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Boxers make FSM history in a variety of ways at 2015 Pacific Games

A "corner" witnesses FSM greatness and history as it is made

By **Erick B. Divinagracia**
FSM Boxing Association

This past 2015 Pacific Games had historic implications for the FSM on different levels. This was the first time in FSM history that it sent a team of boxers to compete at the Pacific Games. This is also the first time in 52 years since boxing became a competition in the Pacific Games that it allowed the sport of women's boxing in three Olympic Categories, 48-51Kg, 57-60Kg and 69-75Kg. Team FSM sent three male boxers, Derick Perman, Angelo Rodriquez, and Royce Rott of Pohnpei State to make their first ever competition debuts at the Pacific Games. The FSM team was anchored by one female, the highly experienced Jennifer Dugwen Chieng. Her accomplishments at the time included being ranked the Number #2 Women's Amateur Boxing's Lightweight fighter in the United States, the 2015 NY Daily Golden Gloves Champion, the 2014 USA National Silver Medalist, the 2014 Metro Champion, 2012 - 2013 WPAL Champion, the 2014 FSM Athlete of the Year, and one of four FSM athletes to be awarded an Olympic Solidarity Scholarship the past year.

All FSM Boxers made their weight at



Chieng and Coach Erick

the General Weigh-In morning and received their opponents and dates to compete as follows: July 14- Derick Perman v. Teata Teihoarii (Tahiti) in the 69kg, July 15- Angelo Rodriquez v. Tautuarii Nena (Tahiti) in the 75kg, July 16- Royce Rott v Tom Boga (PNG) in the 64(kg) and Jennifer Chieng v. Hatara Lagana Ioane (Tahiti) in the 57-60kg.

In Derick Perman's bout he immediately went to work on the Tahitian by mixing hooks to the body and head and throwing overhand rights to the taller fighter. The fight was at a blistering pace based on the excitement of the fighter. For some reason the referee, to our shock and disbelief,

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS

By
His Excellency Peter M. Christian
President of the Federated States of Micronesia

Mister Speaker and Members of the FSM Congress, former Presidents, Honorable Chief Justice, Mister Vice-President, Honorable Governors, Speakers and Members of our State Legislatures, Chiefs and Traditional Leaders of Micronesia, members of the clergy, ambassadors and distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, my fellow citizens of the FSM everywhere:

This day marks another milestone in the history of our young nation. It also marks for me a monumental milestone. I am honored beyond words to address you as your new President, but the occasion is first and foremost a celebration of the Federated States of Micronesia and its enduring constitution.

I do wish at the outset to express deep gratitude to my supporters and the voters of Pohnpei State for re-electing me to Congress last March. Additionally, I thank the members of the Congress for their vote of confidence in honoring me with the highest office of the land. I promise to do my utmost to be worthy of the honor and confidence.

In 1979 the historic First Session of the First Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia convened in Kolonia, in what used to be an old Japanese school building. This event marked also the birth of a new Nation. At about 1:25 pm, Thursday, May 10, 1979 temporary Speaker Christian recognized Senator Luke Tman to present the Credential Report on the members-elect.

Sergeant at-arms-Sintaro Ezra escorted the Honorable Judge Mamoru Nakamura who administered the Oath of Office to members. Temporary Speaker Christian then said: However short lived my position up here, I still would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you senators and welcome you officially to Ponape.

At 1:30 pm Temporary Speaker Christian declared recess.

At 1:33 pm, the first Speaker of the FSM Congress, the Honorable Bethwel Henry reconvened Congress.

Today I am honored to recognize two people in our midst, The Honorable Bethwel Henry and Honorable Dr. Olter Paul, who in their younger and more energetic days served in the Congress that would force forth-and-up-front the notion that the people of Micronesia aspire for and would have nothing less than a sovereign nation.

Today, close to four decades later, I stand before you as the 8th President of our young Nation. I find myself older, but still overwhelmed with the same mixed feelings of some excitement and a lot of nervousness. Today, I am comforted by the sight of men who helped found this nation, the presence of my colleagues in Congress, our leaders from the four States, our friends and neighbors of Micronesia, and our distinguished guests who also have been our development partners.

I am also so very encouraged by the kindness of the traditional leaders who have graced us with their presence. I also take shelter in the shade of all of you, citizens of Micronesia, whose well being Vice President George and I must now look after. My greatest confidence and comfort in even wishing for this difficult task - lies in my loving family, especially my dear wife, Maurina. Thank you so very much. Thank you, all of you!

Two months ago this day, Typhoon Dolphin

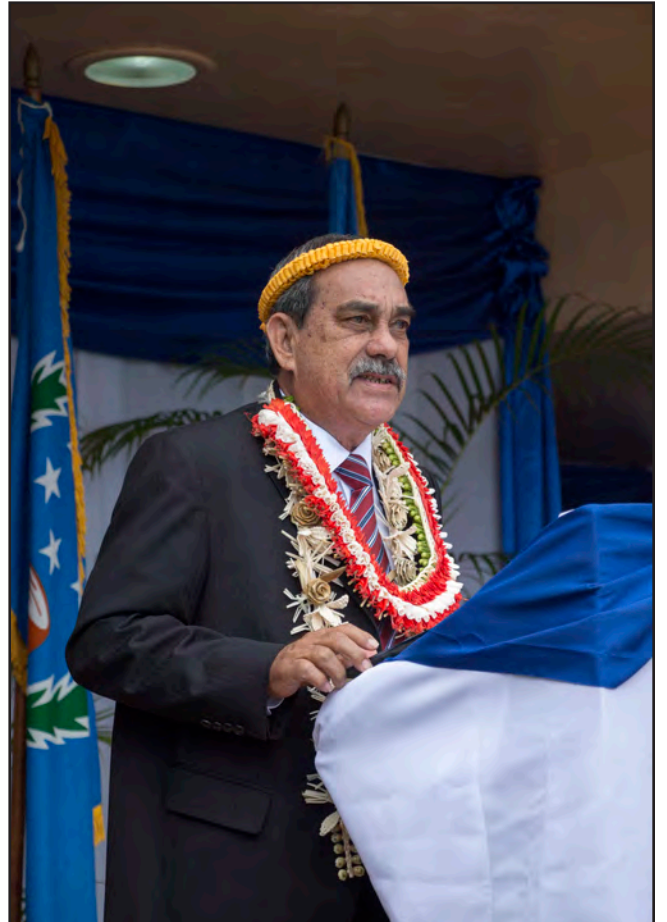
followed in the path of Maysak and swept thru parts of Micronesia with such angry force that the session in which VP George and I were selected by Congress was without many who we had hoped would be there for us. We hope that you are here today. And we thank you very much.

I would like at this time to acknowledge and thank the men who have served this nation as presidents and vice presidents, paving the way for VP George and I. Many of you have heard me say on many occasions before in Congress that one must not tear down a good house simply because he does not like the man who builds it. VP George and I promise to follow President Remengesau's wise advice to his people: to keep the best, and improve the rest. Thank you, Tommy.

Today we commemorate the birth of an idea: The Micronesian spirit of unity. It is an idea tempered by the belief that we - though separated by miles of ocean, different languages, and diverse cultures - that our nation can find, within its sea of differences, the deepest measure of unity. It is an idea declared in the preamble to our

constitution that "we, who have been the wards of other nations, become the proud guardians of our own islands". Unity for us cannot be taken for granted. It is the post on which our vines of prosperity sustain themselves and can continue to prosper.

Let us embrace the spirit of sharing. It is in this same spirit that we must reach out to one another in our communities and make ourselves strong, self reliant, and resilient. For only in this way and from this way that we can encourage others






FSM PetroCorp would like to thank all applicants for their interest in the following positions. The vacancies are closed and have now been filled:

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- Operator (Tank Truck), Kosrae;
- Operations & Distribution Manager, Head Office; and,
- Human Resources Advisor, Head Office.

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to become more selfless and caring for others as we ourselves wish to be.

As a small nation we have little to offer for the improvement of what ails most of those who suffer in this world. What we can do, however, is help ourselves. Take charge and establish authority and responsibility. Become most dependent on ourselves. Manage our affairs well. For what we do to help ourselves will lessen our need to cry out to others for help. In this we leave more for those in greater need. This is our contribution.

I note a wonderful thing we have in Micronesia. There is the church in its various forms and denominations. There is culture, diversified as it is intended, but with many common bonds rooted in our heritage. Then there is the government, established by commons and nobles alike to insure safety and fairness for all. There is the leadership of each of these governing functions, anointed, dedicated, and united to serve the people in the name of God and country. It is, indeed, a blessing to be of this country, Micronesia.

Fellow Leaders, let us lead; lead our people to do good for ourselves for such goodness shall overflow to others. We must insist that we all do this not only because it is the civil thing to do, but more so because it is the Christian way.

Like the Presidents who have come before me, I have come to know what I have long before suspected - that the problems that ail our country are many. Some are small and fixable by simple realigning of wants against needs; by refocusing our attention from what there is, to what needs to be.

Some of the problems are easy to correct as they are internal to the national government. But some of the problems are rooted in the intricacies of tiered governments where there are Municipal, State, and National jurisdictions all vying to serve the same constituents, but often tripping over each other because of unclear delineation of powers, coupled with political ambitions of three levels of legislative bodies. On this, I ask that we work together to overcome the causes of these difficulties.

Some of the problems, however, are more complicated as they often represent levels of disagreement between our country and other countries and international organizations whose interests in our affairs are not always compatible with our own. Entangled in these problems are not always issues that ask "what" or "why"...but "how." How do we promote our relationships without stepping on each other's toes? Genuine, honest-to-goodness respect for each other's right to choose "how" is what we need in order to overcome these difficulties and problems. Sometime we must let our hearts think for us.

We already have a government that is functional. Vice President George and I commit to guiding our government into one that is more directed, more efficiently oriented, and more responsive to the needs of the people. Absolute success may not be attainable, but we promise to give the effort our best, as stewards of this nation and as implementors of policies set by Congress. These are our simple promises. It is now your responsibility to hold us to them.

We also pledge a renewed realization of our nation's goal, and call on Congress to help us as we try to fulfill our mandate to move us closer to our goals. Our nation's goal, since its inception, has been only one - to improve the social well being of the people of the nation by whatever means available. That was our nation's goal thirty six years ago, and that is still our goal



today.

We must continue to recognize that given the geography, the geopolitics, and the varied component states that make up our nation, the course toward that goal is not easy. But with the help of Congress, our traditional leaders, our church leaders, and you, the citizens of the FSM, together, I believe that we will be able to achieve our nation's goal: to give every citizen of the FSM an opportunity - not just a promise - but a real opportunity to build a better life.

Nation building is hard and indefinite because there is no finish line. There is no end. What there is are the markers that help measure how far we have come and how well we have done.

This effort is a relay in which the baton of progress is passed from people to people, leaders to leaders, and generations to generations. A heat run poorly or a baton dropped can cause tremendous penalty in a nation's race toward its desired goals. The poorer the nation, the harder it is to restart and get to the next marker as planned. Against this latter assertion, we must become more vigilant during our watch.

With the blessing of opportunity comes the demand for responsibility. In the Micronesians' dream for self-government, one significant road block that stands out for us is our inability to yet wean ourselves from paternal relationships.

Each and every one of us, as citizens of the FSM, must embrace personal responsibility - not only for ourselves and for our families, but for our neighbors and for our nation, and for our Micronesian region. Our greatest responsibility is to embrace a renewed spirit of community and unity. For any one of us to succeed, we must succeed as one, as in one nation, as in one people, as in one dream.

As we strive toward our nation's goal, there are markers along the path. Some serve to indicate our work in progress, or lack thereof, in our effort to achieve more economic self-sufficiency and improved social well-being. Some markers, however, are more significant - the creation of the Congress of Federated States of Micronesia, the ratification of our nation's constitution, the Congress of Micronesia organization of the FSM Government, the ratification of the Compact of Free Association, and our becoming a member of

the United Nations. These are not mere markers. These are our monuments of testimony of our political progress as a nation and as a people on our journey from a long period of Colonialism to assertion of self governance.

We must now work to improve our economy.

Vice President George and I promise to do all we can during our term to help our nation reach its goals, realize our dreams, and provide our citizens an opportunity for a better life. But alone, we can only do so much. We will need the help of our fellow elected representatives in Congress. We all have a solemn responsibility for the people who entrusted us the power of government. We must always remember that the mandate given to us by the people is not one to be ignored or taken lightly. I say this not so much as a message to you, but more as a reminder to myself.

To our friends from all across the globe, we share the sentiment etched into our preamble: "we extend to all nations what we seek from each: peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity."

The first half of the 20th century will always be remembered as a period of world conflict. In this difficult period in our history, we witnessed the atrocities that misguided man created. And in this period, we also saw the biggest effort ever put forth in man's attempt to institute what was hoped to be the organization that would forever maintain peace and order. In support of the establishment of the League of Nations President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed... "a general association of nations must be formed under special covenant for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike... An evident principle runs thru the whole program. It is the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another. Whether they be strong or weak." He ended by saying, "The people of the United States can act on no other principle."

The government and the people of Micronesia subscribe to this man's declaration of principle. Not blissfully and not without forethought. Not in a chance discovery attitude; certainly not in the way Columbus came upon the shores of the Americas.

Such a noble thought would seem enough to attract world leaders to subscribe to those peace principles. But, those plans failed because man will always be what he is... a man... weak in his ability to control that inherent animalistic instinct to be better than others, to conquer by conquest, to feel right with might. And in their plunders to be victorious... we, the small, the weak, and the less blessed become victims, and become the spoils of war, and sadly the objects of observation in man's effort to improve upon modern warfare weapons.

The World Wars have ended; the cold war, a secret myth of yesterday. And in all such sad conflicts, there are those who claim victory. But, victors must be humble in their triumphs. Many nations involved in the conflicts have risen from the debris of war to become dominant economic powers in the world. They now wage economic wars against each other often leaving in their wake victims of selfish globalization. And where they are generous, often this generosity comes with a Pavlovian leash.

My friends, let us put history in its proper place

and look to it for encouragement that we use our might for what is right.

To our friends who stood against each other in the conflict of armed wars, we ask you today to stand together with us and resolve to remember war as a conflict of the past. Together let us promote friendship, partnership, and cooperation as our strength for the future. We have enough common challenges today to keep us busy: climate change crisis, sea level rise, poverty, hunger and famine, illiteracy and incurable diseases, genocide, human trafficking, and economic imbalance.

These are the challenges of today. They should be enough to keep us busy. Let us divert the energy of our anger for things past toward these challenges before us now and the days ahead. But, as we do so... looking forward... let us not be afraid to look back to see where we have come from, lest we forget who we really are. Let us take strength and wisdom from our past and apply this strength for the good of the future.

Let us not be afraid to sift thru the rubbles of our forgotten thoughts... because in this rubble we may find memories of our good past, a wonderful thing to cherish. That is what we should carry forth.

Our distance from industrial centers has for some time been a constraint in our efforts to attract businesses and investors to look at Micronesia. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia will continue its efforts to make our country a good and safe place to invest in. We believe that in order to achieve our development goals, the government must work closely with the private sector.

In spite of the poor grades the World Bank assigns us - we must remain careful that our success in promoting foreign investment does not come at the expense of our local business people, our culture, and our fragile environment. We must take care and sustain what we promote. We must, by necessity and dictate, be extra selective in the kinds of business enterprises that we choose to invite into our country. Sometimes doing the right thing can be painful. But we must stay strong and we must dedicate ourselves to the task of serving well by doing right by our own people first.

We must widen our vision and deepen our resolve to build and promote good, strong, and responsible government. We must strive to handle the affairs of government with integrity and operate with more openness. We need a government that can live within its means and can do more with less. We need a government that is humble enough to know its limitations, yet bold enough to stand up for our values and interests in the world.

Let us remind ourselves that naiveté, the greatest sin of a youthful nation, is often exasperated by arrogance of leaders by their inability to admit ignorance, and that acceptance of our weakness is our first strong step forward.

The Federated States of Micronesia has truly come a long way. Yesterday we explored the seas in rafts and canoes. And when we came to these islands - we displaced no other man. Although we still gather under thatched roof houses, we no longer have to sit and talk late into the night about which form of government will suit us best. Today although we now voyage with other nations among stars, we know and remember our heritage; we know in our hearts that this nation has meaning and spirit beyond what we see. And we know that our unity is our greatest strength.

Thank you all very much and God bless the Federated States of Micronesia.

... Boxer

Continued from front page

gave Derick three standing eight counts when he never once hit the canvas. The referee's action called a stop to the fight. Derick took the loss very hard in the locker room where even other fighters consoled him by telling him not to worry as he is very young and has his whole boxing career ahead of him. They assured him that he will bounce back.

"I'm fine, I never was stunned, hurt or felt outclassed", Derick said in the locker room after the fight. "I know what hurt is. I've been more hurt in sparring sessions with my team mates using head gear and bigger gloves which caused me to stop. It is what it is. I'm going to go back and train even harder." Derick fought like a warrior the entire time he was in there and we are all very proud of him for giving it 100%. He will be back better than ever!

Angelo Rodriguez's bout was against Tautuarii Nena of Tahiti. It was clear from the first round that Angelo had more athleticism and power than Nena. He quickly earned Nena's respect by landing a couple of hard right hands. Angelo and Nena went back and forth for three rounds with the first round being a toss-up, the second round going to Angelo based on his aggressiveness and the third round going to Nena based on Angelo being too cautious. Ultimately the decision went to Nena. Angelo went back to the locker room and was of course highly upset with himself knowing that he gave away the fight. "I shouldn't have waited too long, and should have pulled the trigger more," Angelo said after the fight.

Still, for his debut fight, Angelo showed he belonged with the best as he could have clearly won his fight if he had applied more pressure in the third round against Nena who's impressive record includes being the Silver Medalist at the 2015 Pacific Games and the France University Champion from 2011-2014.



Royce Rott got the toughest draw assignment in the Light Welterweight class. He drew the light welterweight who was favored to win the Gold Medal, the highly experienced Captain of the PNG Boxing Team, Tom Boga. The fight was immediate fireworks with Royce and Boga trading full power blows causing two knockdowns and a stoppage, but not before Royce was able to land a 1 inch cut over Boga's left eye. Boga eventually went on to win the Gold Medal in the 64Kg class dominating opponent after opponent.

"It was a great fight and I lost to a great fighter," Royce said. "I was never hurt, I just got excited. I'm sorry for letting down my country, but I will train harder next time and try my best." Royce gave an exciting fight by fighting like a lion till the end and didn't back down from the best fighter in the competition and even gave him a good cut as a parting gift.

With all of the men on Team FSM now eliminated from the competition it was then up to Jennifer Chieng to attempt to win a bout for the first time in international boxing in Micronesian history and take home a medal. Jennifer's first fight was scheduled against Hatara Lagana Ioane from Tahiti. In that match she was able to win by split decision. It was the first win in the history books for a Micronesian in an international boxing competition.

The next night Jennifer faced Raphaella Baki of Team PNG for the Gold Medal Finals. Baki had about a two inch height and 20 pound weight advantage come fight night. As a former track athlete, Baki's physique was that of the highest caliber and was intimidating from the sheer size of her muscular body. She was Jennifer's biggest and most athletic opponent to date making it a very intimidating and ugly fight with lots of emotion. The fight was televised throughout the entire country and other Pacific Island nations. The Prime Minister of PNG and other dignitaries were in attendance at the arena watching the fight, along with 7 million Papa New Guineans backing Baki to win the Gold. Chieng had only a total of 9 Micronesians from the FSM contingent left in PNG. With practically no Micronesians in the arena to support her, it was then up to Jennifer to carry the weight of the entire nation of the FSM on her shoulders and bring back the Gold.

During the bout, during a couple of spurts Baki was able to crowd Jennifer with her sheer size and began brawling, which Jennifer obliged. The PNG

crowd grew excited as it looked like Baki was getting the better of those types of exchanges. However, the cleaner blows were clearly landed by Jennifer with her left hooks and straight right hands. In the next couple of rounds Jennifer asserted her boxing superiority with better defense and clean power punch combinations that began to weaken her opponent. Baki's hands began to drop below her shoulders and her punches were thrown with no snap.

Jennifer's entire physical demeanor changed as her confidence grew. She began to circle Baki with a swagger, her hands completely down and her lead shoulder forward like Roy Jones Jr. in his prime, and then without warning she lept and exploded with a 1-2 combination and then again, followed by two solid lead rights that were all landing at-will on Baki's face. Those combinations were followed by a straight right left-hook combo that finished the unanswered assault which lasted about

thirty seconds.

The FSM contingent along with the Tahitian and Tonga teams who were also watching the fight in the front rows started screaming and rooting for Jennifer too and yelling "MICRONEESIA!!!" On the televised version of the fight the blow-by-blow announcer was yelling: "Chieng with a right hand!! And another!! And another!! And another!! Look at Chieng now!! She looks like Bruce Lee! Ready to attack, look at her eyes zeroing right in!! This is a terrific final! What a fight!!!" The proud Papa New Guinean's heart and chin was unbelievable too as Baki amazingly was able to take those fully loaded power punches from Jennifer without hitting the canvas and she remained in the fight. Baki retaliated with one more burst of punches to try to stem the momentum of Jennifer's stamp on the fight but to no avail as Jennifer didn't give her the opportunity. She landed more solid counter punches on Baki's face. The final bell rang and everyone in the arena knew they had just witnessed Chieng put on a masterpiece boxing clinic at the highest level.

When we got back to the locker room, coaches from different boxing federations and members of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) who were present as technical advisors all congratulated Jennifer and told me that over the last two days, Jennifer put on the most impressive boxing display amongst all the fighters including the men. I asked Jennifer how much the win meant to her in comparison to winning the highly coveted 2015 NY Daily Golden Gloves tournament and the Silver Medal at the 2014 U.S. Nationals, two of the most prestigious boxing tournaments in the United States. She shook her head and said, "This victory means much, much more. All of my life I've watched athletes on television represent their country and stand at a podium and get awarded the gold medal with their nation's anthem being played and their flag raised and I can't believe its actually now happening to me. The whole event is now surreal. I just want to cry."

As part of the first group of women ever to compete in boxing at the Pacific Games, Chieng was also the first female to win Gold at the Lightweight Division in the games. She was also the first Micronesian to win an international boxing match. She is also the first Micronesian female athlete ever to have won a Gold Medal in any sport at the Pacific Games.

She had her dream moment as she took the podium and watched as the FSM flag was raised while the

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FSM National Anthem played.

For Chieng it was an emotional moment but it was also emotional for everyone in the FSM contingent to see one of their own dominate a sport where mental and physical toughness reigns supreme. We were all so lucky to witness history thanks to Jennifer.

Jennifer's win went viral in the FSM and also made international boxing news. AIBA's online news article called her "Micronesia's new hero", and a "sensation" who was able to "seal a memorable and emotional victory for herself and a proud nation." My good friend John Avira, President of the PNG Boxing Association and whose team won 8-13 Gold Medals making it the best boxing team in the Pacific, also sent me a congratulatory email regarding Jennifer's victory. He called her final bout a "magnificent win" and said that, "She was just awesome."

For those of you who don't know much about Jennifer, she is not only a great boxer but an amazing person as well. Twenty-eight year old Jennifer Chieng was raised in the FSM states of Yap and Pohnpei. She attended Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) schools. Her father is Yapese and her mother is from the Philippines. She is one of six siblings. Jennifer is also a proud single mother of her four-year old son Adam who is her biggest fan! Jennifer graduated from Well's College and currently works in the finance industry as a Vice President for



*Chieng Vs Baki for gold medal
Jennifer Chieng - Gold Medal ceremony*



the Bank of New York.

Although Jennifer may have moved from Micronesia to the mainland she is still definitely 100% Micronesian. Regarding being a role-model and representing the FSM, Jennifer said: "I'm just very happy and honored that I got this chance to represent my country in this tournament...I would encourage the youth especially all of the young women and men to find what they are passionate about and pursue it. I love this sport and so I hope that this win will generate more interest in boxing and more participation by the youth and everyone in Micronesia."

Now that the 2015 Pacific Games are in the history books, Jennifer is on a quest to represent the FSM and all Micronesians to win the Olympic Gold Medal and put the FSM on the World sports map. In order

to achieve that goal she plans to take a break from the finance industry this year in order to concentrate and train to qualify for the Olympics in Brazil 2016.

Jennifer does need your individual support and the nation's support. You can personally make a difference today and help Jennifer on her quest to bring the Olympic Gold Medal to Micronesia by going to her GoFundMe page (www.gofundme.com/JenniferDugwenC) and making a donation. Any amount would be greatly appreciated and goes a long way for her training and preparation. Please help out and don't waste this opportunity. She is a highly decorated special fighter which the FSM may not see for some time to come. You can also follow Jennifer on her Athletes Page at "Jennifer Dugwen Chieng" on Facebook. Please also follow us too on the FSM Boxing Federation FB Page, where we will also post updates on Jennifer and the rest of the Team's members.

Lastly, the FSM Boxing Association thanks all of our families and friends and everyone else for all their love and support to the boxers, coaches and everyone involved with the FSMBA. Thanks also to everyone who personally donated and organizations that helped provide funds for the Pacific Games to make this historic event happen including the FSM National Government, through the Office of the President and the Department of Health and Social Affairs. It provided a \$200 stipend to each athlete and coach and funded some of the TEAM FSM uniform costs.

The FSM National Olympic Committee funded all of the boxers' travel including Jennifer's trip from New York. It also funded stipends, insurance, warm-ups and team shirts, as well as PNG accommodation for a total of around \$20,000. Local businesses

also contributed to the entire FSM Team such as Palm Terrace Shopping Center, Etschert Enterprises, Matson Navigation, the Bank of FSM, and Caroline Fisheries Corporation. Lastly, FSMBA thanks the people and government of Australia for funding its "Victory" project by providing a grant specifically to be used to help promote its boxers to be national role models and heroes, in order to help lead the battle against social and health problems in the FSM.

Let's go Team FSM!!!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DEPLOYMENT OF HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM (HIMS)

FSM Health Insurance (MiCare) invites proposals from qualified individuals and companies to develop and deploy a Health Information Management system for the company. Details about assignment, scope of work and other requirements can be acquired at MiCare office or by emailing us at info@micareplan.fm

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Federated States of Micronesia receives U.S. assistance to protect victims of human trafficking

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been supporting the fight against human trafficking in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The project will contribute to the effective protection of victims of trafficking in the FSM through additional investments in: a) awareness raising on the issue of trafficking in persons (TIP); b) boosting understanding and capacity of law enforcement on proactive victim identification within vulnerable populations and the need for victim-centered protection; and c) establishment of national referral mechanism (NRM) for the protection of Victims of Trafficking (VoT) through strong partnerships with national and state authorities. IOM is utilizing its existing presence and relationships across the region to ensure a collaborative approach with governments and civil society.

To kick start these activities, IOM Micronesia and the FSM National Department of Justice (DOJ), conducted a workshop on 15 July, 2015 to establish a National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce

to Address Human Trafficking in FSM. Activities included consultations with the National Police on updating standard operating procedures concerning human trafficking and victim identification. Following this preliminary workshop, the National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce will hold its first meeting on 23 July on the refinement of a National Action Plan (NAP). With the implementation of the NAP, risks of human trafficking will be mitigated and a better protection environment for victims of trafficking, migrants and potential migrants will be created in the FSM.

At this time, awareness-raising sessions on the risks of human trafficking are regularly conducted throughout the communities, focusing on schools and individuals planning to travel. Focusing on the victims and potential victims of human trafficking, IOM is developing a map of available protection services and resources. This map will provide locations of temporary shelters, health care, and appropriate psychosocial support, as well as legal assistance. This map will help inform the development of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Additionally, IOM is conducting surveys



to determine community knowledge of human trafficking. The results will assist in creation of educational materials, which will be developed under the guidance of a focus group.

Trafficking in persons, often referred to as "modern day slavery," comprises crimes such as forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, and involuntary domestic servitude.

The FSM is a source and, to a limited extent, a destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. The groups most vulnerable to trafficking in FSM include

foreign migrant workers and Micronesian women and girls who engage in prostitution at restaurants frequented by crew members of Asian fishing vessels. FSM women also are recruited with promises of well-paying jobs to the United States and its territories, but are subsequently forced into prostitution or domestic labor upon arrival. Local authorities claim many sex trafficking cases are unreported due to victims' fear of embarrassment in the FSM's insular communities.

FSM was ranked Tier 2 in the 2014 Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report.

111 Vietnamese fishermen repatriated from FSM

Since November 2014, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Micronesia has been supporting the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as it dealt with the cases of Vietnamese fishermen who were detained in Micronesia for illegal fishing.

After more than eight months of negotiations, 111 of these fishermen who had served their sentences were repatriated to Viet Nam on July 7, 2015.

The boats used in the illegal fishing activities were impounded by Government authorities

in Yap and Pohnpei.

This incident highlights the growing pressure on the region's fishing stocks and at a time when FSM government resources continue to be stretched while protecting their exclusive economic zone from illegal activities.

The repatriations were made possible with generous support from the Australian Government.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

Departure from Yap dock to the hospital for pre-departure medical screening. YAP, FSM, 23 June 2015

Pre-departure information session at the PNI port on July 3, 2015.

Distribution of clothing, hygiene kits and food on July 3, 2015. PNI, FSM

Peeking out from the boats in Yap.



Pohnpei importer to pay over \$200,000 for smuggling

FSM Customs and Tax Administration

A local importer faces over \$200,000 in taxes and penalties for trying to smuggle into Pohnpei a large amount of goods without paying import taxes.

Customs and Tax Administration (CTA) officers recently found the hidden cargo during a routine inspection of a container at the port. The importer now has to pay not only the tax for a 200% penalty.

In recent months CTA officers have been tightening up on their inspection procedures. As a result, smuggled goods have been found in all FSM states with this recent cargo being the largest find.

A senior officer from the Department of Finance and Administration said today that everyone has to pay their fair share of tax. "If FSM wants schools, hospitals, roads and other infrastructure, then we all have to pay our fair share of tax, whether it is for imports, on wages, or on business receipts. With our receipts from the Compact decreasing each year, FSM has to collect its own taxes.

"We thank all those businesses who do the right thing. They pay their taxes and sell their goods at a price to cover those taxes.

"But if a business does not pay its taxes, then it can sell its goods at lower prices. This steals away customers from those businesses who do pay.

"The result is that the businesses who do the right thing get forced to close, people lose their jobs, and even less money is available for our kids' schools, our hospitals when we get sick, and our roads fall apart.

"When people evade tax they think they are being smart. They are not smart. They are stealing from other businesses, for our kids, from our sick, and from all FSM," the senior officer said.

Leadership training highlights social issues affecting lives in Chuuk

Enhancing the well-being of women and their families in Chuuk through comprehensive programs has always been the overall mission of the Chuuk Women's Council.

In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Human Rights Program – the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) and the Chuuk Women's Council hosted training for civil society and State representatives with the aim of strengthening their capacity to advocate on critical social issues in at the State and National level.

The training provided an opportunity to reflect on issues that affected the lives of people living in Chuuk. There were a number

of issues that were discussed during the three days of training, these included issues around the low enrolment of children in school most especially the private schools and the challenges that parents face in ensuring that their children attain their education. In addition to this there were further discussions around the challenge that women faced in having their domestic violence or abuse cases dropped as a result of reconciliation being carried out by the families.

Facilitated through RRRT's Pacific People Advancing Change Project, the training focused on policy and legislative change processes, lobbying, and advocacy skills that ultimately contribute to improved

Congress confirms Chief Justice, UN representative among others

Congress Information

The First Special Session of the 19th Congress adjourned on July 18 with the confirmation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Nation's representative to the United Nations among other nominations from the President.

Congressional Resolution (CR) 19-28, confirmed Dennis K. Yamase to serve as the Chief Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia, a post vacated by the passing of the former occupant in August 2014. Yamase's background encompasses the judiciary and legislative fields across the Micronesian region from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the Republic of Palau. The most years were however spent in the FSM where he served 6 years as a legal counsel to Congress and over 11 years as an Associate Justice for the FSM Supreme Court.

CR 19-44, confirmed Jane J. Chigiyaal to maintain her post as the Permanent Representative of the FSM to the United Nations. While Chigiyaal was posted to the UN in 2011, she had amassed extensive experience in diplomacy and understanding of foreign affairs throughout the various roles and capacities she served in the Department since June 1991.

Congress confirmed Kalwin Kephas in CR 19-18, to serve as the Secretary of the FSM Department of Education. Kephas had served various capacities in education both with administration and teaching at all three levels of education, primary, secondary and post-secondary. He had held the post of the

Dean of the College of Micronesia - Kosrae Campus when nominated.

Through CR 19-24, Congress confirmed Lukner B. Weilbacher to serve as the Secretary for the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure. Along with his broad-range of technical background and working experience in the area of marine transportation, Weilbacher had previously served in the same Secretary capacity during a previous administration.

Congress confirmed Sihna N. Lawrence through CR 19-26 to serve as the Secretary for the Department of Finance and Administration for the Government of the FSM. Lawrence has over 30 years of working experience in the financial realm having held varying financial roles at both the national government, especially the Department of Finance and Administration. Prior to her nomination, she was the Chief Financial Officer of the FSM Development Bank, a position she held for 14 years.

One nomination for board membership was confirmed this special session. Through CR 19-35, Congress confirmed Ricky F. Cantero to be the national government's representative on the Board of Directors for the FSM Telecommunications Corporation.

And finally, Title 2 of the FSM Code section 207 states that the President shall not resubmit the nomination of a person to same Congress that rejected the nomination. Congress therefore adopted CR 19-67, to authorize the President to resubmit the nomination of Ginger Virginia Porter Mida to serve as the Postmaster General of the FSM.

governance, better leadership, and human rights.

The Chuuk Women's Council is grateful for the opportunity to host this training together with RRRT and Christina "Kiki" Stinnett, President of the Chuuk Women's Council, stated "we are happy to have RRRT here to do this training and we look forward to the continued support from RRRT as well as working with our State counterparts to address the issues discussed during the training".

The training shared tools that can be used by the participants as they lobby for the respective issues raised during the training program. It also addressed the importance of understanding legislation, policies and programmes that are undertaken at the State and National level. In addition, looking at the role of civil society and how the work that is


undertaken compliments State programmes.

The importance of understanding human rights conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women are essential in order to work together with the Government as it develops legislation and national policies that protects the rights of its people.

Participants in the three day training, conducted July 13th to 15th, included members of the Chuuk Women's Council, youth representatives, civil society representatives and State representatives. SPC through RRRT works to build a culture of human rights and assists nation states to commit to, and observe, international human rights standards.



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Measures of First Special Session of Nineteenth Congress

FSM Congress Information

Among the congressional measures passed during the First Special Session of the 19th Congress is an Act for improvement of airport terminal facilities in the four states. Congress passed Congressional Act (CA) 19-11, to change lapse dates of certain funds previously appropriated to fund airport facilities improvement and upgrading of equipment of the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) buildings in the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

Congress also passed CA 19-20, to appropriate a supplemental budget of \$593,396 to change the conditions of certain funds therein.

In accordance with the terms set forth in Title 55, section 1401 of the FSM Code, the Congress had, through CA 19-23, authorized the President to enter into negotiation with the State of Pohnpei for the purpose of guaranteeing a loan from the Asian Development Bank for the Pohnpei Port Authority.

Congress also passed CA 19-21, to extend for the Purse Seiner Vessels the deadline for applicability of the Shark Law or Title 24 of the FSM Code, subsection 913(4)(b) to September 30, 2015.

In its continuing efforts to assist the cash-strapped states the Congress has, through CA 19-22, appropriated the sum of \$2.8 million to fund public projects and social programs in the four states. Apportioned per population, the funding is as followed: \$400,000 to the State of Yap, \$300,000 to the State of Kosrae, \$800,000 to the State of Pohnpei and the remaining \$1,200,000 to the State of Chuuk.

Along the same vein of assistance to the state governments, the Congress made various amendments to previously funded public projects and social programs in all four states to either change the use of funds or change the allottee of funds. Those amendments were made to CA 19-07 through CA 19-21.

In addition to the Congressional Acts, Congress adopted 33 Congressional Resolutions during its First Special Session. The resolutions were adopted by Congress during its First Special Session, most of which were for the various health and social services funded through federal grants from the United States as made available to the Nation through the Department of Health and Social Affairs. Along with the grants were seven resolutions confirming the President's nominations to various positions at the Executive Branch, the Judiciary Branch and posts overseas.

In addition to the President's nominees for his offices, Congress also adopted Congressional Resolution (CR) 19-61,

to express the sadness and condolences of the 19th Congress for the untimely passing of long time Director of the Office of the Public Defender for the Nation, Julius Joey Sapelalut.

Congress also congratulated, through CR 19-64, the winners of the July 9 Law Day Debate: Pursus Malia Taneisha S. Timothy and Amy G. Ismael of Kosrae High School.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Maysak's sweeping devastation across the Nation in May 2015, the 19th Congress expressed its sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude through

CR 19-50, to the Government of Australia for its swift outreach, response and urgently needed assistance, which included monetary donations, food, water, clothing and medicine for the States of Chuuk and Yap;

CR 19-54, to the Government of Japan for its swift outreach, response and urgently needed assistance, which included goods equivalent to 11 million yen, for the States of Chuuk and Yap;

CR 19-55, to the Government of China for its swift outreach, response and urgently needed assistance, which included \$500,000, for the States of Chuuk and Yap; and

CR 19-60, to the Government of the Republic of Palau for its swift outreach, response and urgently needed assistance, which included monetary assistance of \$75,000, for the States of Chuuk and Yap.

Through CR 19-65, the Congress expressed its sincere gratitude and appreciation of the entire Nation to the United States Pacific Fleet for its sponsorship of the 2015 Pacific Partnership program which extended various humanitarian, medical, dental, veterinarian, and engineering assistance to the people throughout the FSM during the months of June - July 2015.

Congress had also adopted CR 19-58, to commend the Supreme Court of United States for reaffirming equal treatment before the law, a value that is shared by the Federated States of Micronesia, in the recent decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

The other two none-grant related resolution are, CR 19-59, which extended the First Special Session of the 19th Congress from its original adjournment of July 16, to end instead on the July 19, 2015; and CR 19-71, Setting the ceiling of the total funds estimated to be available for appropriation from the General Fund of the Federated States of Micronesia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

The adopted federal grants as submitted by the Department of Health and Social Affairs included:

CR 19-07, approved a \$42,778 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to fund Block Grants for the Community Mental Health Services Program;

CR 19-08, approved \$2,890 grant from the U.S. DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, to fund the FSM HIV Care Grants Program;

CR 19-15, approved a \$101,388 grant from the U.S. National Park Service, to fund the Kosrae State Historic Preservation Office;

CR 19-22, approved \$151,388 grant from the U.S. National Park Service, to fund the Yap State Historic Preservation Office;

CR 19-34, approved a \$208,967 grant from the United States DHHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response to fund the Implementation of the FSM Healthcare Coalition Ebola Preparedness and Response Project;

CR 19-38, approved a \$70,374 grant from the U.S. DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, to fund the Improving Date Capacity in the FSM Project;

CR 19-39, approved a \$62,120 from the United States DHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), to fund the FSM Tracking, Surveillance and Integration Project;

CR 19-40, approved a \$382,000 grant from the U.S. DHHS, Public Health Service to fund the FSM Family Planning Program, including all the terms and conditions of the assistance.

CR 19-46, approved a \$65,238 grant from the U.S. DHHS, CDCP, to fund the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Program in the FSM;

CR 19-47, approved a \$73,067 grant from the United States DHHS, CDCP, to fund the implementation of the Preventive Health Services Program in the FSM;

CR 19-48, approved a \$490,583 grant from the United States DHHS, CDCP, to fund for the implementation of the FSM's CCC Plan to Reduce Cancer Burden Project in FSM;

CR 19-53, approved a \$405,924 grant from the United States DHHS, CDCP, to fund for the operation and activities of the FSM Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Project;

CR 19-56, approved a \$101,387 grant from the United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, to fund the Pohnpei State Historic Preservation Office;

CR 19-68, approve a \$384,770 grant from the U.S. DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, to fund the Maternal and Child Health Services Program in the FSM;

CR 19-69, approved a \$171,112 grant from the U.S. DHHS, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to fund the FSM Community Mental Health Services Program; and

CR 19-70, approved a \$698,172 grant from the U.S. DHHS, CDCP, to the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs, including all the terms and condition of the assistance.

The First Special Session of 19th Congress adjourned on July 18 2015, as extended and will convene for its Second Regular Session on September 12, unless a special session is called for earlier.

Eugene Pangelinan as new Executive Director of NORMA

FSM Blog Spot

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan is the new head of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) after his predecessor, Mr. Patrick Mackenzie resigned from the Executive Director post to pursue other interests. Mr. Eugene Pangelinan brings to the executive directorship 26 years of NORMA experience and dedication.

As Executive Director, Mr. Pangelinan will take over responsibilities for the management of NORMA, the regulatory authority established to oversee the ocean resources within the FSM's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ), including regulation of the deep sea fisheries activities and conservation measures within the FSM's EEZ. The Executive Director works under the direction and guidance of a five-member board appointed by the president and confirmed by Congress.

President Peter Christian expressed his appreciation of Mr. Pangelinan's decision to accept the leadership helm of NORMA. "It was a difficult decision to make," said President Christian of Mr. Pangelinan, who was declared a candidate for the Pohnpei State Gubernatorial Election and had actually begun his campaign. "There may be good people out there who could become good at the business of running our most important national asset, but there can't be any missteps or lost-time in diligent management of NORMA. Mr. Pangelinan is here. He knows the business, and I am glad he made the decision in favor of the Nation's interest, and we thank him for that. We also thank his supporters."

Signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding on the use of excavator between PWMS and EPA

On July 24, 2015, Signing Ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the use of excavator between Pohnpei State Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and Pohnpei Waste Management Services (PWMS) was held at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence.

Under a grant scheme called Non-Project Grant Aid, Embassy of Japan provides the Pohnpei State Government with three (3) excavators. Of which an excavator will be allotted for the use at the Pohnpei State Dumpsite. The purpose of this MOU is to establish the arrangements that will provide for the meaningful cooperation between EPA and PWMS on operation and management of the excavator at the Pohnpei State Dumpsite.

At the ceremony, Ambassador Masaki Sakai emphasized importance of waste management in the Federated State of Micronesia and introduced a variety of waste management projects implemented in this country with support from the Japanese government. He expressed his expectation for EPA and PWMS that they will fully utilize the excavator and make continuous efforts to improve waste management system in Pohnpei.



Cake with the picture of an Excavator prepared by EPA and PWMS

The event was witnessed by Acting Governor Marcelo Peterson, EPA Executive Director Albert Roby, and staff of PWMS and Embassy.



Ambassador Sakai (Center), EPA Executive Director Albert Roby (Right), and PWMS Project Manager Pius Yaropy (Left)

College of Micronesia-FSM assisting affected population in Chuuk following typhoon Maysak

July 28, 2015

The College of Micronesia-FSM through the college Lady Sharks, Chuuk Student Organization (ChuChok), and the Yap Student Organization (YSO) held a relief drive to assist the victims affected by Typhoon Maysak. The college collaborated with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to help transport the donated goods and clothings to Chuuk State.

Contributions made to Chuuk were: bags of rice, boxes of ramen, and clothing for children and adults.

Mr. Kelly Keller, the Chief Financial Officer, from Chuuk Public Utility Corporation will be receiving the supplies and assisting with distribution. The Caroline Voyager departed

Pohnpei State on July 29, 2015, and arrived on Chuuk State on August 2, 2015.

The college expresses its gratitude to the college community for making the relief drive a success and the support from International Organization for Migration and the US Embassy for assisting with the transportation of donated supplies.



USAID and IOM deploy generators to CPUC

By Katlyn Murray

Two generators funded by USAID were deployed on July 29, 2015 to Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation (CPUC) from Pohnpei as a part of USAID and IOM's Typhoon Maysak response effort.

undertaken by CPUC, USAID and IOM are offering supplementary assistance to repair their system, in addition to deploying the generator sets. The generators were transported from Pohnpei to Chuuk aboard the Caroline Voyager.

In attendance during the loading of the generator sets were US Ambassador Doria Rosen, US Embassy Kolonia Deputy Chief of Mission Hugues Ogier, USAID's Team Leader of Pacific Island Programs Dr. Muhammad Khan, IOM PREPARE Program Officer Zuzana Jankechova, and IOM Assistant Methos Edward Jr.

CPUC provides services to government offices, residences, and commercial entities with a total of more than 1,860 connections including 1,472 households. They have an immediate need to restore their services after the disaster. To assist with the Typhoon Maysak disaster recovery efforts

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FSMTC and ABS partner together to bring connectivity to the FSM

FSM Telecommunications Corporation

Bermuda, 27th July 2015 – ABS and FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) announced that they have signed a multi-year, multi-transponder deal on ABS-6, C-band. The capacity agreement will provide internet connectivity to support FSMTC’s growing business.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is an independent sovereign island nation consisting of four states: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae in the West Pacific Ocean. FSMTC is a public corporation established by the FSM to provide all telecommunications services.

FSMTC will use the satellite capacity on ABS-6 to connect Pohnpei to the other 3 states and one of its neighbouring islands, Ulithi. The much needed internet connectivity will support commercial, government entities as well as serving educational institutions and communities bringing economic and social benefits.

FSM is subjected to climate changes and disasters such as typhoons and reliability of service is extremely vital. The ABS’

C-band service is an advantage over other solutions with minimal inference from severe weather conditions. This service will offer crucial communications to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is readily available.

“ABS is excited to collaborate with FSMTC to provide reliable communications. We recognize the progress FSMTC has made and understand the challenges it faces to provide internet connectivity available to its economy and its nation,” said Tom Choi, CEO of ABS. “Through this partnership, we will work together not only to deliver constant connectivity to the Pacific but more importantly, enable FSMTC to grow as a business and serve its people of FSM.”

“The cooperation with ABS has given us the opportunity to grow our business. ABS has listened to our needs to provide cost effective internet access to better serve FSM’s population,” responded John Sohl, CEO of FSMTC. “The partnership with ABS supports our goal of satisfying the growing broadband demands and services that best meet our users’ needs in a wide geographic environment.”

Newly Elected FSM Representative to serve on PacIOOS Governing Council

Pohnpei – Willy Kostka, co-founder and Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, has been elected as the new Federated States of Micronesia representative on the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) Governing Council. The Governing Council provides general oversight and policy guidance to the PacIOOS program. Council members also help to engage the broader stakeholder community, adopt implementing documents and strategic plans, and advise on major decisions for PacIOOS.

“Mr. Kostka brings a great deal of experience and expertise to our council. The Council members represent their respective organizations as well as other partners from their region by engaging with our diverse stakeholders. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Kostka to the Council and look forward to his contributions at our upcoming meeting in October,” says Melissa Iwamoto, PacIOOS Deputy Director.

Elected for 3-year terms, Council members work with PacIOOS staff through annual meetings and individual discussions to review region-wide needs from all stakeholders. 18 members form the Council, representing a variety of

user groups and PacIOOS’ regions, including the FSM, Marshall Islands, Palau, Guam, CNMI, American Samoa, and Hawai’i.

Mr. Kostka says, “In the Pacific, we are intimately connected to the ocean. I am honored to serve on the PacIOOS Council as a voice for our FSM community. The council will be a great platform to discuss ocean observing needs throughout the insular Pacific and to exchange ideas on how to better collaborate with local partners.”

Born and raised on the island of Pohnpei, Mr. Kostka has an extensive background in environmental conservation, sustainable development, and community engagement. Mr. Kostka served as a PEW Marine Fellow and has been actively involved in the development and implementation of the Micronesia Challenge ever since. As co-founder and Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Mr. Kostka supports biodiversity conservation and oversees conservation funds in the endowment. Mr. Kostka also serves on a variety of local community Boards.

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New JICA volunteers to the FSM

On 16th July 2015, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs welcomed nine new JICA volunteers to the Federated States of Micronesia. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been dispatching volunteers into the FSM since 1989. JICA volunteers have been assisting in priority sectors of Education, Health, Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism and other fields. Currently, twenty-four volunteers; 13 Senior Volunteers (SV) and 11 JOCVs (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer), are serving in the FSM including the nine new volunteers. Most of them will serve two years in their respective posts. The aim of the volunteer program is to develop a better life for the local people and the community.

The new dispatched group consists of six senior volunteers and three JOCV members. Dispatched to Yap state, SV Mr. Masatoshi Katayama is assigned to Yap Dept. of Public Works & Transportation to assist in the field of Waste Treatment, and JOCV Mr. Tomoaki Fujiwara to Gaanelay Rull Community School. For Chuuk State, SV Ms. Eriko Akaishi is assigned to Xavier High School to assist in the field of Japanese Language Education. For Kosrae State, short



term SV Mr. Tadaharu Namoto is assigned to the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure for Road Planning. Lastly for Pohnpei State, SV Mr. Hidetomo Matsumoto is assigned to Pohnpei State Hospital to assist in Hospital Administration Management, SV Mr. Kazuo Tanaka is assigned to COM-FSM CRE Services to assist in the field of Aquatic Products

Processing, and SV Ms. Yoshiko Wada is assigned to Island Food Community of Pohnpei to assist in the field of Home Arts and Life Improvement. JOCV Ms. Ayumi Suzuki is assigned to Nett Elementary School and JOCV Mr. Yuki Umehara to Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency. All new volunteers are ready to embark on their new journey in the FSM. Best wishes to all new volunteers as they help to promote sharing of technical knowledge and skills, as well as mutual understanding between the FSM and Japan.



On Friday June 26th, President of the Care Micronesia Foundation, Mr. Bethwel Henry presented Hon. Mayor of Pingelap, Mr. Makir Keller, with 30 sets of solar home lights to light the homes for all students in Pingelap. The project also saw 4 solar streetlights donated to Mokil for community lighting. Funding for the project was provided by a grant from the People's Republic of China and H.E. Ambassador Li was present for the handover ceremony. In addition, CMF Advisor and Founder, Senator David W. Panuelo and CMF Board Secretary Mr. Herman Semens Jr. were also present.

Traditional carvers shape Yap Games trophies

Waa'gey

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Yap, Micronesia- A group of master craftsman on Yap are using cultural skills and traditional designs to create trophies for winning athletes in that Micronesian State's sports tournament.

The Fifth Annual Yap Games opened to a large crowd in mid-July at the Yap Sports Complex Gymnasium. Nearly 900 athletes, representing 10 municipalities across Yap, are competing in a dozen separate sports. Among the most popular are basketball, soccer and wrestling, according to Paul Lane, Director of Yap's Sports Council.

Organizers have partnered with Waa'gey, a group organizing efforts of local carvers, to developed distinctive traditionally inspired trophies. These symbols of reward and recognition are modeled after the "Carolina Proa," a complex all wood outrigger canoe design perfected -and made famous- by Micronesians. A complete canoe model decorated with red and black paint is for gold medalists. Those painted black and naturally varnished are for silver and bronze winners respectively.

Waa'gey is a community-based organization that uses traditional skills to confront the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by the people of Micronesia's most remote outer islands. The group pursues preservation of native technologies and arts both to protect our distinctive Island identity, and to solve specific problems relating to import dependency, urbanization, climate change, and unemployment.

Among the carvers directing work on these unique trophies are Carlos Yarofaireg, Henry Mailuw, Johnny Retiglur, and Larry Raigetel, all of Lamotrek Atoll.



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STARBUCKS

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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;
- 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;
- 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;
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Summer Reading Program 2015



The Pohnpei Public Library celebrated the Summer Program 2015 on July 17, 2015. There was a short program that was prepared for the day. Head Librarian welcomed everyone to the short program and thanked participants, volunteers and parents for their assistance during the four weeks program. All the participants received certificates and prizes presented by the staff and volunteers. Head Librarian also handed out certificates to the contributors and volunteers for this year on behalf of the Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library.

The Theme for this year's Summer Program was "Every Hero Has a Story". This year we were fortunate to have the Pacific Partnership to read stories and provide other activities for the kids on the first two weeks. From the theme, volunteers shared stories and provided activities for the kids. These activities were sent in a manual by the Collaborative Summer Library Program in Iowa. The kids learned songs, made crafts and enjoyed other fun and educational activities. The Program this year was funded through a grant from Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). This Summer Reading has been very successful with the involvement of the volunteers, parents, participants and the contributors for this year. Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library would like to thank the IMLS, FSM National Archives, US Embassy, Pacific Partnership Team, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Micronesian Conservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy for your valuable contributions and supports. And a huge thank you for the following individuals for their involvement during the four week program; Kelly Jo Vanderiet, Leslie Cook, Hanika Cook, Evan Cook, Sarah Clark, Easton Perman, D'artenan Weital, Marson Weital and Belsin Martin. THANK YOU ALL FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE POHNPEI PUBLIC LIBRARY!!!



Five contenders for Pohnpei's ED3 in Congress

FSM Congress Information

On July 24 2015, the Office of the National Elections Directors transmitted to the National Government leadership the names of the candidates for the upcoming Special Election to Pohnpei State's vacant seat for election district 3 in the 19th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Accordingly, the following names have gone through the clearance process and will be on the ballots for the August 26 2105, National Special Election:

1. Esmond B.Moses
2. Leon A Senda
3. Norbert J. Rodriguez
4. Rayner Jim
5. Wayne H. Mendiola

The seat was vacated when former occupant Senator David W. Panuelo won the July Special Election for Pohnpei's at-large representative in the 19th Congress.

Congress Election District 3 represents the State of Pohnpei municipal governments of: Nett, U, Mwoakilloah and Pingelap.

The winner of the special election therefore, would be among the two-year representative at the national legislative Body.

Sector Grant Scheme (SGS) Open

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei is accepting Sector Grant Scheme (SGS) applications for projects that have a development focus and target **education, health and gender equality**.

You can submit applications from **July 20th– September 11th**.

Applicants must have proven successful project management skills.

Specifications

- Apply for up to USD \$100,000
- NGOs, Governmental Organizations and Community Groups eligible
- Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Must focus on sector areas

To apply and for more information visit
www.fsm.embassy.gov.au
 call +691 320.5448
 or email
joyce.gehr@dfat.gov.au

Australian Aid 

Pohnpei Fishing Club Tournament at And Atoll

July 18, 2015

And Atoll, Pohnpei, FSM—Pohnpei LP Gas and 7 Stars hosted a fishing tournament with And Atoll as the base. Boats left from And after checking out at 5:00 in the morning. Fishers could also check out from Pohnpei's large island. Regardless of the check out point, the check in and weigh in was conducted at And Atoll. There was no charge for fishermen and spectators to stay on the beautiful atoll for either one or two days.

We had clear skies and calm seas for the tourney, which meant that the volume of fish caught was less than we would like, but the day out fishing was great and the party at And was well deserved.

Ambros, Incorporated donated beer for the tournament. A roast pig and other food and drink was provided by the sponsors.

Eighteen boats took part in the tournament.

The top three fishers with biggest fish would win big prizes of \$800.00, \$500.00 and \$300.00 cash prizes. The top Lady angler and Junior angler would each receive \$150.00. The "Catch 8" winner would win \$300.00. A new prize offered at registration would be for total boat weight for \$250.00.

Each boat registering and coming to the weigh in received a \$50.00 gift certificate from the sponsors. It was a no lose proposition.

Though we all won just by participating, the winners of the tournament were as follows:

Category	Boat	Prize winner	Species	Weight
1st Biggest Fish	Salt Life	Marcela Hawley	Yellow fin	58.1
2nd Biggest Fish	Blue Fin	Arleen David	Yellow fin	33
3rd Biggest Fish	Saimon's Boat	Mangko Blum	Wahoo	32.1
Lady Angler	Salt Life	Marcela Hawley	Wahoo	26
Junior Angler	Ahnd Island	Trex Lee Lawrence	Wahoo	23.8
Species Catch 8	Salt Life	Marcela Hawley	5 Species	113.6
Boat Weight	Poawoawoa	Welbert David		166.2

The sponsors have said that they would like to make the tournament an annual event.

The Matson tournament will be next month.



Professional Australian Head Coach Carrie Graf AM visits FSM

Australian Embassy

Ms Carrie Graf AM is one of Australia's most respected and decorated basketball coaches. She is currently touring the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to deliver a range of coaching and referee courses.

Ms Graf's four month tour started with a month in Yap, followed by a month in Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae.

An International Olympic Committee Olympic Solidarity Grant awarded to the Federated States of Micronesia National Olympic Committee (FSMNOC) funded her visit.

Ms Graf has a long and impressive history in the sport. Most recently she was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia for her significant contribution to basketball. She has been lauded as the coach of Australia's national team, and has impressive results to show for her years as a coach in Australia's WNBL and America's WNBA. She also played in the WNBL from 1983–1989.

Ms Graf shared her significant experience and expertise with the people of FSM as she trained local basketball coaches, referees and players in different courses in schools and communities all over the country. The courses were well received and students were highly motivated and thrilled at the opportunity of working with such a well-renowned coach. Ms Graf was also pleased to learn from the local teams and communities who welcomed her so warmly and introduced her to their culture and way of life.

Ms Graf's contribution to basketball in the FSM will last long after she has returned to her busy schedule in Australia. It is envisaged that the classes she taught will continue to bring communities together in

a positive way by engaging young people and helping them learn important life skills including leadership, team work, respect for rules, discipline, perseverance and healthy living.

Australia supports the values that sport promotes – competition, team work and fair play. Sport helps to build trust between countries and bring people together. The Australian Government is committed to supporting reciprocal, people-to-people connections that promote valuable partnerships between Australia and the region, through sport



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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;
- 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;
- 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;
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Secretariat of the Pacific
Regional Environment
Programme

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ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & GOVERNANCE

- **Director, Environmental Monitoring & Governance**

Applications close: Friday, 7 August 2015

BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

- **Shark & Ray Conservation Officer**

Applications close: Friday, 14 August 2015

Full details on responsibilities, requirements, remuneration packages and lodging an application can be obtained from the Employment section of our website: www.sprep.org or by contacting Luana Jamieson on telephone: +685 21929 Ext. 230, Fax: +685 20231, or direct Email: luanac@sprep.org.

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Pohnpei farmers share plants with Chuuk for Typhoon Maysak

Agriculture Recovery

Pohnpei farmers have responded to the request for Chuuk typhoon recovery assistance with banana, taro, breadfruit, cassava, sweet potato, chia and spinach planting materials. Planting materials were received at the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) office site.

Staff from the Pohnpei State Office of Economic Affairs (OEA) Agriculture, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Department of Resources and Development, COM (College of Micronesia) FSM CRE/CES (Cooperative Research Extension/ Cooperative Extension Services, Land Grant), USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services), IFCP and FAO (Food and Agriculture, OEA). Agriculture OEA and FAO supervised and managed the collection, preparation, and sorting of these planting materials. Plant materials were sorted into individual bags containing 10 banana, 10 taro, 5 breadfruit and 40 sweet potato plants, ready to be delivered to 4677 households when they arrive on Chuuk.

These bags are being sent to Chuuk in three or four shipments. The first ship with 700 bags of plant materials left Pohnpei on July 20 and arrived at Chuuk on July 24. Some planting materials were delivered at upper Mortlocks as the ship was traveling on the way toward Chuuk.

The second ship is scheduled to leave Pohnpei with 900 more bags of planting

material on July 27. Those 900 bags have been prepared sorted and packed. They will be loaded on the ship as soon as the sailing time is confirmed. Additional shipments are expected during August.

Funding for this typhoon recovery comes from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) is executing the assistance through coordination with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).



WAYS TO SOME PHYSICAL EXERCISE

- Take a brisk walk around the parking lot,
- Jog to the bus stop
- Ride your bike to work
- If you have an infant or toddler, take a long walk using the stroller and everyone gets some fresh air.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FSM Telecommunications Corporation invites application from eligible candidates for the following post:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) MANAGER

Salary: Exempt, depending upon qualification

The position will be based at the FSMTC Headquarters in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Graduation from a recognized college or university with a bachelor degree in Computer Science or related field with five (5) years of work experience in computer applications, network development and computer programming, including two (2) years of supervisory experience.

For detailed information and instructions to apply, please visit FSMTC Website at: <http://www.fsmtc.fm/?q=jobs>.

THIS VACANY ANNOUNCEMENT CLOSSES ON AUGUST 28, 2015.



Food For Thought: USAID and FAO are helping communities recover from the ground up

By *Katlyn Murray*

Healthy communities start with healthy individuals. USAID and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Agricultural Program get to the root of the agricultural problems in areas of the Federated States of Micronesia affected by Typhoon Maysak by getting seedlings for healthy food crops to those who need them most.

As part of USAID's Typhoon Maysak relief efforts, FAO is supporting the recovery of agriculture in areas hit by the storm. Funded by USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, FAO is providing seeds, live cuttings and tools to over 4,900 households in partnership with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (GoFSM).

Agricultural Specialist and FAO Consultant Konrad Engleberger states that the main aim of the project is food recovery.

"After Typhoon Maysak, a lot of people lost a lot of food crops and we want to help them to plant again," said Engleberger. "Those crops make them self sufficient in the food supply. So, the project is supplying vegetable seeds, planting material, and tools and also is doing training and the establishment of plant nurseries."

This approach is designed to help get members of affected communities back on their feet,

without making them dependent on outside aid for subsistence.

The program starts with training. Agricultural trainers in each community are taught by FAO specialists how to plant and care for seeds and crops. These trainers are then responsible for teaching proper growing and harvesting techniques to members of their communities.

According to Engleberger, the need for agricultural assistance cannot be underestimated. "In Chuuk, more than 4,600 households were affected," said Engleberger.

The program will provide each family with a package of seeds, which include a variety of vegetables such as beans, cucumbers, eggplants, and pumpkin. Beneficiaries will also be provided with planting material for crops like banana, breadfruit, and taro, as well as tools for tending their edible gardens.

Though the program shows tremendous potential, there are many challenges associated with providing assistance to remote island communities. Due to the diminished local agricultural capacity in Chuuk caused by Maysak's destruction, the majority of planting material is being collected in Pohnpei and being shipped with the support of the GoFSM to the affected outer islands and to Weno for onward delivery to lagoon islands. FAO is partnering with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to deliver the agricultural support along with shipments of supplemental food assistance, smartly combining the use of one ship for the two different but related programs.

The logistics of shipping seeds and fresh plants to the outer islands can be difficult, but for Engleberger and the rest of the USAID and FAO teams, the challenge is worthwhile.

"The end goal of the program is to make people self sufficient and not reliant on food aid [and] to give them access to healthy and nutritious food," said Engleberger.



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