

MiCare Board of Directors holds first public director's meeting in recallable history

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 21, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Yesterday the MiCare Board of Directors attempted to hold its Board meeting but their legal counsel advised them that the law requires advertising by all available means for a session that is open to the public. MiCare staff members quickly put out an email notice that afternoon for a meeting that was to start at 8:30 on the next morning.

Merylynn Alfonso-Abello of Genesis was the only medical service provider that showed up for the meeting as did some administrators for entities that have several employees who subscribe to MiCare. There was also one gentleman who there for his own interest.

There are supposed to be seven members on the board but there are currently only five. Congress has not yet voted on the nominee for Kosrae's representative. The law also says that there is supposed to be a representative from the medical committee but that chair has never been filled.

A quorum is four members. Jesse Giltamag is Board Chair. He is the FSM National Government representative to the Board of Directors and chaired the public meeting of the Board of Directors. Dr. Elizabeth Keller is the Pohnpei representative and was present at the meeting. Marcus Samo is the Chuuk representative and was present. The Yap representative had another commitment and could not attend the meeting. Quorum was obtained with the presence of the current Executive Director of MiCare, Nena S. Nena who serves as an ex officio member.

MiCare's appointed legal representative Assistant Attorney General Craig Reffner was also present.

Chairman Giltamag did an admirable job at making members of the public who attended the meeting feel as if they belonged there even though it was the first time in recent memory that anyone could remember the MiCare board having an open session. He repeatedly used the term "YourCare" because he said that MiCare is here to serve the public.

The first order of business was to reorganize the printed agenda to include a new "miscellaneous" agenda item and to move some of the most interesting topics to the top of the agenda.

The first item was the long maligned and delayed Automated Billing System (ABS) that MiCare has been trying to roll out for quite some time. The MiCare IT director said that he had conducted training with *See "MiCare" on page 8*



MiCare Administrator Nena S. Nena



MiCare Board Chair Jesse Giltamag

Kiribati fisherman pleads guilty to assault of a PNA Fisheries Observer

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 16, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Taranguti Uerem, who in May was accused of assaulting a PNA (Parties to the Nauru Agreement) fisheries observer from the Solomon Islands while at sea aboard a Dongwon fishing vessel, pled guilty to the crime. He could have faced 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$5000 but he did not receive anything near that penalty during sentencing.

Uerem received a sentence of 12 months of imprisonment, all of which was suspended except for 30 days that was to be served in the Pohnpei State Jail. He was credited for the time he served during which he was released with restricted liberties—a total of 31 days. The remainder *See "Guilty of assault" on page 5*

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Pohnpei detectives hope that new computer will speed up fingerprint record retrieval

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 21, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—It's just a computer. There's nothing at all special about it, but its arrival today at the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety means that the State Police fingerprint specialist will be able to retrieve files much more quickly. That could mean quicker apprehension of suspects from fingerprint evidence.



Finger print specialist Olivia David said that the Pohnpei State Police Department has been collecting fingerprint data from people who have been arrested for several years. She couldn't say exactly how many fingerprint records she has on file except that there are more than 2000, perhaps significantly more. The records are all filed by the characteristics of the fingerprints such as whorls, arches, and types of loops. They are not kept by name.

David said that quite often, investigating officers come to her and ask her to pull a record by name, but since records are not kept in alphabetical order it often takes several weeks for her to find a file and pull it for the requesting officer.

With the arrival of the new computer, pulling fingerprint files will be nearly instantaneous after the significant and time consuming task of data entry is done. As of this afternoon, they had only scanned one fingerprint file as a sample and they didn't have a clear idea of how to organize them yet, but then the computer only arrived today.

The Kaselehlie Press has printed several stories about the importance of fingerprint evidence



and has even warned that criminals should know that they could be caught by fingerprint evidence. That was the expectation, but court presented fingerprint evidence, at least in Pohnpei, has only resulted in the conviction of one criminal, David Laurdine. Laurdine was convicted of attacking an employee at V6AH radio station in 2011 while wearing nothing but a cloth that covered his face, "ninja style", as the victim put it at the time.

David said that was the only court presented fingerprint evidence that ended in a conviction. But other fingerprint evidence has led to the arrest of persons of interest even though that evidence was never presented in court. David said there have been many of those cases. When pressed she gave one example of a case where fingerprint evidence led to the identification of a person who had been on the premises of a burglary. The fingerprint evidence only gave evidence that the person had been on the premises and had touched items in the home. Based on that evidence, police were able to detain the suspect and to get a search warrant. In the process they found that the suspect was in possession of several items that had been reported as missing from the home where the crime had been committed. The fingerprint evidence was not used in court but it led to the discovery of stolen items which was enough to convict the perpetrator.

Police said that one of the reasons that fingerprint evidence had not been presented often in court cases is because some of the former prosecutors at the Attorney General's office were not familiar with how to present that evidence in the court. But one of the prosecutors currently working for the AG's office formerly worked as Pohnpei's fingerprint expert, and police believe that experience will help to change the former aversion to using that type of evidence in court.

By the time the quarter million dollar Australian funded fingerprint lab opened in 2012 at the office of the National Police in Palikir, Pohnpei, law enforcement officials had already shared the fingerprint files they had collected up until that time with the National Government for entry into the Pacific Automated Fingerprint Identification System. The idea was to make it easier to

locate potential subjects from fingerprint evidence at crime scenes.

Unfortunately, a former Director of the Department of Public Safety curtailed any fingerprint sharing cooperation with the National Government fingerprint lab and forbade the transmission of Pohnpei's fingerprint files to the new lab. There are currently several hundred fingerprint files sitting on a shelf that need to be transmitted to the PAFIS system, which is now being allowed again under new administration.

Kasner Aldens, who runs the high tech fingerprint lab at the office of the National Police in Palikir said that Pohnpei State Police have had a good working relationship with the National police. Officer David was one of the original highly trained technicians at that lab and worked with Aldens.

David said that she quite often uses the fingerprint lab in Palikir and has found it to be very helpful.

Captain Hermis Edmund, head of detectives with the Pohnpei State Police Department said they haven't yet landed on a good organizational system to help to organize the fingerprint files in the computer they got today. He said that he would welcome input from people in the community with expertise in organizing data for efficient use. David mentioned the possibility of using MS-Excel to organize the files. Excel is a spreadsheet software program that is especially good at handling mathematical calculations. Though it can be used as a type of "flat list database", that isn't its true forte. Microsoft Office does have a program that is particularly good at handling databases, even very complex ones, but it tends to be the least often used program of MS-Office users.

They also said that they are also looking for ideas for software and organization systems that can perform facial recognition to help them with their "mug shot" filing system.

Captain Edmund said that the money for the computer they received today came from their local budget.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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FSM officials still confident that lodging for Pacific Islands Forum meeting will be sufficient

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 23, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The requirements for lodging and other logistical arrangements for the Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in early September will stretch Pohnpei's capacities nearly to the breaking point. Still, FSM government officials are confident that they will be able to meet the demands of the high level meeting that will attract hundreds of participants in early September.

The FSM will serve as host for the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) meetings that will be held in Pohnpei beginning on September 7 and ending on September 11.

"The Pacific Islands Forum is a political grouping of 16 independent and self-governing states," says the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat website. "Members include Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu."

To help combat the lodging problem, FSM's Department of Foreign Affairs has asked the delegations to limit their delegations to the Heads of State and their spouses and five support personnel. Their spokesperson said that Australia and New Zealand would likely have a difficult time with that requirement since those countries tend to travel with a large support staff, including media personnel.

But the people representing member countries of the Pacific Island Forum are just the tip of the iceberg for PIF meetings. Many other countries, including the United States, China, and Japan, to name a few, will send representatives. If past experience is any indication, at least 100 media representatives will also be present at the meetings.

Many people in the FSM are dealing with all of the wide and varied logistics of the PIF meetings. Jackson Soram of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs is one

of those. He said that lodging is one of the biggest challenges for the meetings. "There just aren't a lot of rooms and beds in Pohnpei, and there will be a lot of sharing involved", he said.

The Tourism Division of the FSM Department of Resources and Development has been coordinating with the Pohnpei State Tourism Department to ensure that all of the delegates will have a place to stay.

According to data provided by the Pohnpei Tourism Office that is nowhere near complete, Australia has already booked 32 of Pohnpei's scant number of hotel rooms. New Zealand has only currently booked 10.

At press time, Japan had entirely booked the 10 reported rooms at Joy Hotel. Canada had booked three rooms at the China Star Hotel. China has booked six in that same hotel. With the Australian and Chinese bookings, the China Star Hotel is fully booked. The United States booked the seven rooms at Mangrove Bay along with the 19 rooms at the Seven Stars Inn. Taiwan booked 12 of the 18 rooms at South Park.

The data sent today from Pohnpei Tourism didn't list any bookings for the Cliff Rainbow Hotel which has 37 rooms. The list also didn't include any bookings from Yvonne's Hotel which Pohnpei Tourism says has 27 rooms.

There is no guarantee that the reported bookings that were sent from Pohnpei Tourism today are at all complete. A meeting is scheduled for after press time that the Tourism office says will solidify the numbers as they stand to date.

The list also didn't include home stay possibilities for delegates and others. Soram said that several dozen have been identified and there may be more that will yet be identified.

He said that the best thing that the people of Pohnpei could do to help in preparation for the meetings that will inject a large capital infusion into its economy would be to clean up the island so that the FSM is presented in the best possible light for all of the international visitors that will be here.



Australian Embassy
Pohnpei

ANNOUNCEMENT

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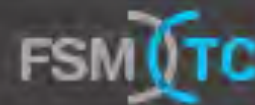
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Japan funds Supporting Center for Persons with Disabilities in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 17, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—This morning Japan's new Ambassador to the FSM, Mr. Ryoichi Horie joined Pohnpei State Officials to break ground for a new Supporting Center for Persons with Disabilities. Japan provided a grant in the amount of \$109,105 for the center under its Grass-roots Human Security Projects funding from the Embassy of Japan to the FSM.

The funding will be used for the construction of the building over the next 8 to 10 months and also for one audit.

The new facility will be next door to the Pohnpei State Education building.

Acting Governor Lt. Governor Reed Oliver represented the Pohnpei State government and with good humor thanked the government of Japan for their generous donation for the facility.

Ambassador Horie followed suit with equally good humor as he spoke to the small crowd gathered on the premises. He provided a bit of his background saying that he had just served in Sudan, Africa where the temperatures rose to 50 degrees centigrade (122 degrees Fahrenheit). He has only been on island since June 10 and has found Pohnpei to be wet.

He said that he was proud that the ground breaking for the facility was his first official act on behalf of the government of Japan since he presented his credentials to the FSM the day before. He said that Japan felt strongly enough that the program would be successful for people with what are called "disabilities", that they were able to fund it. He looked forward to the opening of the facility and promised that he would be there for that occasion and that he hoped

that the facility would do all that it was designed to do.

Though Nelbert Perez of the Pohnpei Consumer Organization also followed suit with a sense of humor, he made some very serious points on behalf of people who live with disabilities in Pohnpei. "5,000 people in Pohnpei live with what is classified as a "disability" but Pohnpei has not done nearly enough for those people...There isn't a single Braille text book in Pohnpei," he said. "People with disabilities still can't access public buildings."

He said that the center that will help to train people with what are considered to be "disabilities" to utilize the strengths they do have. "If they can work as a restaurant worker, we'll train them to do that. If it's something else, we'll help them with that," he exclaimed.

"The building will serve as a landmark to the abilities of disabled people."

Along the way he mentioned that he has an artificial leg that many people don't know about but that has helped him to understand the plight of citizens with disabilities.

He said that people with what are considered to be disabilities have rights just like any other citizen. They have rights to live a full life with access to services and abilities to make a living that any other citizen of the FSM has and that no one should look down upon them.

"That," he said, "is the purpose of the new building."

After his enlightening speech that should have been heard by all in Pohnpei, dignitaries symbolically broke ground for the new project.



RMI and CMI dignitaries visit sea cucumber aquaculture hatchery in Pohnpei

By **Dr. Manoj R. Nair**
Director & Chief Scientist
COM Land Grant Aquaculture Programs

June 9, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM - College of Micronesia Land Grant Program (NIFA, USDA) (COMLG), Board of Regents Member Honl Minister of Education Republic of the Marshall Islands Mr. Wilbur Heine and College of Marshall Islands Dean of Land Grant Mr. Bioma Sampson visited Pohnpei from June 5-7 2016.

The main purpose of the visit was to visit the COM Land Grant Aquaculture Program at the COM Land Grant Nett Point hatchery. The COM Land Grant hatchery at Nett Point is currently developing site specific aquaculture technologies for economic development of FSM and Palau. The main focus currently is on sea cucumber

aquaculture. The targeted species is the commercially important sea cucumber species *Holothuria scabra* commonly called sandfish and locally called "langon" in Pohnpeian language. The sea cucumber farming technology being developed and trialed is based on hatchery produced produced sea cucumber juveniles.

Minister Wilbur Heine wanted to actually see the work being undertaken hands on by the local staff under the supervision of Dr. Nair. Minister Wilbur Heine and Dean Bioma Sampson had discussions with Dr. Nair to explore the possibility of coming over and establishing a sea

See, "Hatchery" on page 8



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China provides solar lighting equipment to Pohnpei municipalities

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 15, 2016

Sohehs, Pohnpei, FSM—This morning, the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China turned over solar lighting equipment to four of Pohnpei’s municipalities.

Representatives of Kitti, U, Nett, and Sokehs were on hand to receive the donations of solar lighting equipment. Chinese Ambassador Li said that the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China had incorporated the handover of solar lighting equipment into their presentation of a garbage truck to Madolenihmw.

Sokehs Speaker Baldesar Sardis gave welcoming remarks thanking the Embassy for their kind donation and for the upcoming donation of a solar power generator.

Ambassador Li Jie presented a history of the relationship between the People’s Republic of China and the FSM that included support of the municipalities in Pohnpei.

Mr. Samuel Rettin, Acting Chief Magistrate of the Sokehs Municipality gave closing remarks. He noted that this point forward, the Sokehs Municipal Government complex will be able to turn off its lights at night because of the new solar powered street light. That will save the government sorely needed money.



Although the ceremony took place at the Sokehs Muncpal government, Joab Paul of Kitti, Dahker Abraham of U, and Peteriko Hairens of Nett were at the ceremony to personally receive the donations for their municipalities.

After the ceremony closed, Sokehs maintenance workers erected the solar powered street light that will light the Sokehs Municipal government complex while participants in the ceremony watched. Each of the municipalities now has a solar street light donated by the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China.



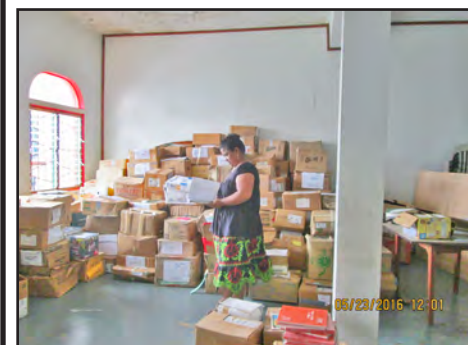
Ayuda Foundation donates books to schools and NGOs in Pohnpei



Ayuda Foundation, a non-government organization in Guam, donated through the Micronesia Resource & Research Institute, (MRRI) a newly established non-government organization in the State of Pohnpei, a 40-foot container of books. With the help of Every Home for Christ Fellowship, the books were distributed to some schools and non-government organizations in Pohnpei.

According to Pastor Herman Sado, Every Home for Christ Fellowship is a faith based organization that provides the gospel of Christ, counseling, shelter and basic humanitarian assistance to those in need. Currently, the organization is assisting over 1,000 members, mostly youth. “We are expanding our library and in need of books. The books arrived just when we needed them. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Ayuda Foundation and MRRI for the generous donation.” The books were inventoried and distributed according to the needs and requests by the schools. The schools and organizations that have received their books include: Every Home for Christ Fellowship, Nett Elementary School, Sapwalap Elementary School, Wone Elementary School, Nanpei Memorial High School, Saladak Elementary School, Awak Elementary School, Parem Elementary School, PICS High School, Sokehs Powe Elementary School, Palikir Elementary School, Madolenihmw High School, Talent Search Program and The Salvation Army. Invitations were sent out to all schools in Pohnpei.

Emy Musrasrik, Vice President of MRRI, highlighted the continued support by Ayuda Foundation in the region and joined Pastor Sado in thanking Ayuda Foundation, especially the founder, Carlotta Leon Guerrero, for her generous donation and partnership.



...Guilty of assault

Continued from front page

of the sentence was suspended and will be served on probation.

The court also ruled that he would have to pay the court a fine of \$600.

It also ruled that he could not leave Pohnpei unless the court allows him to do so after he applies in writing to re-obtain his passport but that he could not do so until after he had paid the \$600 fine.

In the same day, the court ruled to return his passport and to allow him to travel back to his home and family in Kiribati.

Uerem is required to give notice to the Justice Ombudsman if he reenters the FSM or its waters.

After the observer reported the incident, the Dongwon company management immediately and voluntarily called the vessel to port. The vessel arrived at the Pohnpei port on May 15 and Uerem was arrested on May 16.

NORMA Director Eugene Pangelinan had high praise for the FSM’s fast action on the assault of a fisheries observer. He said that he was disappointed with the lenient sentencing but as he earlier said, “Going forward, we now let the law take its course—and we thank all our maritime justice, and other parties involved in this case.

Prosecutor Clayton Lawrence earlier said that the case is a first “of this kind where it’s been brought to our attention.”

IFCP presented ‘Lets Go Local’ For CHEEF at Peace Corps Summer Camps

BY: Emihner Johnson/Acting Executive Director, IFCP

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) was invited to participate in PeaceCorp Program Summer Camps, namely Camp Glow(the girls cam) and Boyz 2 Men(boys camp). These camps were organized by Peace Corp Volunteers in partnership with IFCP, the participating elementary schools, and other organizations.

The Camp Glow two-day camp was held on May 22-23, 2016. A total of fifty one (51) eight-graders participated in the camp activities. There were seven teen(17) girls from Pohnlangas School, eight (8) girls from Enpein, eighteen(18) girls from

Seinwar , and eight (8) girls from Pehleing Elementary School. Mona Tara, Office Manager of IFCP presents ‘Lets Go Local’ for CHEEF(Culture, Health, Environment, Economy, Food Security) and also demonstrated making Karat Smoothies and Kang kong Salad to the Camp Glow participants as well as the accompanying PeaceCorps Volunteers and elementary school staff. Accompanying IFCP to the Camp Glow were volunteers Ms. Relynn Ludwig and Mr. AJ Tara.

On May 27-28, 2016, like Camp Glow, the Boyz 2 Men held their camp at PATS. Presenting the “Let’s Go Local” for CHEEF was Emihner Johnson, Acting Executive Director, IFCP. The food processing

demonstration was presented by Ms. Mona Tara, Office Manager of IFCP. Also present at the Boyz 2 Men Camp was Ms. Alice Ehmes, Volunteer , IFCP. A total of forty- eight (48) boys from Seinwar, Pohnlangas, Enipein, and Pehleing attended the Boyz 2 Men Camp. IFCP would like to thank DOI(Department of Interior), TAP (Technical Assistance Program)Grant, Senator David Panuelo for funding. A special Kalangan Lap to Ms. Ludwig and Ms. Ehmes for their volunteering services to IFCP, and Mr. Tara his assistance.



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FSM President Christian's address to the recent Association of Pacific Islands Legislators meeting in Guam

Mr. President, Officials and members, ladies and gentlemen, friends. Let me begin by thanking you all for inviting me to join you in this General Assembly of APIL.

I am very honored to be here, but I am a bit apprehensive about speaking before this body as a president addressing an assembly of leaders who by nature are the traditional, perfect enemies of the executive branch. It is either that this all is a trick, or this is one of God's holy sense of humors.

Oh, perhaps life has its own way of showing us its ways, astounding us with how sometimes being wrong can be good, or simply to be wrong on the right side. You have tasked me to speak on the deep and profound subject of keeping the spirit of unity throughout Micronesia—a subject rooted deep in my political commitments and deep in my heart, too; as it is one upon which my four years as the president of a small nation is founded, and for which I have travelled thru the islands to gain support.

We must, however, recognize that given also the geography, geopolitics, the particular differences in our cultures, our political history and the unique preferences of the individuals, instilling a sense of unity is easier said than done.

Impossible? No! We just have to work harder at it, harnessing the help of our traditional leaders, our elected government leaders, our church leaders, including those whose thoughts may be deviant, will assure us of having involved most who may have a similar wish that this spirit of unity come on and remain with us. Unity, and the spirit that inspires it, is a subject into which I have immersed my thoughts, and have become obsessively passionate, and at times been ridiculed by those who may have a different perspective or that simply dislike me. Only so much rhetoric can be poured on this subject to glorify it, yet none of that comes close to giving testimony that THAT spirit of unity is alive than by who I see here today, and the forum over which we stand to testify.

I am happy. I now am assured that what little has been done, and what little more I will do with your blessings is embodied and fostered in this association of legislators. I ask you to join me in this noble obsession.

As populations go, we are of little consequence to the world, but as a people we are known as Micronesians, inhabitants of these small islands for thousands of years, with a culture unique to us. This means something to us, and it is our solemn duty to not simply keep it alive ... but insist that for it we become more relevant to our world.

Keeping alive the spirit of Micronesian Unity is like love. It cannot be GRANTED, nor can it be TAKEN FOR GRANTED. It must be inspired, continually guarded,

and tempered by people's resilience for commitment. Unlike the idealist who sometimes believes that the force of righteousness would overcome all obstacles, and underestimates the power and need to flatter, seduce or lobby; we must work at it.

Keeping unity entails a call to sacrifice part of our individualism in the name of collectivism. We must remember that the spirit of unity resides not in the shallows of our minds. It must be summoned from deep within, and become an embracement of our differences and our willingness to compromise.

Summoning and inspiring the spirit of unity is a task not easily carried out. For the Federated States of Micronesia this task is made four times more challenging because the people of the four states of Micronesia are engaged in that difficult undertaking of being one from many, sacrificing this for that. While we are fundamentally the same as a culture, there are subtle and silent differences that are not only defining, but are also sacred and jealously protected.

I am, however, dedicated to that difficult task, trusting that I am not alone in this endeavor; that you and other leaders are also so engaged in keeping the spirit of unity alive and vibrant throughout the Micronesian Region, and by natural extension to our neighbors in Melanesia and Polynesia. All of this must be for our collective good.

But if anything can be said about our topic, it is that we are not only talking about it. We are doing something about it. Your presence here in this Assembly in Guam is clear testimony of our collective efforts to keep the spirit of Unity throughout Micronesia well and alive. And as the President of the FSM, it is indeed gratifying to see many of you—our fellow Micronesian brothers and sisters sharing this roof -embracing that spirit of unity, giving embodiment to this noble cause. Enriched by our shared traditions and cultures which have sustained us as one Micronesian people through the ages, it is incumbent on all of us, not only to keep the spirit of unity alive, but to nourish it, to sustain it as a source of strength for all of us as Micronesians, and for generations of Micronesians to come.

Needless to say, with our past political history, there are bound to be unique issues and challenges facing our Micronesian region as independent states, territory, or commonwealth of the US.

While many post war territories and possessions have since attained negotiated political freedom and independence, they still see the shadow of foreign flags fluttering on their lands and in their affairs. Some still labor to improve their status as nations, while some still await the awakening of the United Nations to heed their plea for political autonomy and the honor to fly a flag of independence.

For those of us who are aligned with the greatest economy and strongest advocate of democracy, there are many things that beg for answers. While the Federated States of Micronesia holds itself from intruding into the affairs of our brothers and sisters in Guam, we cannot help but wonder why they are Americans by citizenship, bear arms as Americans, but cannot cast a ballot for the commander in chief of the United States. For them we pledge our support, when the time is right and our opinion is sought.

Ladies and gentlemen, hope with me that these issues and challenges are accepted as unifying forces for that which we call ourselves -Micronesians. As in the canoe, its parts bound together tightly by flexible cords, sustains strong wind and waves, so must be our togetherness be bound by our sense of belonging and need for collectiveness.

We have in common that we are diverse, yet in the few diversities lie our fiber of strength of unity. Our cultural values are worn only of the sharing of them, changing ever so little to accommodate the tide of time. Let us dream together the same dream, and

aspire as one, if not for ourselves today, then for those of our people whose canoes have yet to be seen on the horizon.

Kalahngan en kupwurkoaros, Kauno en ketketrehmwailkoaros.



President Christian at his Inauguration



EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA – POHNPEI



POSITION VACANT

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

In this interesting position, the Embassy is seeking applications from suitably qualified persons to apply for the position of SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER.

Australian Aid's summary objective is to help people overcome poverty by promoting regional stability and prosperity.

Short description of the position includes:

- Assist in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation the Australia's Aid delivery across Micronesia.
- Communicate with relevant Governments, key stakeholders and counterparts to understand policy, priorities, strategic direction on development priorities to formulate and implement the development cooperation programs.
- Provide support the Assistant Aid Program Officer and contribute to the Embassy's public diplomacy strategy.

The applicants should have a solid experience in project management and implementation, with strong organizational administrative skills. High-quality communication and writing skills and sound computer skills are required. Relevant tertiary qualifications and experience in working in a multicultural environment will be highly regarded.

The successful applicant will be expected to undertake regional travel.

An attractive salary package commensurate with qualifications will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Application packages are available at the Embassy
Contact: 320 5448
Email PHPI@mail@dfat.gov.au
or download from <http://www.fsm.embassy.gov.au>

Application closing date is Friday 1 July 2016

...MiCare

Continued from front page

all but two clinics and that he expected to complete those training on the afternoon of the meeting. He said that he and his staff members have also been working with Genesis and that the Dental Clinic was up and ready to go.

Dr. Abello said that the system is not ready and it needs a dry run.

Board member Dr. Keller said that the entire process is taking too long.

“We all want to see this work,” said board member Samo. “But if it’s not ready then admit it and move on to the next solution.”

Dr. Abello said that Genesis never objected to the ABS but MiCare put out a statement to the public saying that if they didn’t accept it then the MOU between MiCare and Genesis was in danger and in fact cut off patient services at Genesis beginning on June 1. She said that Genesis never had any intention not to work with MiCare and that it has been working with MiCare on the ABS since January.

She said that there needs to be some adaptability built into the system as it gets up and running and that strict time frames should not immediately be imposed. Genesis was told that if they didn’t file claims within two days then claims would not be paid.

“What about after hours care, weekends, or a large flow of patients,” she asked. “We just need to be sure that there will be someone to turn to while they try to what they’re going to do.”

Board Chair Giltamag encourage management to have an open dialog and encouraged management and staff to work closely with Genesis.

Mr. Nena said that MiCare is “listening well.”

Samo reminded board members that the ABS is just a tool and that MiCare shouldn’t lose sight of the main objective. He wanted to know if MiCare’s stated goal to have all private clinics in Pohnpei on the ABS within two weeks was realistic.

Dr. Abello said that it had experienced numerous problems including the fact that the printer wouldn’t connect with the server right past the time that the MOU expired. MiCare actually shut down its coverage for patients of Genesis from June 1 through June 6.

At some point during the meeting, Dr. Abello apparently called the Genesis IT technician to come and present the numerous problems it had encountered with the ABS including resets that wipe out all of the users’ passwords. It was just one of several problems including problems with the system locking up.

The MiCare IT manager said that the problem with the system locking up is that the Internet speed isn’t broad enough. “It’s too slow,” he said.

The ABS is only for private service providers, MiCare staff said.

The next topic involved the Memorandums of Understanding between service providers and MiCare. Mr. Nena insisted that all MOU’s should be uniform.

Dr. Abello said that the problem with that is that Genesis is the only private clinic that operates on a 24 hour basis and every clinics needs are different and should be negotiated on an individual basis.

We congratulated the MiCare board on having the first public Board of Directors meeting that we had known about in over 10 years of covering the news. We mentioned that we were not included on the email list notifying “the public” of the meeting and that was disappointing.

We asked Mr. Nena if the policy of listening well was a new one for MiCare and reminded him that we had sat across the table just under a year ago to conduct an interview about shutting down services for Genesis and that at that point he had issued a “take it or leave it” MOU to Genesis. When Genesis wanted to negotiate that MOU he refused.

“After this meeting we will be negotiating and I see a very positive future for us. That’s why I say, ‘listening’,” he said. He admitted that he had “learned a lot of lessons.”

Later conversation centered on the fact that during a meeting with the FSM Chief of Staff, the Attorney General and Vice President Yosiwo George on June 6, George said that MiCare should work with Genesis and vice versa in order to re-instate member services to the Genesis facility. He also instructed MiCare to issue a public statement to rescind its previous announcement that effectively closed down MiCare services to Genesis.

No public statement was ever made by Genesis in that regard. A MiCare staff member was specifically told by the Vice President to issue the statement but that Mr. Nena stopped her from doing so because he didn’t believe the Vice President had the authority to make such a directive.

Legal counsel reminded him that MiCare is a government entity and that the President and Vice President have the legal authority to issue directives.

Further discussion was held about the fact that MiCare currently has \$600,000 in Accounts Receivables.

At press time, MiCare still had not issued a press release to say that Genesis and MiCare had signed an MOU to reinstate services at least until November.



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Fingertec Premier Fingerprint Time Attendance System TA100C

...Hatchery

Continued from page 4

cucumber hatchery in Majuro at the CMI Arrak Campus aquaculture facility and train Marshallese staff at COM Land Grant Nett Point hatchery on sea cucumber. These staff are expected to run the hatchery in Majuro when its finished and up and running.

During the visit at Nett Point, Minster Wilbur Heine and Dean Biuma Samson also had the opportunity to meet the new Adiminstrator of Pohnpei State Government Office of the Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) Mr. Cassiano Shoniber. The Minister Wilbur Heine and Dean CMI Land Grant were accompanied by SPC Chief Mr Gerlald Zackios



OFA Adminstrator Mr. Cassiano Shoniber, Dean CMI Land Grant Biuma Samson, SPC North Chief Gerald Zackios, Dr. Manoj R. Nair Director and Chief Scientist COM Aquaculture, Honl Minister of Education RMI and COM Board Mr. Wilbur Heine

Congratulations to all of Pohnpei's graduates!

June 24, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Each of the graduates from all of the schools throughout the FSM are to be congratulated for their discipline and perseverance, oftentimes despite what some might consider to be insurmountable odds.

While all of the graduates put special effort into their education, some went even further and were named as the Valedictorians and Salutatorians for their graduating classes.

Thank you to Kalio Edwin who pursued the names of each of the graduates who reached those lofty statuses. They should serve as an inspiration to every student. Nelsihna Anson, Benida Pelep, Rhonda Salvador, Arwelson Arpona, and Nelsin Iriarte also offered invaluable assistance in compiling this list of Valedictorians and Salutatorians from each school.



Pohnpei State Public and Private Schools Valedictorian and Salutatorian List

Names of Schools	Valedictorian	Salutatorian
Private and Public Elementary Schools		
Pohnlangas Elementary	Caitlyn Rose Danila	Denny More Etse
Sapwalap Elementary	Trudy Orlando	Carleen Elias
Lukop Elementary	Harvella Jamie Dannis	Mellyann Olter
ESDM Elementary	Morena David	Ivaleen John
Saladak Elementary	Defonalyn Albert	Deitrick William
Awak Elementary	Maraya Aron	Jenna Noha Sohl
Net Elementary	Mia Nicole Lane	Myuki Ladore
Parem Elementary	Beltran Victor	Darla Paula Edmund
Kolonia Elementary	John Hagileirig	Iverson Henry Edwin
Ohmine Elementary	Bethalynn Lebehn	Trisane Werthog
St. Paul Elementary	Cassandra Poll	AM Sidney Johnson
Pohnpei Catholic School	Shakira Edgar	Keylem Marquez
SDA Elementary	Raizza Cralos	Grace Lyn Pangelinan
CCA Elementary	Mayren Wichep (Highest GPA)	N/A
Sokehs Pah Elementary	Justina Liwy	Deavin Seilo
Sokehs Powe Elementary	Mylene Lein Ahala Apaisa	Melissa Sheanille Edward
Palikir Elementary	Kayli Ladore	Norton Santos
Sekere Elementary	Misantrellia Branish	Alterino Christopher Jr.
Pehleing Elementary	Sherraine Manuel	John Wens Abraham
Seinwar Elementary	Mary Jae Ardos	Amy Barnabas
Salapwuk Elementary	Daisy Hainrick	Joel Phillip
Enpein Elementary	Andromenda Rafail	Krystal Gilmete
Kipar Elementary	Lyna Thoses	Harrison Thoses
Wone Elementary	Freddy Jayrick Salvador	Jennifer Ladore
Rohi Elementary	Kiora Pablo	Sharla Mae Hadley

Private and Public High Schools

Madolenihmw High School	Johner Sehna	Keoni Silbanuz
PICS High School	Suzanne Joseph	Mitchell Marino
Nahnpei Memorial High School	Aira Damia	Mihra Pama
SDA High School	Naomi Nakasone	Reyonna Weilbacher
CCA High School	Sonsha Paddock	Isako Peterson
Ohwa Christian High School	Delma James	James Adalfred
OLMHS High School	Asmara Pretrick	Carisma Jano
		Scarlett Lebehn
		Edymark Martinez
Xavier High School	Hitoshi Phillip Oue	Andre Nicolas Nevado

Colleges

College of Micronesia	Fritz Mihkel	Miki Vivian Fritz
Ohwa Theological College	Relio Saimon	Sucy Elias

H.E. Presents His Credentials to FSM President Christian

By The Embassy of Japan

His Excellency Ryoichi Horie presented his credentials to FSM President Peter Christian at the President's Conference Room in Palikir on June 16, 2016. Ambassador Horie arrived in Pohnpei on June 10 and lately has spent his days in Pohnpei familiarizing himself with what will be his home for the next few years. At the ceremony and courtesy call to President, Ambassador Horie delivered the messages from the Emperor and Prime Minister Abe, in which their deep appreciation for long-standing and further friendly relationship between Japan and FSM was expressed.

President Christian warmly welcomed Ambassador Horie and replied to keep working on the aim for the continued strengthening of the two countries' ties of friendship.

The ceremony was witnessed by Vice President Yosiwo George, Secretary of Department of Resources and Development Marion Henry, Deputy Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick, Resident Representative of JICA Shinji Shibata, Resident Representative of OFCF Hidenobu Eguchi, other government officials and staff of the Embassy.



Ambassador Horie shaking hands with President Christian

15th intersessional meeting on Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations

On the 13-17 of June 2016, the 15th Intersessional Meeting on PACER Plus was held in Nadi, Fiji. On this occasion, the FSM joined other Pacific Islands Countries to continue PACER Plus negotiations in line with Pacific Leaders' mandate to bring the negotiations to a conclusion by the end of 2016.

During this round of negotiations, the discussion on the Development and Economic Cooperation Chapter which covers on assistance to implement the PACER Plus Agreement and assistance for broader trade development was satisfactory concluded pending announcement of financial resources that will be made available by Australia and New Zealand. PACER Plus Work Programme outlines the assistance to be provided by Australia and New Zealand to Pacific Island Countries and comprises of six components (rules of origins and other aspects of implementation of tariff commitments, customs, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, trade in services, investment). Some of the activities identified by the FSM for funding under PACER Plus Work Programme include training of stakeholders in rules of origins, upgrading toward the 2017 version of the Harmonized Coding System, capacity building on compliance with international certification rules for tuna exports, investment promotion strategies & capacity building, technical assistance in organic certification, to improve industry compliance with export

certification system, and capacity building to improve utilization of seasonal workers schemes available under PACER Plus. During the round of negotiations, the FSM Delegation also had successful bilateral discussions with Australia and New Zealand on its revised Market Access Offers for Trade in Services and its initial offers on Investment. The few remaining issues following the 15th round of negotiations include provisions on infant industry protection, Most Favored Nation, and trade remedies (provisional and bilateral safeguards).

In preparation for the 15th Intersessional Meetings on PACER Plus, the FSM Department of R&D, assisted by Dr. Martin Roy, Senior Policy Advisor at the Office of Chief Trade Advisor, conducted consultations with the Private Sector, relevant National Agencies (FSM Department of R&D, TC&I, Education, Health, Immigration) and sub-regional organizations (Micronesia Shipping Commission) to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are fully taken into account during the negotiations and that FSM negotiators do not deviate from existing laws and policies. The FSM Department of R&D also organized briefing with FSM Congress Committee on R&D

See "PACER Plus" on page 12

CAUTIONARY NOTICE



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- Publications, printed, and bookbinding materials, paper, cardboard and goods made from these materials; stationery; and artists' materials;
- Business administration, business management, franchising, and technical assistance services;
- Retail and wholesale services, including mail order, on-line retail, and online ordering services in respect of foods and beverages, electric and non-electric appliances, house wares and kitchenware, timepieces and jewelry, books, music recordings, mouse pads, wallets and bags, umbrellas, clothing, caps and hats, toys, and Christmas ornaments;
- Administration of incentive award program through the issuance and processing of discounts in the nature of loyalty points for purchase of a company's goods or services;
- Food and beverage services, including restaurant and takeout restaurant services, catering services, coffee supply services, contract food services, and food and beverage preparation services. restaurant services featuring a customer loyalty program that provides restaurant benefits to reward repeat customers.

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Communities taking action to protect their water resources

In light of our recent El Nino weather event in Pohnpei, people have become more aware of how important it is to have access to a clean and consistent water supply. Now that rains have started and rivers are flowing again with an ample supply, we should keep this in mind. The fact that our own activities are polluting our water resources has not gone unnoticed by a few communities in Pohnpei. One of these communities, the community of Awak in U Municipality, with support from the Awak Youth Organization, MCT, CSP, TNC, Pohnpei EPA, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, COM-FSM's Natural Resources Management (Agriculture) Program, Pohnpei Agriculture and UH Hilo, has taken the first steps to save their water resources and to adapt to climate change by taking care of their watershed and water resources with the conversion of piggens to the dry litter system to stop contaminants from entering their waters.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, Pohnpei EPA and the COM-FSM estimate that there are approximately 3,000 piggeries on Pohnpei. The impact of these piggeries is seen in local streams and rivers after farmers wash their pig waste into nearby water sources every day, making the rivers unsafe for swimming, washing and bathing. These rivers contain E. coli and leptospirosis bacteria, which are serious illnesses and may be caused by swimming in water contaminated by pig waste.

Pohnpei law requires all piggeries to be built at least 50 feet from the nearest stream, river, or shoreline. This law is flawed because even pig pens 50 feet away from streams, rivers and shorelines can still contaminate agriculture lands and water resources. This is important because Pohnpei is a sloped island and most contaminants ultimately end up in the water resources after major rains, which are pretty regular events.. The number of the piggeries not in compliance with the existing law is unknown, but it is a high percentage of the piggeries in Pohnpei since the normal practice has been to let the rivers and tides take away the waste generated every day.

Dry litter piggeries use wood chips to line the floors of the piggeries and do not use water to wash pig pens. This can help alleviate the problem of pig waste contaminating Pohnpei's waters. The waste materials are instead composted with other organic materials, which produces high temperatures and destroys leptospirosis and other harmful bacteria. The finished compost can then be put on crops as a safe organic fertilizer.

The Awak Youth Organization (AYO), with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, successfully partnered with the Awak community to add 455 acres of additional watershed to the Pohnpei State Watershed Reserve. This is 50 percent more than originally committed! This result clearly shows the Awak community's increased understanding and support for more effective watershed and resource management. Together, the Awak community submitted a request to the Pohnpei State Legislature to include the 455 acres to the Pohnpei State Watershed Reserve. There is now a draft state bill to amend the Pohnpei Watershed and Forest Reserve Act of 1997 to

include this new 455 acres.

This project directly supports a larger ongoing initiative. It is one of the three components of a resources management and conservation (ridge to reef) program for the entire village that is jointly implemented by AYO, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, and community members themselves. The other two elements are 1) village beautification and recycling program to remove non-degradable trash from yards, roadsides, illegal dumpsites, rivers and shorelines. This project was completed in 2014 and the community plans to conduct intermittent cleanups into the future.2) Piggery waste management to reduce/eliminate toxic runoff into the Awak river. Through this initiative pig farmers are converting existing piggens located on the riverbanks/shorelines into the dry-litter system. The piggery project entitled, "A Watershed Approach to Building a Vibrant, Healthy and Resilient Awak" is funded under the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program and is on track to be completed by the end of this year. The main component of this project was that the Awak community agreed to set aside at least 308 acres of upland watershed land as part of the Pohnpei State Watershed Forest Reserve. As a result of this commitment by the Awak community to stop farming and restore/conservate these additional acres, Seacology provided funding to establish a Youth/Community Development and Education Center.

Up to 26 piggeries along the Awak River have been identified for refurbishment or rebuilding to lower dangerous levels of contamination found in the river by the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency and the University of Hawaii in 2013. Five of the 26 piggens which are in the watershed area and a source of contamination to the main stream in the watershed have been converted to the dry litter system. The community members envision having all the piggens completed by the end of the 2016 year.

The funding from the UN Global Environmental Fund Small Grants Program is being administered by the Micronesia Conservation Trust. The Pohnpei Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman, Mark Kostka was instrumental in assisting the landowner with piggery designs and advice. NRCS has offered additional assistance for compost management and future design considerations.



VITAL hosts record setting Fishing Club Tournament



Pohnpei Fishing Club

June 11, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Vital, FSM's Petroleum Corporation hosted a major fishing tournament for the Pohnpei Fishing Club giving away hundreds of gallons of fuel and other prizes. The tournament attracted a record breaking 37 boats participating in the tournament. All of which returned safely and each of which had an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) device.

Each boat that registered received 20 to 80 gallons of gas, along with free t-shirts for the crew. Vital T-Shirts were everywhere during the weigh in.

Registration for event was held at Mangrove Bay Bar on the evening before the tournament and weigh-in was also hosted at Mangrove Bay Bar on the evening of the tournament.

The tournament was set up to offer a lot of prizes but the grand prize was 100 gallons of fuel and a new rod and reel.

The top six biggest fish won prizes, along 1 and 2 in six species categories along with lady and junior anglers.

It was a beautiful day for fishing. The winners are listed below.



Promoting Science and Agriculture

COM-FSM

A science will be held at the College of Micronesia-FSM National Campus on July 5th and 6th for high school students. The purpose of the 2-day event is to promote and encourage high school students to become involved in Science, Agriculture, Food Technology, and Natural Resource Management.

The following activities will be displayed and demonstrated?

1. Container gardening – planting vegetables in containers,
2. Hydroponic vegetable production – planting in water,
3. First-flush divergent - rainwater catchment,
4. Poster display
5. Poster giveaway
6. Giveaway CD – Strengthening Agriculture in the Western Pacific
7. Seedlings Contest and Giveaway

Students will visit and get familiar with various offices and facilities.

Students will become aware of roles and accomplishments of government agencies and NGOs invited to take part...

1. Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFC)
2. Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP)
3. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
4. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
5. Office of Economic Affairs, Agriculture
6. Cooperative Extension Service (CES), Pohnpei Campus

All six high schools in Pohnpei are invited. Please let us know how many students and instructors are participating from your school. Let know also if your school would need transportation.

Refreshment and Lunch will be provided so please make sure we know how many are coming!

Please call 320-8181 or 320-6468 and ask for Jackson Phillip. You may also speak to Bryant Wichep and JB Palik at 320-6468. Rudy "Shannon" Phillip at 320-2902 and Kolsak "Junior" Keller at 320-3975.

BIGGEST FISH

Splash	Kimo Lekka	M	Marlin	227
Saimon's	Trevor Mix	M	Yellowfin	92.2
Ms Pakin	Andy Musrasrik	M	Yellowfin	84
Ms Yirwor	Alex Tretnoff	M	Sailfish	68.2
Salt Life	Ryan Hawley	M	Yellowfin	52.9
Salt Life	Rospein Marla Hawley	F	Yellowfin	42.5
Splash	Kurt Hedson	M	Barracuda	23.3
Blue Fin	Arleen David	F	Barracuda	19.1
Blue Fin	Arleen David	F	Grand Trevalle	15
Blue Fin	Arleen David	F	Grand Trevalle	8.8
Splash	Kimo Lekka	M	Mahi Mahi	16.9
Brianna	Jeannie Nanpei	F	Mahi Mahi	16.7
Six Pack	Eugene Oliver	M	Skip Jack	16.9
Poawoawoa	Welber David	M	Skip Jack	16.7
Happy Hookers	Frank Panuelo	M	Yellowfin	41
Salt Life	Isaiah Hawley	Jr	Yellowfin	40.7
Splash	Johnny Hedson	M	Wahoo	13.9
Palikir	Lestly Ashby	F	Skip Jack	16.1
Yakipa	Emihner Johnson	F	Skip Jack	15.8
Dolphin	Junior Spencer	Jr	Skip Jack	13.4
Lucky Last	Samuel Adams	Jr	Barracuda	6.8

Prizes were distributed as follows:

1. 100 gallons plus rod and reel
2. 75 gallons
3. 60 gallons
4. 50 gallons
5. 40 gallons
6. 35 gallons

angler with a 40.7 pound yellow fin, but he was awarded second place instead. Vital made up the difference and gave him his 25 gallon winning prize.

Congratulations to Kimo Lekka and Dr. Hedson on Splash for landing a 227 pound marlin.

After the weigh-in Vital sponsored a barbecue. They also donated \$500.00 to the Pohnpei Public Library in place of the usual Library fundraising.

As usual we want to thank all the people who helped out, Bill, Tina, Francisco, all of Kumer's guys, and the awards girls.

Many thanks to Vital, as it was a very big and successful tournament. Thanks again.

The next tournament will be the Yamaha tournament on July 2.

	1st	2nd
Yellow Fin	25	10
Wahoo	25	10
Mahi Mahi	25	10
Skip Jack	25	10
Barracuda	25	10
Grand Trevalle	25	10
Lady Angler	25	10
Junior Angler	25	10

There was one change in the awards from what was announced during the weigh in. Isaiah Hawley should have won the junior

Exploring Pacific funding mechanism option to turn ...PACER Plus the tide on NCDs

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

22 June 2016

Nuku'alofa, Tonga – Pacific Island countries and territories at the inaugural Pacific Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Summit have expressed their support for a Pacific funding mechanism to better balance responses to the mammoth burden of NCDs in the region.

In this regard, the Pacific Island countries and territories at the summit have agreed to explore options to establish greater synergies between funding sources.

A commitment was also made regarding the introduction of national legislation to ensure all Pacific Island countries and territories meet or exceed the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control taxation target and help achieve a Tobacco Free Pacific by 2025.

These are some of 17 key statements addressed in the adopted outcomes document of the high-level Pacific NCD Summit in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, which will be presented for consideration at the Pacific Ministers of Health meeting in Cook Islands next year.

“Whatever we decide to do in terms of addressing NCDs, funding is a very crucial factor,” Cook Islands Minister of Health, Justice and Parliamentary Services, the Hon Nandi Glassie, said.

“Taxation on tobacco, sugary drinks and alcohol, for example, is one area, and in fact it's being seen as a positive move so that each country can develop their own form of funding. But from the outset, this is not enough so we're looking for more assistance from our key development partners,” Minister Glassie added.

The Government of Tonga and the Pacific Community (SPC) hosted the three-day summit (20 to 22 June) with support from the Australian aid programme, New Zealand Aid Programme, Government of the United States, World Bank, World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

NCDs – mainly heart disease, cancers, lung disease and diabetes – account for up to 75% of recorded deaths in the Pacific.

Common themes expressed throughout the high-level discussions, and reflected in the outcomes statement, were the importance of strong leadership, government stability, multi-sectoral collaboration and use of existing traditional governance structures to sustain efforts to reduce NCDs.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark commended the regional NCD Roadmap for recognizing the importance of action across all sectors for NCDs.

“I firmly believe that the 2030 Agenda can be a springboard for the implementation of the Roadmap. The interconnected nature of the Agenda's 17 goals and 169 targets all but demands national responses which build synergies across sectors,” Miss Helen Clark said.

“This Summit is an important opportunity for the Pacific to redouble commitments to addressing the NCD crisis without delay, to build resilience to it, and to be a pathfinder for how we can build the partnerships across government, the UN, Civil society, and the private sector to be respond to NCDs as well as other global challenges requiring urgent and collective action,” she added.

More than 120 high-level delegates took part, representing Pacific Island governments and international development partners, including ministers of health from some 14 Pacific countries.

“Knowing what we want to achieve and setting a timeline to it and targets is very important, and I think that's going to be one of the critical suggestions that has come out from this summit,” Fiji's Minister of Health, the Hon Jone Usamate, said.

As a testament to the urgent need to effectively tackle the NCD crisis in the Pacific, the United States sent two high-level speakers, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dr Thomas E. Novotny, and Director of Sports Initiatives and Digital Communications for President Obama's Council on Fitness Sports and Nutrition, Ebony Andrews.

“The Pacific NCD Summit concluded with strong recommendations to take on the social determinants of non-communicable diseases and the main risk factors for these diseases such as tobacco, consumption of high-fat, salty and high sugared food, lack of exercise and alcohol abuse,” Dr Novotny commented.

The summit's final day today was entirely dedicated to shining a spotlight on diabetes in the Pacific.

In 2015, eight of the top ten countries and territories identified as having the highest diabetes prevalence in the world were from the Pacific.

The International Diabetes Federation estimates that economic burden of diabetes alone in Australia amounts to A\$14.6 billion each year with figures expected to reach A\$30 billion by 2025.

“I commend Pacific leaders for being at the forefront of the NCD agenda. We now need to ensure that we take the necessary steps to urgently and strongly combat NCDs because we all agree that our current efforts are not enough,” the Pacific Community Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, said.

“This summit has enabled Pacific Islands countries and territories to share ideas,

experiences, prioritise response efforts and further develop opportunities for regional collaboration to overcome this crisis,” Dr Tukuitonga said.

Participants at the Summit acknowledged the challenge of tackling NCDs is far from over and effective results can only be achieved with the commitment of all sectors of society, including the media, working together.

“The media needs to ask itself how responsible it is being in holding legislators responsible in the fight against NCDs but also how responsible have they been in helping to fight this fight,” Pacific Islands Business Publisher and veteran journalist, Netani Rika said.

“We need to tell the stories of who it affects; the mothers, the fathers, families left without breadwinners. These stories need to be told to wake people up. If we don't do it, people won't pay attention. The media shares the responsibility of building a healthier societies.”

Additionally, Dr Novotny announced that the US government will sponsor a Pacific-wide exchange programme focused on obesity, nutrition, and NCDs later this year.

The exchange will be part of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP), and it will send participants on a 10-day visit to the US to learn effective ways of encouraging NCD prevention among youth.

Continued from page 9

to update the lawmakers on progress in PACER Plus negotiations. Mr. Roy also pay a courtesy call on FSM Vice-President, the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, to brief him on the status of PACER Plus negotiations and outstanding issues in particular the one of interest to the FSM.

The last round of Negotiations is scheduled for mid-August 2016 in Christchurch, New Zealand, and will be followed by a Special Forum Trade Ministers Meeting on PACER Plus. The FSM Department of R&D envisages convening a meeting of the National Trade Facilitation Committee prior to the final round of negotiations.

The FSM was represented by the FSM Department of R&D and Department of Justice (Mrs. Camille Movick-Inatio, Assistant Secretary, Trade and Investment Division; Mr. Adelman Joseph, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Trade; and Mrs. Josephine Joseph, Assistant Attorney General). The FSM team was supported by Mr. Jean Bertrand Azapmo, National Trade Adviser, under the Hub & Spokes Programme II funded by the European Union, the ACP Group, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and la Francophonie.

For further information regarding the 15th Intersessional Meetings on PACER Plus or FSM's participation in PACER Plus, contact Mrs. Movick-Inatio or Mr. Joseph at the FSM Department of R&D via phone number 320-2646/5133 or email cmovick@fsmrd.fm or adelman.joseph@fsmrd.fm.

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New U.S. fishing rule attempts to evade regional conservation measure

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement

Majuro, Marshall Islands 13 June 2016:

A new U.S. government fishing regulation that went into effect late last month violates a conservation measure for high seas fishing approved last year by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), said the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Chief Executive.

“This new U.S. fishing rule seeks to allow its purse seine fleet to evade the WCPFC measure,” said Dr. Transform Aqorau, PNA CEO.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service issued rule 2016-0038 providing the U.S. purse seine fleet with a limit of 1,828 days for the western Pacific high seas area. It went into effect on May 25.

WCPFC’s Conservation and Management Measure 2015-001, endorsed by member nations including the United States last December, sets fishing limits for each flag state’s fishing fleet. The United States purse seine fleet was limited to 1,270 fishing days on the high seas by CMM 2015-001.

The U.S. government is combining 558 fishing days from its exclusive economic zones in American Samoa and Guam with the WCPFC limit of 1,270 to increase to 1,828 the number of days American purse seiners can fish on the high seas. “By issuing this new rule, the United States is saying it can take the 1,270 day limit by the WCPFC and combine it with its American Samoa and Guam days to fish anywhere,” said Dr. Aqorau.

“This is a superpower abusing a measure agreed to in December 2015,” said Dr. Aqorau. “They are trying to find ways to evade limits set by the WCPFC, and to avoid application of

the Vessel Day Scheme by fishing outside of Pacific island nations’ waters.”

The Vessel Day Scheme is the management mechanism through which PNA regulates and limits fishing by purse seiners in the exclusive economic zones of its eight member nations.

The U.S. announcement that it is increasing the high seas allotment of fishing days for its purse seine fleet comes as the U.S. government and its purse seine industry are struggling to negotiate an extension of a fishing treaty that has governed U.S.-flagged vessel access to the western Pacific since the late 1980s. But the U.S. announced earlier this year its plan to withdraw from the treaty in January 2017 and ongoing negotiations have failed to result in a new agreement. The next negotiating session is scheduled between the U.S. and 17 Pacific island nations in Auckland from June 20-24.

“We should be less accommodating of the U.S. fleet in these treaty negotiations because of their apparent intention to evade WCPFC conservation rules,” said Dr. Aqorau. “We would be better off without a treaty.”

Dr. Aqorau said it was unacceptable for the U.S. government — or any other flag state — to unilaterally increase its fishing day limit on the high seas above the limit established by the WCPFC.

In issuing this new rule in late May, the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service said it had to “establish the applicable limits for 2016 before they are exceeded,” which could be as early as this month, based on U.S. fleet fishing activity.

“Any U.S. fishing above the limit of 1,270 days will be in contravention of the WCPFC’s 2015-001 Conservation and Management Measure,” said Dr. Aqorau.

PNA-ISSF cooperation hailed for domestic development options

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement

Majuro, Marshall Islands 18 June 2016:

A recently signed cooperation agreement between the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and the International Sustainable Seafood Foundation (ISSF) allows the two entities to cooperate on FAD tracking, the Vessel Day Scheme, purse seine vessel registry and other areas.

As part of this closer cooperation between ISSF and PNA, ISSF is to allow PNA nations an exemption to bring new fishing vessels into service to develop their domestic fisheries industries.

A decision by ISSF in 2012 led to capping the number of purse seiners at 2015 levels, with the requirement that before any new vessel could begin fishing in the western Pacific, an existing vessel had to be taken off the registry. This effectively blocked PNA nations attempting to develop their domestic fisheries capacity from adding new vessels to local fleets.

The new MOU was hailed by PNA CEO Dr. Transform Aqorau for opening avenues of cooperation between the two organizations and for the “critical exemption for PNA’s domestic fisheries development.”

“The PNA-ISSF agreement allows for further cooperation and reflects the success of the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) in controlling fishing effort,” said PNA CEO Dr. Transform Aqorau. Some in industry blame PNA for increasing the number of vessels, but these vessels are mainly fishing in-zone, where the VDS limits fishing, Aqorau said. He emphasized that there has been little growth in purse seine catches in

the eight PNA members’ fishing zones over the past five years because of the VDS’ “hard limits” on fishing days. “The growth has all been on the high seas,” he added.

The PNA exemption allowing the eight members to bring vessels to fish their domestic waters “represents a problem for those (in industry) that want to just fish and not invest in PNA domestic development,” said Aqorau. “As domestic fleets increase, the days available for foreign fleets will decline.” The fleets that are uninterested in working with and investing in PNA nations to develop their domestic fishing capacity are the ones who do not support this new plan.

“It is unacceptable from PNA’s point of view that our members cannot increase the number of vessels fishing in domestic exclusive economic zones,” said Aqorau. Without the exemption, new PNA purse seiners fishing in domestic waters would be unable to sell their catches to tuna processors because ISSF members had agreed they would buy product only from those vessels on the ISSF registry in 2015 — or added later by removing an existing vessel.

“We cannot accept a situation where domestically-licensed purse seiners fishing in our own waters cannot sell their fish to processors,” said Aqorau.

The new MOU with ISSF sets the stage for further cooperation with this international organization that will assist in “carefully managed development of PNA domestic fisheries development,” said Aqorau.



Making tuna fisheries management 'pop' with PROP

The t-shirts and branding launched by NORMA FSM in Pohnpei during the closing of the 2016 National Fisheries Seminar says it all: Stepping up Fisheries in FSM is the renewed focus of a USD5.5m injection to 2020, thanks to the World Bank's Pacific Regional Oceanscape Project. The PROP project is essentially a management program for securing the best economic benefits from sustainable coastal and offshore fisheries, for four participating member nations of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, FFA. FSM State officials and leaders from across FSM as well as the key national stakeholders for the PROP working with NORMA- Resources and Development, Health and Social Affairs, Justice, and Finance and Admin, were part of the branding launch aimed at stepping up the messaging around the activities planned at helping FSM meet its fisheries aspirations for tuna and coastal fisheries. Project contact: Okean Ehmes via okean.ehmes@norma.fm



Displaying their PROP Project Brochures at the PROP Project Launch are representatives from the four FSM States with NORMA Board Chairman, Mr. Churchill Edward, FSM R&D Secretary, Hon. Marion Henry and Director General of Forum Fisheries Agency, Mr. James Movick.

Opinion Editorial

Asia's taste for sea cucumbers roils South Pacific



MICHAEL FIELD, Contributing writer
Nikkei Asian Review
(reprinted with permission)

May 25, 2016

AUCKLAND, New Zealand -- A race to harvest one of the world's oddest looking marine delicacies is causing concern about environmental damage inflicted in the South Pacific.

Soaring demand for the sea cucumber, a seabed dwelling invertebrate also known as beche-de-mer and trepang, is driving record prices in China's luxury food market. One species, the Pacific sandfish, was selling recently in Hong Kong for \$1,668 a kilo, while the Japanese spiky sea cucumber can go for \$2,950 a kilo. Other species sell for between \$15 and \$385 a kilo, depending on size and condition.

Harvesting these lucrative but unappealing animals is becoming more difficult as stocks decline, prompting claims that overfishing is causing environmental damage and that divers' lives are being put at risk. A controversial commercial contract with a Chinese company recently sparked protests on Pohnpei, part of the usually sleepy Federated States of Micronesia.

Steven Purcell, a sea cucumber expert at Australia's Southern Cross University, said Pacific stocks had "all declined considerably" over a decade. Purcell and six other scientists said in a recent article in the academic journal *Fish and Fisheries* that sea cucumber stocks may have "succumbed to pandemic overfishing."

There are around 1,700 species of sea cucumber, of which 66 are used for food. Boiled and dried, the animal becomes known by its French name, beche-de-mer -- a dish rich in protein, minerals and fatty acids. In China the animal is a traditional remedy for hypertension, asthma, rheumatism, cuts and burns,

impotence and constipation.

The South Pacific Community, a New Caledonia-based grouping of 22 nations and territories, said in a recent study that sea cucumber exploitation had been worth more than \$36 million to the region in good years, but only a fraction of that sum in poor years.

The SPC said that market demand now exceeded global supply, leading to rising prices. But it noted that "the lure of easy money and market forces are encouraging poor practices and mismanagement." In Micronesia the Kaselehlie Press reported on May 13 that the government had given Young Sun International Trading, a Chinese company, the right to take 67 tons of sea cucumbers from the country's territorial waters.

Menin Katengsed of the Pohnpei Marine Management Advisory Council, a nongovernmental organization, said in a letter to the newspaper that Young Sun would make almost \$9.5 million in sales income from the deal, while fishers would get around \$1 million. "The only winner in this whole deal is the Chinese company," he wrote.

The Nature Conservancy, a U.S.-based conservation organization, said it feared that Pohnpei's "one-time go for broke" operation could change the health of the local waters forever. "This one act will single-handedly decimate the sea cucumber resource of an island by a company who will earn millions of dollars in profit, leaving virtually no benefits to the island and its communities," said Ricky Carl, a Nature Conservancy official.

The Nature Conservancy said sea cucumbers were important for the health of lagoons, which they help to clean. It said Tony deBrum, a former foreign minister of the Marshall Islands had reported a notable increase in algae at one atoll where sea cucumber harvesting

had been allowed.

"During low tide, there is an unusual smell from the reef, but most disturbing, children cannot swim in the sea because they get an itchy rash," deBrum was quoted as saying by Nature Conservancy.

Several South Pacific countries have closed sea cucumber fisheries to protect stocks in recent years, including Papua New Guinea and Tonga. Vanuatu imposed a ban, but lifted it in 2015 to allow islands affected by Cyclone Pam to make some money.

Outrage in Hawaii

In Hawaii, there was social media outrage last year following reports that truckloads of sea cucumbers were being hauled off beaches on the islands of Maui and Oahu. David Ige, the state governor, banned any further large-scale commercial harvesting of sea cucumbers.

In Australia, the state of Queensland's sea cucumber fishery was closed nearly 30 years ago, although Vietnamese and Indonesian fishers have since been caught poaching there.

Fiji, which has been exporting sea cucumbers since 1820, maintains a thriving export trade, mostly to Hong Kong. Xiao Zhang Du, managing director of Great North Seafood, a Fiji-registered company, told the Fiji Times in 2015 that he had sent \$4 million worth of sea cucumbers to Hong Kong during the year and was seeking to increase exports.

"This is to prepare us to meet the increasing demand. We are still in discussion with companies in China," he said.

Many of the sea cucumbers that end up on tables in Asia and Europe are caught by relatively poor rural residents of South Pacific island states -- picked off the ocean floor by divers who are said to be taking greater risks as stocks diminish.

In March, a 45-year-old diver was decapitated by a shark off the southern coast of Fiji's Vanua Levu island. However, the biggest problems relate to the use of air lines providing compressed air from the surface. The SPC says these lines, also known as "hookahs" put villagers at "considerable personal risk of the bends [decompression

sickness] or death."

There are no comprehensive records of diving deaths related to sea cucumber fishing in the region, but anecdotal reports suggests that the rate may be above 100 a year. One recent newspaper report pointed to 12 deaths in a single district last year.

Purcell said the use of under water gear was unregulated, with no limit on the species caught or the depth of fishing, which is conducted at a wide range of depths down to 50 meters. Scuba divers and breath-holding "free" divers are also involved.

"The high incidence of diving-related accidents in recent times indicates that stocks are being depleted in shallower areas, forcing divers to go deeper and to increase the number of dives per day," Purcell said.

A veteran Fiji scuba expert said he had seen many people paralyzed by the bends since the latest sea cucumber boom started. "We saw lots of people get bends from the outer islands and remote villages," said the diver, who asked not to be named.

He added that Chinese buyers were providing villagers with boats, outboard motors and hookah compressors, the cost of which had to be repaid over three to four years, and warned that regulating the industry would not make much difference because of the difficulty of enforcement.

"Our navy can't even afford the diesel to put into the navy boats. I don't know how they are going to control sea cucumber diving," he said.

Some regional governments have accepted that the sea cucumber industry presents a growing problem. Tonga's Fisheries Minister Semisi Fakahau called in October for "brutally honest discussions about the hard but necessary solutions which we need to collectively identify and implement." No further action has been taken so far, however.

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Ending family violence in Pacific: law is not enough

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

17 June 2016

Suva, Fiji – A respected former Fijian judge has told a human rights forum that legislation is only part of the solution to ending domestic violence in the Pacific region.

Former Judge Mere Pulea delivered the opening address at the Pacific Community Gender and the Law Consultation 2016 in Nadi this week, which was organised by the Pacific Community’s Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) in partnership with UN Women and the Fiji Women’s Rights Movement.

“Putting in place laws against domestic violence in 11 Pacific Island countries is a major achievement which will have profound impacts on the lives of victims of violence. However, legislation in itself is only part of the solution,” Judge Pulea said.

“There is much more to be done to effectively implement these laws, a challenge that is rivalled only by our underestimation of the difficulty of bringing about attitudinal and systemic changes,” Judge Pulea stated.

The five-day consultation brought together lawyers, police, civil society representatives and policy officers from those Pacific countries with family protection and domestic violence laws in place (Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned in implementing their respective family protection laws.

The Meeting Statement calls on Pacific governments to recognise the multiple layers of discrimination that women face, and the challenges and barriers to justice experienced by women and



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

girls, including women and girls with disabilities.

The statement, endorsed by all participants, acknowledges that “domestic violence is the most pervasive violation of human rights that it affects all women and girls across the Pacific”. It also stresses the need to strengthen collaboration between governments, NGOs, women’s groups, shelters, churches and other civil society structures to ensure Pacific communities benefit from domestic violence laws.

“On average, two out of three Pacific women are believed to experience violence at the hands of their intimate partners or family members during their lifetime, which is why this continues to be a serious issue in the region,” RRRT Director, Mark Atterton, said.

“SPC is working with multiple partners to support efforts to curtail domestic violence as we believe that a rights-based approach is fundamental to responses to domestic violence,” he said.

With the theme Implementing Domestic Violence Legislation, the consultation was supported by the Australian Government and the European Union.

The misuse of family protection and domestic violence laws for purposes not intended by the law and the most appropriate circumstances for using mediation were also among the topics covered.

RRRT is the Pacific Community’s human rights programme, working to build a rights-based culture, and assisting nation states to commit to, and observe, international human rights standards.

Education Corner: Richard Womack, Ed.D

More on the Cognitive Domain

Last EC was a little bit academic in that it was about psychologists like Benjamin Bloom from the 1950’s and kinds of learning, types of learning or areas of learning. We used the phrase domain. We said there were the Cognitive Domain, the Affective Domain and the Psycho-Motor Domains. We might call these simply the Thinking Domain; the Feeling Domain and the Coordination Domains. All of that was really more to show readers what teachers must do to answer the important teaching question: How do I know my students have learned what was taught? It was about measuring evidence of learning that teachers must gather to see students are learning the standards and benchmarks required by NDOE or State DOE’s. Think in terms of students demonstrating verbs as defining, naming, recalling and such verbs where students study and more memorize facts in isolation more for test taking than anything else. One more thing however—teachers must measure depth of learning and measuring depth of learning is a little complicated but not too complex that parents and the community cannot understand the idea. Here is an example of learning depth.


Last week we noted a fact that all students usually should learn—Magellan landed in Guam in 1521. O.K., history is about dates and we all recognize certain important dates. Dates can be very important historical/cultural markers. 1521 is important to Micronesians because it was the first landing by Europeans in Micronesia. Much has changed beginning in 1521 for Micronesians. The rest of the world usually learns 1519-1522 the first circumnavigation of the Earth. That is the first time someone actually sailed around our planet, Earth. It settled the question that the Earth was round by demonstration. We learn too that Magellan later was killed in the Philippines and that only one of his five (5) ships actually made it all the way around the world. We are always taught about the hardships the sailors endured. These are a few things students learn besides just the date—1521 Magellan lands in Micronesia. To get some evidence on a Magellan lesson the teacher might ask simple questions as—When did Magellan land in Guam? What happened to Magellan in the Philippines? How many ships began the voyage and how many finished the voyage? What are two hardships Magellan’s sailors endured? What is the word that means to “go around” (circumnavigate). We would call this evidence rather “low level” learning. It would be a little higher if the teacher asked “Please write down three reasons why Magellan’s voyage was important.” These are more facts and can be memorized. They do this for the quiz or test they will have. And not too much actual deeper thinking is required. But we all know that 1521 marked forever how Micronesia was to change. It is a critical date and important enough to require critical thinking. Critical thinking is higher level thinking. This involves the how’s and why’s not just the who’s, what’s and where’s. If we are to be more specific we remember February of 1669, the Colegio de San Juan de Letran was opened for a few Chamorro children. Certainly the introduction of Christianity to Micronesia is an important historical/cultural marker for all Micronesians. But Christianity is not a matter of dates, or persons it is a matter for deeper thinking. A student must think critically when asked about the impact Christianity has had in all islands.

Continuing in this Cognitive Domain the students learn about various explorers. For sure Captain Cook and his three (3) voyages to the Pacific are always studied. For reference Cook comes along 250 years after Magellan. Cook’s first voyage took place during 1768-1771. While Cook is associated with Polynesia sailing and discovering and mapping the Pacific Ocean is always studied in the islands of Micronesia, Polynesian and Melanesia. We learn about the hardships, the encounters with the native peoples found, the goods and trade items found. We learn slowly about reasons for European Colonialization. This concept of Colonialization is very complex and requires deeper thinking and learning. But first we learn quite a few bits of lower level facts and information. Giving evidence that one understands this far reaching subject requires higher level critical thinking. So once students can recall, name, and define things about voyages the teacher must ask more of them. The teacher can now ask students to demonstrate learning by citing similarities and differences between Magellan’s and Cook’s voyages. Comparing and contrasting shows a higher level thinking and learning than just defining or recalling some facts. Still higher would be answering why each voyage was important and higher still would be a question as “Choosing either Magellan or Cook, which of the two explorers left us the most important contributions and why did you make this choice? This would be using the idea of evaluating information, analyzing it and using critical thinking to evaluate and make decisions.

Finally, this Bloom’s Cognitive Domain is the where the teachers and students spend most of the teaching/learning day. Teachers are teaching and students are learning and giving their evidence on quizzes, tests and major examinations. While much time is spent on lower level learning these become the necessary building blocks for higher level thinking and learning. Teachers measure low level learning as the students progress along in school but this is so the students can use this to move on up and think critically. Critical thinking is required to make good decisions and students who make good decisions develop one of life’s most valuable skills.



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Chuukese families celebrate new homes after Maysak

By Rachel Weinheimer,
International Organization for Migration

June 23, 2016

Chuuk, FSM—In April of 2015, Typhoon Maysak hit the FSM, with devastating effects in both Chuuk and Yap. While the emergency relief phase is over, many families are still enduring Maysak's aftermath - hundreds lost their homes and all their belongings to the powerful storm.

During the week of 13 June 2016, under a USAID initiative, and in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the first families in Chuuk received new homes designed to replace those lost during Maysak. One of the first was the Jacobus family in the village of Mechitiw on Weno, Chuuk.

The Jacobus family took shelter in a concrete building in their village during Typhoon Maysak. After the storm, they returned to their home only to find it reduced to its foundation, their belongings either swept away by the storm or ruined.

Sulita Hoream, who is a neighbor to the Jacobus family, explained: "We were scared during the storm. Only buildings made of concrete were left afterwards. People no longer had houses. (Since Maysak), three families are staying with us."

Approximately 330 new houses will be built in Chuuk to replace those destroyed by Maysak. These houses are being built by members of the Chuukese community under the guidance of engineers from USAID and IOM. The community workers have been trained in reconstruction techniques in order to promote long-term disaster resilience and community empowerment.

"The engineers came every day to check on the workers... it's good the Chuukese came. The Chuukese man who worked on our house is a good carpenter. Now he is building another house," states Hoream.



The new homes were designed to take into account cultural as well as practical considerations; they are equipped with a water catchment system, wired for electricity, and built to withstand winds of 95 mph. Disabled beneficiaries are eligible for special considerations, ensuring that their new houses are designed to fit their needs.

In addition to their new home, the family was also eligible to receive a voucher in order to replace household items lost during the storm.

Hoream: "With the voucher, my family bought a washing machine, storage containers, dishes, and food."

The Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project is a multi-sectoral initiative designed to help Maysak-affected communities in the FSM rebuild following the devastating storm and help restore critical public infrastructure and utilities, rebuild homes, and strengthen communities. In response to Typhoon Maysak, the US Government is expected to provide more than \$45 million in humanitarian assistance to the FSM in the form of agricultural assistance, logistics support and relief commodities, shelter coordination, and reconstruction efforts



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