareness grant is intended to strengthen awareness of COVID-19, inclusive of education on handwashing and social distancing, distribution of soaps, masks, and informational materials, and piloting a gender-based violence hotline in Pohnpei State. The Kolonia Town Taskforce received

an award of \$42,392.50 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Madolenihmw Students Organization (MSO) received \$32,000 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Kolonia Senior Citizens Association received \$12,500 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Moch Youth received \$17,116 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Kitti COVID-19 Task Force received \$40,000 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Oneop Island Youth Association “Ateneki” received \$50,000 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Ati Saram Satawan Association received \$43,620 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Utwe Women Organization received \$50,000 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Tamil Resources & Conservation Trust received \$50,000 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Kosrae Catholic Community received \$12,409.70 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Chuuk Women Council received \$41,500 to support their efforts in COVID-19



prevention activities. The Kids of Ruu Community received \$39,224 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. Sower received \$38,319.12 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Sekere Community Youth Association received \$37,000 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Enimwahn Development Association received \$49,150 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Madolenihmw Municipal Government COVID-19 Task Force received \$50,000 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities. The Nett Indigenous Women Council, Inc. received \$50,000 to support their efforts in COVID-19 prevention activities.

“We thank ADB for their generous support of our FSM Social Protection Programming,” President Panuelo said. “Your work as NGOs and community groups, women’s groups, and youth groups, across the Nation, will ensure that our country can safely handle the COVID-19 Pandemic when it reaches our country, and help ensure that we prosper beyond it as we come closer to our vaccination targets.”

A working group, consisting of public servants from the Department of Health & Social Affairs and the Department of Finance & Administration, is tasked to review applications for the COVID-19 Social Protection Community-Based Grant. Applications continue to be accepted and processed.

“Each of you submitted the applications and fulfilled the criteria we required,” said Acting Secretary for the Department of Health & Social Affairs, Marcus Samo. “You were selected because of what you submitted.”

The highly anticipated Low-Income Assistance Program is scheduled to be launched during the week of June 7th to 11th.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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FSMNOC thanks Australian Government for training grants for its Tokyo Olympics athletes

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 2, 2021

Pohnpei, FSM—The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), through the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) will be providing over \$42,000 USD to support FSM athletes who are currently training for the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games. The FSM National Olympic Committee (FSMNOC) hosted a ceremony this morning, both to brief and to thank representatives of the Australian Government for the grant. Australian Ambassador to the FSM Jo Cowley and Second Secretary and Consul Takuro Steele attended the ceremony on Australia's behalf.

Due to COVID-19 none of the four athletes who will be representing the FSM were able to be present at the ceremony, and qualification has been difficult to achieve due to inability to travel to qualifying events. The experience for all of the athletes around the world will also be quite different. Each will arrive at designated and isolated accommodations at the Games Villages just a few days before their events and will be

constantly checked for the virus. They are required to leave Japan within two days of their competitions.

Further, due to the FSM's travel restrictions, FSMNOC support personnel and coaches will be unable to attend. FSMNOC Secretary General Jim Tobin said that it is important for him to be there though he knows that he may not be able to return to the FSM, possibly for months after the Tokyo Olympics.

All of FSM's Olympic athletes will have pre-Olympic training camp experiences.

Tobin said that Scott Fiti will compete in the Men's 100-meter track event on July 31 and has been training in Guam. He will arrive at the Olympic Games Village on July 25 and will compete on July 31. His training camp in Japan will begin on July 9 with an FSM coach.

FSM's famous and accomplished female lightweight boxer, Jennifer Chieng has been training in Thailand. Her Italian coach will start putting her through her pre-game training in San Diego beginning on June 7. She will arrive at the Games Village on July 19 and will compete on July 28 and 30. Her FSM Coach, Erick Divinigracia will not be able to attend the games.

Swimmer Tasi Limtiaco has been training in Phuket, Thailand since January 2020 for his 200-meter Individual Medley event. The Individual Medley is 50 meters each for backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and free style. His pre-games training camp will begin on July 1 with a Japanese coach with ties to the FSMNOC swimming program. He will arrive at the Games Village on July 19 and will compete on July 28.

Taeyanna Adams has been training in Hawaii since January for her 100-meter breaststroke event. She is accompanied by her mother, Mae Adams. Her father, Richie Adams was present at today's ceremony. Adams' pre-games training experience will be from July 1-19 in Japan with the same coach who will be training Limtiaco. Her competition on July 25 will be the first breaststroke competition for any FSM competitor at any Olympic games.

Unfortunately, Junjun Asebias, who Tobin described as a "monster wrestler" from the FSM, missed a spot in the Olympics when he came in fourth behind a Bulgarian wrestler in May. Only the top

three places qualified for the Olympics. According to Tobin, the match he lost to the Bulgarian wrestler came down to judges' decisions.

During Thursday's ceremony, FSMNOC President Berney Martin welcomed participants that in addition to Ambassador Cowley included FSM coaches and sporting leaders who, if not for COVID-19 would have been able to attend the Tokyo Olympics.



Japanese Speech Contest at CCA



Embassy of Japan

In the afternoon of Thursday 20 May 2021, Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia observed a Japanese language class at Calvary Christian Academy (CCA), Pohnpei, accompanied by Mrs. Virginia John, Principal of the school.

On that day that Japanese language class hosted by Mrs. Sumiyo Ito, conducted a Japanese Speech contest.

12 girls and boys made the same speech, explaining "Sakura Zensen" or the movement of the cherry blossom blooming line from south to north in Japan in Japanese.

Ambassador Sobashima, Mrs. Ito,

Mr. Kazuto Ito, husband of Mrs. Ito, and also a Japanese teacher, Ms. Meyren Wichep, CCA graduate and currently a COM student, and Ms. Airi Iizuka, Researcher and Advisor of the Embassy of Japan gave their marks to all contestants.

The three best contestants received from Ambassador Sobashima, as their award, a couple pieces of stationary made in Japan.

Ambassador Sobashima commended all students who made speech in Japanese for their efforts.

He said that all speeches were good, but as he had to differentiate, he severely examined light mistakes to choose the best, and encouraged the students to work harder to become even better speaker of Japanese.



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U Council member Kesday Ray Ladore resigns his position

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 30, 2021

U, Pohnpei—On May 17, 2021, U Councilman Kesday Ray Ladore officially resigned from the U Municipal legislative body.

Under U's recently revised Constitution, no special election will need to take place to fill his position. Previously, the U Council was constituted by 11 U Council members, each representing different election districts in U and when a council member needed to be replaced for whatever reason, a special election was held in the district the exiting council member represented. The revised U Constitution reduced the number of council members from 11 to seven, each of them represented all of U rather than a particular set of villages. The new Constitution also eliminated the need for special elections. The next highest vote getter in the previous election, Pedrus Bernardo immediately filled Ladore's position as council member upon his resignation.

Ladore says that after a year and five months serving as an U council member, he was offered a position at the Pacific Community (SPC) as National Officer for the FSM Sustainable Energy project based at the FSM National Resource and Development office in Palikir. He

said that in order to safeguard SPC's reputational efforts, and most importantly, the neutrality of its efforts to serve countries across the Pacific region, SPC employees are barred by policy from holding a political office whether full or part time.

He said that the decision to resign and go to work for SPC was a difficult one to make, particularly considering the work U community members put into his campaign. He only made the decision after consulting with his key advisors in U. He decided that within his availability, he could continue to serve the U community in a non-political role as a member of the community.

He said that he also needed to seriously consider the needs of his family. 36-year-old Kendy Ray Ladore is married and his daughter is 11 years old with many years left in her educational journey. Two of his family members are suffering with severe illnesses. The needs of his family tipped the decision for him to resign and begin his employment with SPC.

"I hope this transition will set an example for other governments in Pohnpei," Ladore said, speaking of the changes in U's Constitution that allowed his position to be filled without additional expense to the government. He said that the reduction in the number of council members has also saved the government over \$30,000.



Vacancies

Policy Adviser (Regional Security)
The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum is the region's political and policy organisation, with a vision of helping to create a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Forum Secretariat) headquartered in Suva, Fiji works to support Members' achievement of this vision by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members - including directly engaging with community members in order to identify pressing needs of the region.

The work of the Forum Secretariat is guided by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) as being:

The expression of a common sense of identity and purpose, leading progressively to the sharing of institutions, resources, and markets, with the purpose of complimenting national efforts, overcoming common constraints, and embracing sustainable and inclusive development within Pacific countries and territories and for the Pacific region as-a-whole.

The FPR is underpinned by the Blue Pacific narrative, endorsed by Forum Leaders in Samoa in 2017. It calls for a long-term regional commitment to act as one "Blue Continent" as the means to achieve its development aspirations. The Leaders Blue Pacific vision is that it would serve as the platform to reinforce and inspire the region in its shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and to reaffirm the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods.

The Opportunity

The Forum Secretariat is looking for a **Policy Adviser (Regional Security)** to join the team in Suva, Fiji. Reporting to the Director Policy, the Adviser leads the provision of advice on regional security trends and threats as well as the coordination of the regional security priorities framed by the Boe Declaration and its Action Plan approved by Leaders in 2018.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following duties:

- Policy Analysis and Advice;
- Regional Security Coordination, Cooperation and Information Sharing;
- Inter-agency Partnerships and Advocacy; and
- Team Performance & Leadership.

The Secretariat seeks a strategic and proficient individual with an advanced degree in politics, legal, security or relevant discipline and has an extensive experience in policy analysis and report writing. Ability to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of geo-political, geo-strategic, traditional and non-traditional security issues within the Pacific with proven capability to monitor regional and international developments and to conduct comprehensive stakeholder analysis and engagement.

Aptitude to work with a small team of professional staff, set priorities successfully, to work alone with other professionals with minimal direction and supervision and ability to meet tight deadlines.

The Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The starting salary is at **SDR 42,297** per annum. At the 1 April 2021 exchange rate this salary was equivalent to **FJD123,712**. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. **Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 25 June 2021.**

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

FSM Donates \$200,000 to the people and government of the Republic of Palau for Typhoon Surigae relief

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 27th, 2021, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—signed into law Congressional Act 21-264, which has since become Public Law 21-260. Public Law 21-260 appropriates the sum of \$200,000 from the General Fund of the FSM for the purpose of funding relief efforts in the Republic of Palau due to Typhoon Surigae.

“In my capacity as President of the FSM,” President Panuelo said in a statement, “I would like to first extend my sincerest appreciation to the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the FSM Congress, for Congress’ continued leadership in extending peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity. It is a blessing to know that each and every one of my colleagues in our National

Congress are committed and devoted to public service, and committed to doing the right thing.”

“I would also like to note, to my good friend His Excellency Surangel S. Whipps Jr., President of Palau, and to the People of Palau,” President Panuelo continued, “There are so many times when we in the FSM look up to you. We look up to your leadership, both contemporary and historical. We look up to your People, in the public sector and the private sector. We don’t usually say it out loud, but we all know it’s true. We’re proud of your democracy; we’re proud of your comparative economic prosperity; we’re proud of your accomplishments. When we learned of Typhoon Surigae affecting our brothers and sisters in Palau, it moved us very deeply. We know that the People and Government of Palau always have the FSM’s back; let this donation of \$200,000 serve as documentary evidence, a bullet point on a never-ending list, that the FSM will always have Palau’s back, too.”

FSM recognizes the legitimacy of Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata’afa

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 24th, 2021, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) announced its formal recognition of the Honorable Fiame Naomi Mata’afa as the newly elected Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa.

“As the FSM is itself a democracy,” His Excellency David W. Panuelo said in a statement, “that both upholds and promotes democratic values, it is imperative that we show our friends—especially during their darkest hours—that we stand with them. Samoa is a cherished friend and Pacific neighbor; recent weeks have been very troubling for the Samoan People, who have been witnessing what is arguably a Constitutional and Political crisis.”

“It is precisely in moments like these that we, as Micronesians, must be brave and proactive. The FSM stands by the rule of law. The People of Samoa are

our friends; they need to hear that we support them in this crisis. They must know that they are not facing these challenges alone, but that their friends in the North Pacific stand with them.”

To the People and Government of Samoa: the FSM extends to you peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity.

At the time of this release, President Panuelo has instructed his staff to determine how he can reach Prime Minister Mata’afa to offer his sincere congratulations.



...Kitti Audit

Continued from front page

occurred because the government lacks documented control policies and procedures for the handling and processing of its cash receipts. Additionally, supervisory and oversight review is inadequate. “In our view, the employees are aware of this and deliberately taking advantage of management lapse of oversight,” it said.

Auditors recommended that the Lukenmoanlap (similar to Mayor) should establish appropriate policies and procedures, require daily reconciliation of cash receipts, require monthly bank reconciliations, conduct regular reviews, conduct training, and to provide close monitoring and supervision to ensure that operating controls are consistently applied and working.

Auditors reviewed 1486 disbursements including payroll and found that 160 or 11 percent were not properly maintained, supported by vouchers, receipts or other supporting documents. Specifically, eight disbursements totaling \$1,029.23 could not be located on file and were not reviewed. 45 disbursements totaling \$7,297.49 were only supported with purchase requisitions. 25 disbursements for fuel amounting to \$9,590.30 were issued without proper approval. 19 disbursements for a total of \$8,166.84 were made with no clear justification as to the purpose of the purchases. There were 45 instances where bi-weekly time sheets were not attached to payrolls and/or time sheets were not signed by the person who prepared them. There were 10 instances

where applications for leave were not signed by an approving officer. Lastly, in the auditors’ list, there were eight instances where there was no evidence supporting employees’ consecutive absences from work.

Auditors also noted that the Kitti government’s schedule payroll dates were not always followed. It said that in 45 paydays of the 52 in the two years of the audit period, there were early releases of payrolls for certain employees.

Auditors also questioned \$1,016.51 for food and sakau, and also \$768.61 paid to “certain individuals”. They said those transactions lacked adequate documentation or

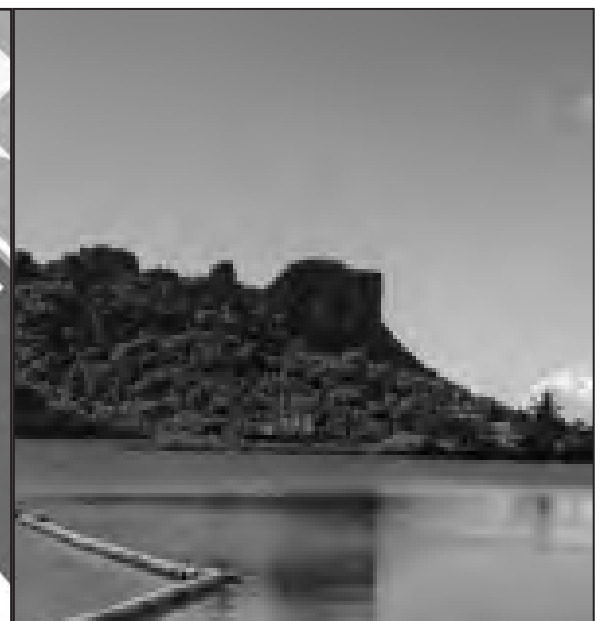
explanation to support and justify the disbursements.

Auditors made similar recommendations for correction of disbursements in future to those it made for correction of proper procedures for receipt of funds.

Kitti’s Lukenmoanlap, Tony Sarapio made his response to the audit in the local vernacular. Auditors lauded the government for having made many corrections, while also indicating that those and better will do for future.

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ICT equipment further advances Congress' online capacity

FSM Congress

May 24, 2021

PALIKIR, POHNPEI – Vice Speaker Esmond B. Moses hosted a handover ceremony at the temporary Congress Chamber and was joined virtually by Kevin Petrini, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP Pacific Office along with Hassan Nasir Mirbahar, Parliament Development Specialist, to receive Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment from the Japanese Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia: His Excellency Hidenobu Sobashima.

On May 18, 2021, the Congress received ICT equipment that included web-conference systems, video cameras, television screens and related accessories that were made available through the UNDP's 'Strengthening Legislatures' Capacity in Pacific Island Countries' (SLIP) Project and funded by the Government of Japan.

Ambassador Hidenobu believes that the ICT equipment will "further empower the Congress, which should contribute to the sustainable economic and social development of the FSM." He noted that the Government of Japan has been extending its cooperation directly to the FSM and also through international organizations such as UNDP, "we are glad to acknowledge that through our cooperation, the FSM has become the first Pacific legislature to convene virtual sessions."

In March 2020, the coronavirus pandemic had locked down the FSM borders and imposed travels restrictions on an island nation which forced the Congress to reassess the fulfillment of its constitutional mandates and how to address pending national issues.

Vice Speaker Moses said, "Last year, we met with a predicament that humanity had never faced before. As COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, we decided to organize a virtual session following the travel restrictions. I want to thank our staff who made this possible through their hard work. We conducted a lot of mock sessions and when we were sure, we called a five-day session to begin."

On April 13, 2021, the 21st FSM Congress launched its first virtual session and as Vice Speaker shared, "we had gigantic tasks in front of us as we had to deal with stimulus package, legislations and reviewing of the government's

proclamation of emergency.

"The success of the first five days of online session led us to extend the session to five more days. We were able to complete those sessions and a few others successfully," noted the Vice Speaker.

Moses concluded his remarks saying that "collaboration and cooperation are essential parts of humanity. They help us overcome many challenges and problems. With the many challenges we faced in organizing virtual sessions, the Government of Japan and UNDP stepped into to help us resolve these challenges by providing us technical assistance along with hardware and software solutions. I wish to thank both of them on behalf of the Congress and our people."

The UNDP Deputy Representative a.i. for the Pacific Office, Kevin Petrini also thanked the Government of Japan for their generous support "in FSM and other Pacific countries, helping us and our partner parliaments and governments achieve many milestones on institutional development, pandemic response and recovery, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Mr. Petrini praised the FSM Congress as the first Pacific parliament to organize virtual sessions, leading the way for other Pacific parliaments to learn from its experience. "As many organizations were grappling with adapting to the Pandemic related restrictions, Congress led the way for the Pacific by quickly deploying ICT solutions to convene its sessions virtually," Petrini said.

He thanked the Congress leadership for their vision and the Congress staff for their hard work to activate ICT solutions for the Congress sessions. Petrini concluded his statement by reiterating that UNDP "stand ready to provide further support to enable Congress to continue its operation during the Pandemic and other emergencies."

The FSM Congress has benefitted from various programs made available through UNDP, especially through its SLIP project. A project that seeks to provide support for island parliaments or legislatures to become more effective and efficient through strengthening the work of their committees related to legislation and oversight, and building the capacities of legislators and professionalism of staff. Specific to the legislative branch, the SLIP project is funded by the Government of Japan for three years to support and

strengthen six legislatures in the Pacific, namely: Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the FSM.



Those Concerned for the Project



Speech by Ambassador Sobashima



Speech by Mr. Petrini, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji

IOM and Australian Embassy handover dignity kits to the Pohnpei DHSS

By International Organization for Migration

Pohnpei - On May 21, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Australia Aid donated Dignity Kits to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) for women in Pohnpei. Nathan Glancy, IOM's Chief of Party, and Takuro Steele, Australia's Chargé d'Affaires handed over 175 buckets of Dignity Kits to the DHSS at a ceremony held at the Pohnpei State Conference Room. Dr. Rally Jim, Chief of Primary Health, and a representative of Mr. Wincener David, Director of Health and Services, gladly received the kits on behalf of DHSS.

The production and donation of Dignity Kits is one of the protection components of the project, COVID-19 Response: Strengthening Health Dispensaries in the Federated States of Micronesia, a partnership between IOM and Australian Embassy. This handover was the first of the four that will happen in FSM. The creation of Dignity Kits for the other three states — Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae — are also underway.

Dignity Kits help women maintain their dignity during humanitarian crises by providing important hygiene and sanitary items. At the handover ceremony, Dr. Rally Jim said that the handover was very timely and useful for those women who are in quarantine areas. Inside the dignity kit buckets are standard hygiene items such as menstrual pads, underwear,



shampoo, soap, bath towel, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, nail clipper, box of bandages, tissue paper, hand sanitizer, alcohol, disposable and cloth face masks, baby wipes, laundry detergent, coconut body oil and contraceptives.

Ms. Pertina Albert, Public Health Nurse Supervisor — upon seeing that the coconut oil was locally made — commented that the kit is well-thought-out and caters to the needs of Micronesian women. IOM conducted a Focus Group Discussion in March, which was attended by various women's groups, during which the kit was designed. This process ensured that it was tailored to the needs of Micronesian women.

The production of dignity kits also aims to economically empower women's groups and support their small business enterprise. In Pohnpei, it was the Lih Mwoakilloa who produced the body soil and cloth face masks. The women's councils across the four states have been tapped to produce the local oils and face masks that will go into the kits.

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OP PIAILUG – Successful Bilateral Maritime Patrol

LCDR David Perry

The Federated States of Micronesia represented by FSS Micronesia and the Republic of Palau represented by PSS President H. I. Remeliik II have completed the first bilateral maritime patrol of their maritime border since the onset of the COVID pandemic. The joint patrol also searched for illegal activity within the western corner of southern High Seas pocket.

After sailing from Yap FSS Micronesia conducted a successful rendezvous with PSS President H. I. Remeliik II and a US supplied Sea-dragon aircraft on the western border of FSM's EEZ, they proceeded south along the border conducting surveillance activities within their respective EEZ's. Each morning the two vessels met to conduct training evolutions and manoeuvres in order to improve the skills and efficiency of the respective crews. All activities were undertaken in a contactless manner in accordance with both countries COVID safe requirements.

OP Piailug also gave the crew of FSS Micronesia their first exposure to the capabilities of the new Guardian class patrol boats due to arrive in FSM from April 2022. Lcdr Paulino Yangitesmal, Commanding Officer of FSS Micronesia commented "it was extremely beneficial for



my crew to see the capabilities of the new Guardian class vessels as well as the difference in size between the Pacific Patrol boat and the Guardian class boats."

FSS Micronesia will be the first of the FSM patrol boats to be replaced early next year and planning is already underway to repeat OP Piailug in 2022, with both countries operating Guardian class patrol boats, in order to continue the cooperation between FSM and Palau in the management and surveillance of their respective ocean resources.

Third scheduled fuel price adjustment to be implemented in June

Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation

Pohnpei, FSM– The Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC) would like to confirm that a third price movement of +\$0.15 per gallon on the wholesale price of unleaded gasoline (ULP) and diesel (ADO) will go into effect June 10, 2021. In April 2021, FSMPC had advised customers of a planned series of price movements in April, May and June 2021.

FSMPC Chief Financial Officer Mr. Johnny Adolph commented on the upcoming increase: "We had hoped to be announcing that we would be deferring this third price increase; however, international prices have remained at elevated levels since February 2021. Since May 7, 2021, motorists in Guam have been paying \$4.52 per gallon of unleaded gasoline, while as of today, FSM motorists are still paying on average \$4.20 per gallon. We anticipate FSM pump prices to increase to an average of \$4.35 per gallon after this third price increase, which will still be almost twenty cents per gallon lower than Guam pump prices. We will see how long we can hold prices at that level and will continue to monitor the situation closely."

CFO Adolph concluded, "We thank our customers for their continued cooperation and support, and for helping to keep pump prices reasonably low for FSM motorists."

Employment Opportunities



College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement

The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic and career & technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices.

Values:

COMMITMENT EXCELLENCE TEAM WORK
LEARNER-CENTEREDNESS
PROFESSIONALISM

The College of Micronesia-FSM is searching for qualified candidates to fill the position of:
Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance

Location: National Campus

Annual Salary: \$44,196.00

Closing Date: June 27, 2021

The Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance (VPIEQA) reports to the President and provides leadership that supports the College of Micronesia-FSM goals and strategic plan for institutional effectiveness and quality. The VP-IEQA provides leadership for and oversight of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) and Information Technology Office (ITO). The position is a key contributor to policy development and implementation related to institutional effectiveness and quality assurance and with essential functions in the areas of Governance, Planning & Budgeting, Integrity, Community Engagement, Administration, and Continuous Improvement

The full vacancy announcement can be accessed here:

Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 180,181, and 179, or visit us at www.comfsm.fm.

"The FSM is currently under lockdown or heavily restricted for certain types of travel internationally and between states due to the Covid19 pandemic. All candidates as a condition of employment to be hired must be physically present on Pohnpei Island, at least two weeks before the start of the employment period. If a candidate is selected but cannot meet this requirement this offer may be withdrawn."

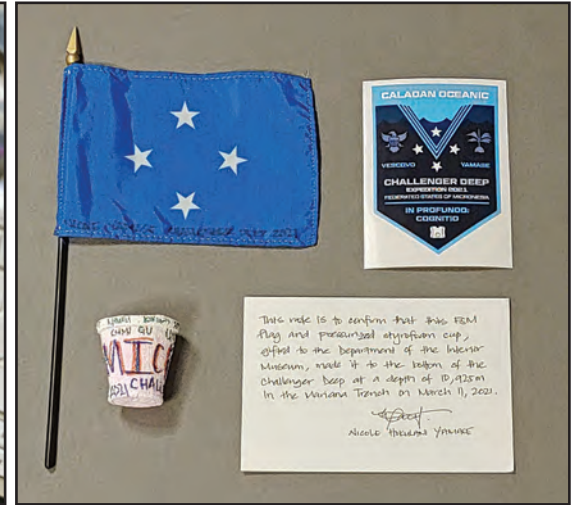
Gift to Interior Museum highlights history made by first Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench

Honors AANHPI Heritage Month and strengthens representation of island areas at the Interior Museum in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of the Interior

May 21, 2021

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) applauds the Interior Museum for recently acquiring items donated by Ms. Nicole Yamase, who on March 11, 2021, became the first Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench. The Interior Museum accepted the items this week in honor of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage month.



“May these items represent our strength, pride, resiliency, and the amazing accomplishments we will continue to achieve as Pacific Islanders,” said Nicole Yamase.

“We often remark that our collection spans from West to East and from sea to sky, but to be given these items that have traveled with Nicole Yamase to the deepest known section of the Earth’s ocean is a first for the Museum and incredibly special,” said Tracy Baetz, Chief Curator of the Interior Museum.

“We are pleased that the Interior Museum continues to update and strengthen its collection, including items that represent the island areas,” said Nikolao Pula, Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs. “This gift represents the unique achievement Ms. Yamase has made as the first Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep and will now continue to share her story for generations to come.”

From her journey to a depth of nearly 36,000 feet (11 kilometers), Ms. Yamase has gifted a polystyrene cup with "Micronesia", "United We Stand," and the names of the Micronesian

islands written on it that accompanied her on the outside of the Deep Submergence Vehicle (DSV) Limiting Factor and has shrunk to the size of a large thimble, visibly demonstrating the effects of ocean pressure; an autographed flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, which she carried with her inside the submersible; and badges from the mission. Ms. Yamase completed the expedition with retired U.S. Naval officer and undersea explorer Victor Vescovo.

The Mariana Trench straddles a large part of the Western Pacific from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, encompassing Guam and part of the exclusive economic zone of the Federated States of Micronesia, where the deepest known point, the Challenger Deep is found. Ms. Yamase, a Ph.D. candidate in marine biology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, who hails from the Federated

See “Interior Museum” on page 11

We're hiring!

POSITIONS NOW AVAILABLE:

- POWER PLANT OPERATOR (POHNPEI)
- TERMINAL OPERATOR (KOSRAE)
- POWER PLANT OPERATOR (CHUUK)
- INFIRMARY NURSE (CHUUK)
- ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN (HEAD OFFICE)
- CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER-OTC (NAURU)
- TERMINAL OPERATOR (NAURU)



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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project Title: National Technical Expert – MICCO19 & North Pacific Food Security Governance Project (FSM)

A. Project Description

The Pacific Community (SPC) responds to food insecurity conditions in the Pacific African Caribbean and Pacific countries emerging from the COVID-19 crisis, through the European Union-funded Phase II Micronesia COVID-19 Response (MICCO19) initiative. USAID is co-financing additional funds linked to good governance to work delivered under MICCO19 as part of the North Pacific Food Security Governance Project (NPFSGP). The specific objective of MICCO19 and the NPFSGP is to address food & nutrition security impacts because of COVID-19 through strengthened sustainable and resilient food systems and good governance. This will be implemented in the following countries in the North Pacific: Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau, and Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI).

SPC implements the project through its offices in Suva, Fiji and Pohnpei, FSM in close collaboration with national and sub-national governments and organisations. SPC working with its three Micronesia member countries on short term interventions as a direct response to the impact of COVID 19 will provide a package of support that is dovetailed to the specific needs of the member countries. Through SPC's Human Rights and Social Development division (HRSD), SPC will support FSM, Palau and RMI, to address food and nutrition security in the context of COVID-19 in a way that ensures the benefits of the interventions are effectively and equitably distributed, especially to those who need them the most.

Palikir Consulting Services (PCS) has been contracted by The Pacific Community (SPC) to coordinate the MICCO19 project in FSM this year, from June to December 2021. PCS will work closely with the national Department of Resources & Development, Agriculture Division and the respective State government departments in Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap to implement these projects and ensure alignment to government priorities, and have overall coordination with other food security initiatives that the FSM is currently implementing. The National Technical Expert (NTE) will work closely with the PCS team and other key stakeholders.

B. Scope of Work

- Support implementation of the Project's day-to-day activities through effective and efficient use of resources, ensuring compliance to agreed results, reporting, and evaluation targets.
- Support the production of all

MICCO19 & NPFSGP FSM component project reports, budgets and work plans as well as for the timely deliverable outputs; and

- Assist with monitoring and evaluating and maintaining evidence for verification of the results and support through MICCO19 and the NPFSGP.
- Liaison with national, local, community and traditional leaders to ensure the smooth running of project implementation and identified groups' inclusivity.
- Collaborate with national food security cluster and other food security programmes to strengthen national coordination relating to COVID-19 food security actions.
- Increase the visibility of the Project at all levels.

C. Expected Outputs

- Support preparation of detailed project implementation plan/approach and work plans in line with project budget, objectives and outcomes in collaboration FSM R&D, MICCO19, NPFSGP team and primary stakeholders.
- Prepare technical specifications of the required project support (equipment, seeds, livestock support, biosecurity support, farm inputs, technologies, etc.), in full compliance with local conditions and project needs.
- Work closely with MICCO19 and NPFSGP teams to ensure efficient procurement of identified support.
- Provide technical inputs to monthly reports about the completed activities and project progress reports to reflect the Project's outputs and results against agreed work plans and identify constraints and issues that require timely resolution and corrective actions.
- Coordinate meetings/workshops with the implementing partners and act as the liaison officer and help build project management capability within the Project by collaborating with the Project team and stakeholders.
- Assume overall responsibility for the proper handling of logistics related to project support, workshops and events.
- Support the design and establishment of a project feedback and complaints mechanism
- Integrate a People Centred Approach for capacity building for MICCO19 and NPFSGP stakeholders.
- Development of tools for community participation and M&E of MICCO19 and NPFSGP.
- Take an active part in the project issue/risk management process, by contributing to the identification and prioritization of existing and potential issues and risks, and helping

to develop strategies and controls to mitigate these.

- Perform other related tasks and duty travel as required.

D. Institutional Arrangement

The Technical Expert will be responsible to SPC through the FSM National Project Coordinator (PCS), directly reporting to FSM NPC.

E. Duration of the Work

The duration of the assignment will be six months, from approximately mid-June to December 31, 2021.

F. Duty Station

The duty station will be flexible and may be a combination of home-based, the PCS office at the former Micronesia Seminar Building in Kolonia, Pohnpei, and at FSM R&D in Palikir, Pohnpei. There may be travelling associated with the work, and SPC will organize travelling expenses and Per-diem after clearance from the National Project Coordinator.

G. Qualifications of the Successful National Technical Expert

The NTE should possess a minimum of 10 years of experience in the fields of agriculture and plant science, with specific work on food security initiatives within the FSM. The NTE should also possess a strong network of contacts in the agriculture sector, and have a keen knowledge of the geographical, social, environmental and cultural aspects of the islands of FSM. In addition, knowledge of key suppliers of agricultural products, goods and services within and outside of FSM, experience with handling the often complex logistical arrangements to remote regions and previous experience and the ability to design and facilitate workshops with extension agents, government personnel and communities on agriculture best practices related to growing, pest control, composting and waste management and other key features to growing vegetables and other foods in tropical locations. Ideally, the NTE would possess an advanced science degree.

H. Scope of Bid Price and Schedule of Payments

Bid submission and schedule of payments shall be negotiable and based on submissions received from qualified candidates.

SPC accepts no liability for any taxes, duty or other contribution payable by the consultant and individual.

Bids should be submitted to Palikir Consulting Services at palikirconsultants@gmail.com

iSTOP Invasive Species Task Force gets GPS training for field staff members

Pohnpei Department of Resources and Development

May 27, 2021

Pohnpei—On May 27, 2021, several field staff, including the Chiefs from both the Pohnpei State Divisions of Agriculture and the Natural Resource Management (formerly known as Forestry), received a Global Positioning System (GPS) training. The GPS training was conducted in response to a request by the Invasive Species Task Force of Pohnpei (iSTOP) to build the capacity of the field staff to improve documentation, data collection and spatial knowledge. Participants of the GPS training included the above listed Divisions, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) and the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and led by members of both CSP and MCT. Acquiring the skills to use GPS will ensure the collection of spatial data and inform strengthened management for State of Pohnpei's natural resource. These skills will also make iSTOP's efforts to control and manage invasive species in Pohnpei more effective. Participants can now use the GPS devices to conduct their field work effectively and efficiently by showing exactly where the eradication and control work is happening around Pohnpei. At the end of the training, MCT presented two handheld GPS units to the Divisions of Agriculture and The Natural Resource Management funded with a grant from US DOI. To maintain consistency and capacity enhancement to field staff, more practical training opportunities are planned for the near future.



U.S. Embassy Kolonia and FSM leaders honor Veterans in Memorial Day ceremony



Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

May 31, 2021

U.S. Embassy Kolonia commemorated Memorial Day with a ceremony just off the coast of Pohnpei, Micronesia. In addition to Embassy personnel, attendees included the Honorable Secretary Kandhi Elieisar, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs; Honorable Secretary Joses Gallen, FSM Department of Justice; Mr. Kehlen Halbert, Deputy Assistant Secretary FSM Department of Foreign Affairs and Commander Stewart Peter, FSM National Police. Ambassador Cantor and Secretary Elieisar placed eco-friendly floral wreaths into the ocean, followed by a moment of silence for comrades lost.

This Memorial Day ceremony honored both U.S. and FSM citizen armed forces personnel who lost their lives in service of the United States.

FSM Supreme Court sets up guidelines for OAE access to Pohnpei Cable Landing site

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 26, 2021

FSM—Between May 6 and May 24, FSM Supreme Court Associate Justice Larry Wentworth heard arguments from FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (FSMTCC or OAE) for the issuance of a preliminary injunction against FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC or Telecom) in the matter of CA 2021-010. OAE had asked the court to issue injunctions barring FSMTC from several actions and to issue a preliminary judgment ruling the agreement between OAE and FSMTC to be legally enforceable.

On May 26, Justice Wentworth issued a written order memorializing a bench ruling he made during the hearing granting injunctive relief allowing for OAE’s access to the cable landing station in Pohnpei. While the ruling requires FSMTC to allow OAE representatives to access the Pohnpei cable landing station, it also requires OAE to provide seven days’ notice to FSMTC of its intent to enter the station for the purpose of inspecting, maintaining, or repairing its equipment that is installed there. It also requires FSMTC to provide a qualified person to accompany OAE employees while they are present in the Pohnpei cable landing station. If qualified FSMTC personnel are available earlier than the seven-day notice period, FSMTC may allow and arrange for that access at FSMTC’s convenience and availability.

Justice Wentworth ruled that “the public interest

lies in seeing that neither party’s equipment becomes damaged, thus possibly impairing telecommunications service. The plaintiff’s or the defendant’s likelihood of ultimate success in this litigation is not particularly relevant to ensuring that both parties’ equipment is kept functional and undamaged.” His ruling ensured that the possible danger to Telecom that unqualified personnel might possibly damage its equipment is neutralized by the requirement that any OAE representative entering the Pohnpei cable landing station is accompanied by a qualified Telecom employee.

Neither OAE’s initial claim nor its motion for preliminary injunction mentioned that FSMTC had already allowed OAE access to cable landing sites in the FSM, including in Yap and Chuuk, and had provided for access in future. It also does not cover cable landing sites other than in Pohnpei. Access to the site is now codified and appears to be more stringent than the unmentioned agreement already allowed.

The Court’s ruling on access to Pohnpei cable landing station is by no means the last ruling that the court will make on the preliminary matters to the OAE versus Telecom case.

After over two weeks of daily hearings, both parties are now in the discovery phase in preparation for hearings on the main claims of OAE and also on Telecom’s counter-claim against OAE. Both parties will be exchanging what will likely be reams of documents before the main case comes before the court.

...Interior Museum

Continued from page 9

States of Micronesia is among the few people to have made the voyage and is the first Pacific Islander to do so.

Ms. Yamase’s expedition was culturally, historically, and scientifically significant and an important milestone in her educational journey, which was partly funded through the Micronesia Conservation Trust’s (MCT) Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund. The MCT is a regional non-profit organization supporting biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The MCT has been a recipient of OIA funding to support capacity development, training, and the protection of natural resources.

To learn more about Ms. Yamase’s historic expedition, listen to the OIA Conversation with Nicole Yamase on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/TBJV1GgyZik>.

...World Tuna Day

Continued from front page

to the importance of conservation management and sustainable fish.

Special guest speakers at today’s commemoration were Mr. Dahker Abraham, Administrator of Pohnpei’s Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Mr. Foleti Teo, Executive Director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission; and Eugene Pangelinan, Executive Director of the FSM’s National Oceanic Resources Management Authority.

While each speaker highlighted the roles of their individual offices and commissions, each reminded the audience of the importance of tuna in the Pacific Islands, nutritionally, culturally, and economically. Teo and Pangelinan spoke of the Pacific Regions’ many accomplishments in safeguarding tuna stocks in our ocean. Teo said that through the “Tuna Commission”

which consists of representatives from 40 countries, both fishing nations and fish holders, the Pacific region’s tuna stocks are being fished in a sustainable way, where that is not necessarily the case in other regions.

Pangelinan spoke of the importance of monitoring fishing activities in the FSM’s exclusive economic zone to ensure that all operators are playing by the rules. NORMA monitors the FSM’s EEZ. The “Tuna Commission” also monitors the high seas pockets between the EEZ’s of countries in the region.

Both said that the Pacific region can be proud of its efforts both scientifically and politically to sustainably utilize the great tuna resource that travels through its waters.



Local medical and CDC representatives hold panel discussion with religious leaders on COVID-19 vaccination

Pohnpei Rotary Club

May 27, 2021

Pohnpei—On May 27, the Pohnpei Rotary Club and UNICEF organized and hosted a panel discussion with the FSM's top health officials and an epidemiologist from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention to discuss and answer questions on COVID-19 vaccination. Invited were 20 respected religious leaders from the community.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an epochal event that will long be remembered in history books. It has changed the way we are living right now and will forever change the way we live them in the future. The important thing is that we survive the pandemic and try to normalize our lives as much as possible. There is no easy solution to the pandemic. So far, the FSM has been blessed by its isolation to have not yet had a transmittable case on our shores.

However, we cannot isolate forever. Families have been split apart and loved ones have passed who per their wishes wanted to return home. Reunions are a joy for all concerned, and grieving needs a family to bond. Infrastructure needs repairs and projects need to be built. Students must go on to higher education. There are so many needs that cannot be accommodated by isolation.

The one weapon we have to battle the pandemic are vaccines against the virus. They are not perfect, but they are the best

alternatives for us to return to a somewhat normal life.

Though the U.S. Government donated vaccines, there is some reluctance in the FSM population to receive the treatment. Organizers arranged for the panel discussion as one way of addressing concerns and fears surrounding the vaccines.

Panel members were Dr. Ralley Jim, Dr. Riley Jim, Dr. Payne Perman, Dr. John Hedson, Dr. Fruston Likiaksa, Dr. Thane Hancock, Carter Apaisam and Lisa Barrow from the Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA). Assistant Secretary Moses Pretrick of DHSA also attended.

Dr. Hancock is from the U.S. CDC and a recent arrival in Pohnpei. He first fielded questions regarding the vaccines themselves. He told the gathered community leaders that though the vaccines were developed quickly, they have been tested thoroughly and side effects are minimal. He said that flu-like symptoms after taking the vaccines are normal and mean that your immune system is working and adapting to fight against the COVID-19 virus. Millions and millions of people have taken the vaccines, but there have been very few cases of adverse reactions. Further, the vaccines, especially Moderna, one of the vaccines we have here, are so far effective against variant strains of the virus and also appear to halt transmission of the virus, even if it does affect a vaccinated person. For people with children who cannot yet be vaccinated this is very exciting news.

He said that a big concern is that people must get their information from reliable sources and not Facebook or persons who lack requisite qualifications.

Dr. Jim and Dr. Likiaksa talked about the mechanics of vaccination and the need for many people to vaccinate. They, along with Dr. Perman, continue to visit communities to vaccinate persons in their municipalities.

That is why the Rotary Club and UNICEF sought the support and questions of the religious leaders. The leaders had many



pertinent and insightful questions. There is some fear and worry in the community. However, the panel was unanimous in stating that vaccinating the community up to a herd immunity level is our only real protection.

It is reasonable to assume that COVID-19 will eventually arrive on our shores. It is highly transmissible. However, the vaccine either prevents the disease completely or minimizes the symptoms. Further, it makes it very difficult to transmit. A virus is only epidemic if it can infect many people. If there is no one to infect, the virus will eventually stall out—the best result.

Dr. Hedson said that the Hospital is as ready as it can be should the virus arrive in Pohnpei. However, he pointed out that no medical facility, no matter how well equipped, can handle the volume of patients that would come in if no one is vaccinated. That was clearly evident in New York City with their top-of-the-line facilities which were overrun at the outset of the epidemic.

Every resident of Pohnpei can do his or her part to protect each other and the ability of our hospitals to respond. Protect yourself, protect your families, protect your neighbors by getting vaccinated. In helping you to make up your mind about getting the vaccine, it might be important to know that no airline will be able to board you if you do not get vaccinated, get COVID-19 and then seek to be flown off-island for a medical referral.

The Rotary Club and UNICEF are trying to organize other presentations in the near future. We hope to invite people who have questions so that they can get the answers they need regarding the virus and the vaccines.

Sokehs Impiokai Committee presents final report booklet to SMG leadership

The Chairman of the Sokehs Impiokai Committee, Mr. Francisco Mendiola, presented the final report on the 2020 Sokehs Impiokai to the Chief Magistrate of Sokehs, Hon. Michael Lieman, and the Director of Administration, Mr. Ikinio Roby on Tuesday, May 25th, 2021. The final report is in the form of a well designed and colorful booklet. "This is the first time in the history of the Sokehs Impiokai that we have formalized our final report and produced it in a way that it will provide a historical view of what was done in 2020. We now have a planning tool and a guide to judge how we make improvements to the Sokehs Impiokai each year it is held" said Chairman Mendiola at the presentation. The booklet is over 50 pages of photos and lists of activities, winners, prizes and rules and forms that were used during the 2020 Sokehs Impiokai. The booklet will be shared with municipal

government and traditional leaders and with our sponsors, namely FSM R&D, Pohnpei State R&D, COM-FSM: FSM-NOC, COM Land Grant, RARE, Micronesian Red Cross Society, Pohnpei Fishing Club, Kousapw Sapwohn, Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety, Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, and COM-FSM students. The Chief Magistrate, in the introduction page in the booklet, stated that, "My hope is that this year's Impiokai will stimulate more people to get serious about growing and eating more local food. It not only keeps us healthy, but it can be a source of income for the people of Sokehs. We are more empowered when we are less reliant on imported foods. We are looking forward to seeing greater participation next year and, as always, we hope the people of Sokehs stay safe and eat healthy during this time of emerging threats of NCD and the COVID-19 pandemic."



Pohnpei Fishing Club Annual and World Tuna Day Fishing Tournament attracts 32 boats

Pohnpei Fishing Club

May 29, 2021

Pohnpei—32 boats registered for the Pohnpei Fishing Club's 27th Annual Fishing tournament, which this year was combined with the Annual World Tuna Day Tournament.

Pohnpei lived up to its standards as one of the world's wettest places, but bad weather sometimes means good fishing and happy anglers caught some good-sized fish. There was a lot of excitement, two marlins, and a lot of big tuna for World Tuna Day. Some big fish did not even qualify for prizes but we're sure made good eating.

The National Fisheries Corporation along with its joint venture partners Kasar Fishing Corporation (KFC) and Taiyo Micronesia Corporation (TMC) were major sponsors for the tournament.



Budweiser/Ambros, the local U.S. Veterans organization participating as a Memorial Day event, MRAG, FSM Telecom, Pohnpei State and NORMA U.S. Embassy, Mangrove Bay were some of the other sponsors.

Each boat that registered and came in for the weigh-in received a six pack of Budweiser and \$50 gas vouchers provided as part of the World Tuna Day Tournament.

The big winner in the Big Fish category was Michael Henry for his 135-pound marlin, earning him the \$600 top prize. Steve Finnen followed closely behind with a 130-pound marlin for \$500. US Ambassador Carmen Cantor took the \$400 third prize with a tuna that in most other tournaments might have won her first prize. Ambassador Cantor landed a 105-pound yellow fin tuna. Fourth, fifth, and six place prizes for big fish were all for big yellow-fin catches. Marvey Spencer, Jr. earned \$350 for his 75-pound yellow fin. Wenster Martin received \$300 for a yellow fin of 73.5 pounds. Wagner Martin and Ellie Manuel both landed 72.5 yellow fins tying for sixth place. Each won \$225 for their catches.

Top prizes were also awarded for biggest fish of species for fish that did not win a prize in the big fish category. First prize for each species was \$150 and second prize was \$100. Wilber David's skipjack was 19.5 pounds while John Immanuel's was 18 pounds. Taylor Paul won both top prizes for yellow fin tuna with 69.5-pound, and 69-pound fish. Yoma Edward had the biggest Barracuda at 17 pounds, followed by Konrad Englberger and Michelle San Nicholas, who split

the second place with 16-pound cudas. Feleti Teo's 55-pound wahoo earned first prize followed by Chris Knight with a 40.5-pound fish. David Perry caught the only mahi mahi at 9.5-pounds.

Lara Trott won the \$125 top prize for lady angler for a 27.5-pound wahoo. Dr. Yepey earned \$100 in that category for her 21-pound fish, also a wahoo. Zeki-Ziggy Eperiam earned the \$80 top prize for junior angler with a 25-pound wahoo. He was followed by John Abraham with a 16-pound skip jack that won him a \$40 prize in that category.

For Tuna Day, NORMA and the State of Pohnpei donated two EPIRBs, club member Lara Trott donated one and the U.S. Embassy donated three. These were raffled off and the lucky winners were the following boats: Hakuna Matata, Deep Sea, Miss Enpein, Sakau, Yumi Fishing Market, and Lien Pul. The Pohnpei Fishing Club hopes to have 100 percent EPIRB coverage by the end of the year.

The club also raffled off prizes for boats that did not win anything, including two cell phones from FSM Telecom, and two coolers from Budweiser/Ambros. Out of consideration, we won't list these winners.

To support the Pohnpei Public Hospital, both Happy Hookers, captained by Kumer Panuelo and Splash 2.0 captained by John Hedson, donated their number one and two marlins to the hospital to feed the patients.

There was also a barbecue to support the Pohnpei Public Library. Thanks Uta, Cheryl and Yancy. We also want to thank our volunteers, Virginia, Serlynn, and all the guys on the dock and in the boom truck, which got a good workout this tourney.

The Marlin Jackpot still remains at \$7,700.00 for a marlin over 450 pounds. The new tuna jackpot is at \$500.00 for tuna over 140 pounds.



Department of Health and Social Affairs, UNICEF and WHO met with Municipal Chiefs to increase low vaccination coverage

UNICEF

and Kolonia Town.

May 31, 2021

Kolonia, Pohnpei—During an emergency meeting by the Pohnpei Local Government Task Force on 6th May 2021, it was decided that the Community Action Team considers mobilizing Chief Magistrates to help ramp up Pohnpei State's relatively low COVID-19 vaccination coverage. The anticipated meeting with the Chief Magistrates is also primarily to help improve community mobilization, address certain misconceptions, and plug any knowledge gaps that may be contributing to the slow COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Pohnpei State.

Consequently, on 19 May 2021, the FSM Health Department with support from UNICEF, WHO and other partners organized a 1-day orientation and crises communication program on COVID-19 vaccination for Municipal Chiefs and some media personnel from the Pohnpei Public Broadcasting. The traditional leaders came from all the 11 Municipalities of Pohnpei State - Madolenihm, U, Kitti, Sokehs, Nett, Mwoakilloa, Pingelap, Sapwuaifik, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi

Pohnpei State's current COVID-19 vaccination coverage is one of the lowest in the FSM with people fully vaccinated only around 30% as of May 23, 2021. An eligible person is considered fully vaccinated when he or she has either receives the recommended two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine or one dose of the Johnson and Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine. According to the Municipal Chiefs, lack of adequate knowledge and understanding among some members of their community coupled with some negative rumors, fake social media news and some conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 vaccines could be affecting demand for the vaccines. The Municipal Chiefs also indicated that large numbers of their people particularly in the neighboring Islands and lagoons are yet to be reached with vaccination services.

"I would say without doubt that this sensitization session by UNICEF and partners has helped address many of the concerns of the people we represent about the COVID-19 vaccines and we shall go and explain to them when we get back", said Tony Sarapio, the Kitti Municipality Chief.

The Municipal chief all pledged to organize community engagement sessions with their people to share with them the new knowledge and updated information received about COVID-19 vaccination while motivating them to go for the COVID-19 vaccines when it is available to them.



Magistrate Chiefs from all 11 Municipalities of Pohnpei State during UNICEF Support sensitization to improve COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Pohnpei State.

About COVID-19 vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines are vaccines developed to provide acquired immunity or protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. Currently in the FSM, the Moderna and Janssen and Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines have been authorized for use in the FSM in people 18 years and older.

The vaccines are safe and effective protect against the COVID-19 disease, by greatly reducing your risk of becoming severely ill, hospitalized, or even dying including in people with known medical conditions such as hypertension, chronic lung disease, significant cardiac disease, obesity, and diabetes.

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the order of sale of the FSM Supreme Court entered on March 8, 2021, public notice is hereby given that the parcel described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel no. 068-D-06, locally called Mesihsou, situated in Madolenihmw Municipality, Pohnpei State with an approximate area of 3,932 square meters, as shown on the certificate of title issued April 24, 1987, and as described on cadastral plat no. 068-D-00 filed in the Pohnpei State Land Registry, together with any buildings, fixtures and other improvements thereon.

- The minimum bid amount is \$ 1,000.00
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "August 12, 2021 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Rendy Abraham at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Palikir, Pohnpei on Thursday, August 12, 2021 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2021.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount and must include a deposit of 5 % of the total bid amount by cash, certified check or money order. If the bid submission does not include the 5 % deposit, the bid is immediately disqualified.
- The winning bidder shall be notified in writing the next business day after the auction deadline and payment of the remaining balance of the bid must be paid to the FSM Development Bank no later than ten (10) calendar days after notice of award is given, along with proof of the bidder's FSM citizenship. If the winning bidder fails to pay the remaining balance of the bid within the required time, the deposit amount shall be forfeited to the FSM Development Bank.
- Upon qualification and full payment of the winning bid, the non-winning bidders shall have their 5% deposit returned to them within three (3) business days.
- The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the parcel, including all buildings, fixtures and other improvements on the parcel.
- The winning bidder must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia and must provide proof of such eligibility.
- If the winning bidder who has been provided notice of award by the Bank fails to remit payment within the required time, his/her deposit is forfeited to the FSM Development Bank and the notice of award will be granted to the next highest bidder, and the same conditions will apply.
- The parcel and any improvements thereon are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, website: www.fsmdb.fm

President Panuelo elected as Chair of the Pacific Island Conference of Leaders

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—From June 2nd to June 3rd, 2021 (June 1st to June 2nd in the State of Hawaii), His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—joined delegations from the Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji, French Polynesia, the U.S. Territory of Guam, the U.S. State of Hawaii, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, and Solomon Islands in the 11th Pacific Island Conference of Leaders (PICL). The primary purpose of the meeting was for Pacific Leaders to dialogue on regional issues and concerns. President Panuelo, who served as Interim Chair for the meeting, was subsequently voted to become the Chair of the PICL, whose next formal in-person engagement is scheduled to occur in the U.S. State of Hawaii in 2022.

President Panuelo expressed gratitude to the other Leaders on behalf of the FSM. “We take your vote of confidence seriously and look to you for your continued guidance and support,” he said. “To me, this meeting of Leaders also reinforces the true meaning of regionalism and the Pacific Way ... keeping in mind that its membership is one of the largest and most genuinely inclusive in the Pacific region, including sovereign nations, as well as territories and the State of Hawai’i. All are integral and active players in regional affairs, and our combined efforts are necessary to ensure that regional matters of interest and necessity, such as the existential threat of Climate Change, are sincerely and quickly addressed. Let’s take actions today for our regional and global prosperity tomorrow.”

For citizens unfamiliar with the various acronyms and titles associated with the various Pacific Island fora that the FSM attends, it can be broken down like this: the PICL is the forum wherein Pacific Islands engage with each other, and the United States Government; by contrast, the Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM) is the forum wherein Pacific Islands engage with each other, and the Government of Japan; the China-PICS Political Dialogue is the forum wherein Pacific Islands engage with the Government of China; and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) is the forum where Pacific Islands engage with each other, and Australia and New Zealand. The PICL’s Secretariat, the Pacific Island Development Program (PIDP), is a founding member of the Council of Regional Organization of the Pacific (CROP), of which the Secretary-General of the PIF is the permanent Chair.

Founded in 1980 by Fijian statesman Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara and Hawaii Governor George Ariyoshi as a forum for Pacific Island Leaders—regardless of political status, and without formal intergovernmental

protocol—the PICL allows for Leaders to engage in frank, open, non-attributable discussion on items of mutual interest.

The free-flowing discussion was limited to Pacific Leaders and/or their designated representatives, with the intent of identifying priorities for their countries that would inform the work of the PIDP, which is a distinct component unit of the U.S. Congress-initiated East-West Center. There was consensus among all the delegations that Climate Change, the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and its long-term impacts, and sustainable economic development and industry innovation were priorities shared universally across the Pacific region. In addition, many Leaders spoke to shared priorities specific to information and communication technologies, foreign aid and diplomacy, and the protection of ocean resources. National and regional security, health and food security, nuclear legacies, post-Pandemic economic and other recovery, and disaster preparedness and management were also raised as priorities among many members. Of specific import to the FSM, President Panuelo announced the recent legislation passed by the FSM Congress to mandate that the FSM Trust Fund be aware of Climate Change, and purposefully seek to align the Nation’s values of environmental protection and green and low-carbon alternatives with the FSM’s future financial security.

Several members, including the FSM, spoke at length about how PIDP is an organization with the capacity, and obligation, to build better bridges between Pacific Islands and the United States of America. The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State, spoke about U.S. Government relations and cooperation with Pacific Islands at the opening of the 11th PICL; his address to the Leaders is in the public domain, and may be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD8tis-cfGI>

The Honorable John Kerry, the Special Envoy for Climate Change under His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States, discussed the U.S. Government rejoining the Paris Agreement, as well as multiple initiatives to address the Climate crisis facing the World. Special Envoy Kerry noted that the U.S. Government remains committed to investing funding and support in adaptation, mitigation, resilience, and sustainability efforts in the Pacific and globally. He noted that the top six U.S. banks have pledged to invest 4.16 trillion dollars (\$4,160,000,000,000) over the next ten years to mitigate temperature increase. The Special Envoy emphasized the need for the United States to look to its Pacific allies, friends, and partners, noting that Pacific Islands’ participation and contributions in addressing the existential threat of Climate Change is essential.

President Panuelo closed the discussion with Special Envoy Kerry with remarks highlighting the relationship between action on Climate Change and the strengthening of democracy and democratic principles, and noted his appreciation for the U.S. Government’s return to the Paris Agreement.

“The World needs the United States to lead the global cooperation effort in making peace with nature,” President Panuelo said, “because the United States is a country with the economy, resources, and influence to form large coalitions of like-minded Governments to implement policies that are good for humanity at large.”

“However, there’s another reason the World needs the United States to lead the fight against Climate Change, which is that the United States, at its core, is a democracy that supports and stands for human rights, fair treatment for all people, the rule of law, and peace, unity, and liberty. Though countries, including the FSM, may sometimes criticize the United States for not living up to its values, we do so because those values are worth protecting.”

“It deeply worried me,” President Panuelo continued, “that the former U.S. administration rejected Climate Change and rejected science, because we all know that science is based on objective fact and truth. I am still worried today, because it is not a slippery slope to see the connection between the rejection of truth, such as the existence of Climate Change, and extend that to the rejection of reality as we know it. It is not a coincidence that the population that rejects Climate Change also rejects the veracity of the recent U.S. election, but just



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken provides his remarks to the Leaders of the 11th PICL

because that population rejects science doesn’t mean they can divorce themselves from feeling emotion. If led to anger, they will feel angry, and as we saw on January 6th, some of them will become violent as a means to feel power over the truths they have denied themselves to acknowledge.”

“Special Envoy Kerry, I am worried about the potential future existence of a fascist America. From a purely self-interested perspective, we all know that the [FSM] and the Pacific region at large want to defeat Climate Change because it’s an existential threat that will destroy our islands, our cultures, and our lives. We have seen authoritarian Governments rising across the World, and whether they are in South America, Africa, Europe, or Asia, there is a relationship between the absence of democracy and the absence of science; there is a relationship between the rejection of truth, and the rejection of action on Climate Change. In this respect, I suggest that a crucial element of addressing the global Climate Crisis is the preservation and strengthening of democracies and the democratic process.”

“It is for this reason that I humbly ask that the U.S. Government, the East-West Center, and the [PIDP], where able and where appropriate, to consider the relationship between the presence of democracy and the presence of action against Climate Change when developing and implementing programming for the citizens of our region.” President Panuelo summarized his remarks by saying: “Because the Pacific wishes to continue to exist, the World must address Climate Change; because Climate Change is science, and science is truth, the World must promote truth in all its forms; because authoritarian Governments reject truth, and democracies uphold truth, democracy and democratic principles must be strengthened. It is by strengthening democracy that, in part, the World can make peace with nature, and solve the Climate crisis.”

Documentary evidence of the 11th PICL exists in the form of a communique, which resides in the public domain, and will be available on the PIDP website in the coming days. The PIDP website is here: <https://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/>



Menstrual Hygiene Management Day Forum

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) with support from UNICEF expanded its Youth Leadership Training Through Immersion Internship program to encourage young people in the FSM to actively engage in a handwashing advocacy campaign in collaboration with Department of Health and Social Affairs. With financial support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trades (DFAT), college Interns planned and organized an event for the Menstrual Hygiene Management Day on May 28, 2021. The theme of the event was “Pads for Every Girl Even in Crisis”. The event was to demonstrate a joint commitment to create a world where no woman, or girl is kept from realizing her full potential because she menstruates even during pandemic.

The event took place at the college’s National Campus MITC Building. Invited was Dr. Mabel Lojan Allevan who was the guest speaker. Mrs. Delihna Ehmes, a member of the college’s faculty, served as the event’s welcoming remarks. Dr. Allevan was delighted to share useful insight on proper menstrual hygiene ethics and routines, lifestyles that effect on one’s menstrual cycle, and the irregularities that may occur during the period; of course all in which could help women menstruate with no shame. Four main topics were discussed at the event: What menstrual Health and Hygiene is, Complications that can arise from poor health and hygiene practices, Common risk factors in irregular menstrual cycles, and proper menstrual hygiene routines.



Dr. Mabel Lojan Allevan (middle) and College faculty Ms. Delihna Ehmes with UNICEF interns.

Gift bags were also passed out at the end of the event. Contents of the gift bags included 3 months’ worth of pads, feminine wipes, a locally made “menstrual bracelet”, and an IEC containing basic menstrual hygiene information. The menstrual bracelet is a global symbol for menstruation that stands for a joint commitment for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). “Our goal of the Forum was to address and raise awareness of the challenges and hardships many women and girls face during their menstruation and how it may affect their performances in school and at work settings “says Gina Segal, the COM-FSM Intern Youth Coordinator.

The forum is one of the many events organized by college for communities. In the coming weeks, the intern group will organize a Community Outreach to further disseminate the important global movement to the wider population in Pohnpei.

College Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Ms. Marlina Kephass at Kosrae Campus Employee of the Month for June 2021! Ms. Kephass has worked at the Kosrae Campus since 2011 as a custodian. She was nominated as employee of the month for demonstrating two core values - Professionalism and Teamwork.

Ms. Kephass has demonstrated these values by completing all duties and assignments each day and if necessary going back to high traffic areas multiple times to clean and make sure employees and visitors to the college see a well cared for facility. She greets employees and visitors with a smile and warmly welcomes them to the



campus. Ms. Kephass maintains a professional appearance and goes out of her way to make sure everyone is working in a healthy and clean environment.

Summer Registration 2021



For new students only whose class starts on June 14, 2021

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|-----------------|---|
| June 7-11, 2021 | In person registration |
| June 14, 2021 | Last day to add/drop course/s
First day of class |