

Micronesia Youth Activists get to work



By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

November 24, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—When Vice President Yosiwo George’s office called yesterday to ask if we would be willing to interview high school students who had just met with him about climate change we jumped at the chance, even though the interview would happen after deadline. We were told that they were “something like climate change crusaders” having just returned from a training. What we found when they arrived was that they are much more than that. What they are is a trio of extremely bright high school seniors who want to mobilize young people in the FSM in a way that older people never will be able to do. They call themselves “Micronesia Youth Activists” and they’ve been busy. They intend to stay that way.

Conrad Jr. Timothy of Kosrae High School said that despite the fact that young people respect their elders as a matter of tradition they often don’t get active until they are mobilized

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RHD screening has just started in Pohnpei’s District 2 but the results are already disturbing

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

November 24, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Pohnpei is not letting any moss grow under their feet as they seek to screen all of Pohnpei’s children for Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD). It’s too an important of a health matter. Screening for the disease began in Elementary Schools in Nett, U, Pingelap and Mwoakilloa on Monday of this week. It was funded by a Congress appropriation of \$46,000 sponsored by Senator Esmond Moses for Pohnpei’s Election District 3. The screening is also supported by Mahi International.

In March of this year, Dr. Payne Perman made the startling announcement that Pohnpei’s Election District 1 (Sokehs and

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Australia holds White Ribbon against Domestic Violence workshop as PSL again debates Family Safety bill

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 21, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Domestic violence and abuse of any sort is despicable and completely unacceptable and yet one of three women worldwide who have ever been involved in a relationship (ever-partnered) has experienced it in one form or another. The statistics in the FSM reflect the global statistics. “Almost one in three ever-partnered women in the FSM (32.8%) has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner at least once in their life.”

This week during the White Ribbon against Domestic Violence campaign of the United Nations, the Australian Embassy conducted a well-attended workshop on the issue at The College of Micronesia FSM. Eliza Woolcock of the Embassy gave an excellent power point production explaining that anyone can be a victim of Domestic violence and abuse but that a large majority of the victims are women.

Australia’s Ambassador George Fraser said that Violence against women is unacceptable, anywhere anytime and that eliminating it is a priority of the Australian Government and a key part of its foreign policy and overseas aid program.

“The Pohnpei Legislature has been considering the proposed “Family Safety Act” legislation for eight years,” he told the students. “Australia welcomes the current consideration of legislation and would support its timely passage but it

needs support from the community, from you. I would encourage you all to find out more about this legislation, how it affects you, and how you can become involved. There are public hearings you can attend to make sure the voices of youth in Pohnpei are heard.”

“Violence against women is a symptom of gender inequality and takes many forms of abuse including physical, emotional, religious, social and financial abuse,” he told them. “But underlying it all is the idea that women and girls do not have the same importance and rights as men and boys.

“Men, this is our challenge, one that we must all address in our everyday lives and actions. We must stop tolerating poor behaviour by other men and boys. We must also make sure our sons respect girls as their equals and our daughters realise that being a woman does not limit their potential. Ending violence against women and girls is an enormous challenge, but one that we can address by supporting those who have been subject to violence and by taking a stand in our communities,” he said.

Ambassador Fraser said that he had met with several of Pohnpei’s Senators to discuss the issue of the stalled family bill at the Pohnpei State Legislature. He said that the conversation was productive and encouraging.

He hoped that this legislature would pass what no other legislature before has been able to pass.

Some of Pohnpei’s women’s groups have adopted a sort of battle cry—“Domestic Violence is not my culture”. Many of them say that the proposed family safety act has languished in committee for far too long at the great expense of the people of Pohnpei and for all of the wrong reasons.

The Australian Embassy will hold a white ribbon reception at the Embassy housing complex this Friday evening. The week will culminate with a sunset White Ribbon “walk about”, a fun run/walk beginning at Mangrove Bay on Saturday evening.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Rotary Club of Pohnpei raises over \$11,000 through Quiz night and other efforts

Rotary Club of Pohnpei

November 5, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—With the help of its many sponsors and the people who attended the annual Rotary Quiz Night at Cupid's Bar and Grille on Saturday, November 5, the Pohnpei Rotary Club was able to raise over \$11,000.

The money raised goes to support the many projects in which Rotary is involved. For 2016-2017 the club awarded \$11,250.00 in scholarships to local students to help their college education.

The Rotary Club put up a solar power system on Sapwalap school that now saves them immensely on their power bills and creates a better school environment.

The Club just supported 12 elementary schools to enter the Scripps Spelling Bee, which is an international competition. The winners from Pohnpei get to go to Guam for the next round.

Last year the playground at the Pohnpei Public Library was finished with Rotary contributions.

The Rotary Quiz Night attracted a huge crowd. 24 tables of contestants fought it out. The questions, which were flashed on three

big screens, tested everyone's knowledge of useless trivia. Organizers struggled mightily to come up with obscure and inane questions, but people still knew which Rocky movie it was where Rocky fought the big Russian, and were able to provide the name of the building where FSM Finance is located.

The competition was neck and neck, but Dylan Berns, Chis (Johnny) O'Keefe, Rachel Weinheimer, Alyson Gombas, Leo Falcam, Jr. and Joey Diamanti, the team members at Table 21 were able to hang on for the win. They each won \$100.00 in cash donated by Bank of Guam.

Everyone who participated at the Quiz Night went home with at least one prize of some sort no matter how well or how poorly they did, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

Besides the Quiz Night admission price of \$10, there were other fundraising activities as well. United Airlines graciously donated two round trip tickets to anywhere in Micronesia and Asia. Club members sold raffle tickets to the general public. The drawing was held during the Quiz Night. The lucky winners were Sammy Moses and Majella Walsh.

There were many other raffles and prizes offered. Everyone left with a smile on their faces.



Another "outside" fundraising event was a race at the PICS Track on the afternoon of Friday, November 3, 2016 between Wayne Bricknell and Joey Diamanti. The two had a 30 meter footrace. They had agreed that the loser would donate \$500 to Rotary. Wayne Bricknell arrived in his own "ambulance" and raced barefoot while wearing a hospital gown. Diamanti got off to a bit of a slow start after the whistle sounded and was only just slightly behind Bricknell when Wayne took a spectacular fall close to the start line. Diamanti cruised to the finish line alone. It was all in good fun and Bricknell isn't saying if he staged the fall or not. Perhaps we'll never know. He graciously made the contribution with a sneaky little smile on his face.

Chris (Johnny) O'Keefe donated a signed Wallabies jersey that was auctioned off during the Quiz Night raising another \$600.00.

Please support our generous sponsors who made the fund raising evening a great success. They were: United Airlines, Bank of Guam, Ace Hardware, Ace Office Supply, Australian Embassy, Bank of FSM, Blue Nile, Caroline Islands Airline, The College of Micronesia-FSM, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, CTSI, Laidenki Dolphin Divers, Dateline, Pohnpei Hardware, Drops of Life, En's Seven Star, Etscheit Enterprises, Genesis, LP Gas, MERIP, Paradise Pearls, J&G Car Rental, Moylan's Insurance, Napa Auto Parts, Perfume & Things, FSM Petroleum Corporation, Pohnpei Surf Club, Pohnpei Transfer & Storage, Palm Terrace, The Ivory Nut House, FSM Telecommunications Corporation, Rusty Anchor, True Value, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Building Solutions, Inc., The Honorable Peter Christian, MRAG, MRA, Joy Hotel, Kaselehlie Press, Pohnpei Fishing Club, Good News Press, Ambros Inc./

Shimbros, Chris (Johnny) O'Keefe, Jade Ford, Postmaster General Ginger Mida, Cupid's Bar and Grille.

The Rotary Club wants to thank everyone who helped out, especially all of the Rotary members and the friends of Rotary who assisted just for the fun, all the staff at Cupids, and especially Chris and Julius.

Other projects are ongoing, and the Rotary Club of Pohnpei is always looking for new projects.



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Kosrae State welcomes 16 local teens to the state's first Youth Council

Jasmin Taylor

November 10, 2016

Kosrae, FSM—Kosrae State government officials, families and educators gathered at the State Legislator in Tofol, Kosrae, Thursday, November 10 to honor 16 young people from the four municipalities of Kosrae.

Peace Corps Response Volunteer Connie Howard alongside Kosrae Youth Development Association President Hans Skilling spearheaded the program called The 16 Most Remarkable Teens in Kosrae. The program was first developed in the United States in 2003, as a way to promote positive peer pressure in the youth community, and increase rates of school completion while lowering rates of risk-taking and anti-social behavior.

"Youth are our future leaders, they are not problems to be fixed, but valuable resources," said Director of Kosrae Department of Education Dr. Tulensru Waguk, during his opening remark

at the ceremony. "This program will generate long-term benefits for family, community and the state of Kosrae," he added.

This past summer, more than 80 students were nominated to be considered for selection as honorees by community members including teachers, school counselors, faith-based leaders, peers and even government officials. All nominated students received a certificate acknowledging their contributions to their community.

After multiple interviews with both Howard and Skilling, 16 teenagers ages 12 – 19, were chosen to receive awards in non-traditional categories such as cultural lifestyle, leadership, photography, courage to overcome personal adversity and emerging global leader.

The 2016 Most Remarkable Teens will also go on to represent their villages for one year as the first Kosrae Youth

Council.

"I want them [the community] to see that even though teens don't have authority we can help lead our people," said Kosrae High School Sophomore Jaime Palik, the award recipient for writing.

That was Howard's goal when she brought the program to Kosrae.

"These students deserve to feel empowered and connected to their community," she said.

In 2010-2012, Howard served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the West Indies, where she helped initiate the same Remarkable Teens program. Since Howard's departure, the Department of Youth there has continued to award nominated teens by hosting the program yearly. Howard said she hopes that the program will also be sustainable in Kosrae.

See "Youth Council" on next page

...Activists

Continued from front page

by one of their own who speaks their own language. "Then they get really excited and start doing things like cleanup projects [and others]" he said.

Joshua Abello Pangelinan of Pohnpei's Seventh Day Adventist School (SDA), Marissa Boylan of Pohnpei's Calvary Christian Academy, and Conrad Jr. Timothy did not just recently return from a Climate Change training opportunity, although that was a part of what they experienced. They returned some time ago after they were involved over the summer break from school in the Junior Statesmen of America program at Princeton University in New Jersey. They said that the course was designed to teach them about American politics and the possibility of activism as a way to change their own communities for the better. They've brought those ideas home.

They were taught about issues of climate change only for the first week and then moved on to elective study courses the students were just as interested in.

Questioning during our interview showed that they were well versed on the issues of climate change right down to the percentage of scientists who agree that human activity has played a large role in climate change,

who the biggest CO2 emitters are (they corrected me when I stumbled and said the US was the largest emitter when in fact they are behind China, the number one emitter), and what the tiny percentage of worldwide carbon emissions all of the combined Pacific Island nations who will suffer and are suffering the first effects of climate change, at least in terms of sea level rise is.

Timothy said that he chose the speech and political communication track as his elective. Pangelinan took an advanced placement course on US government. This was the second time for Boylan to be involved in the program. This time she took an intensive honors course in International Relations.

The opportunity was offered by the US Department of the Interior and involved an intensive application process, including two essays before selections were made. The course was offered by DOI but expenses, including airfare were paid by the participants and their families.

The first of the two essays that was due during the selection process was on the topic of their own leadership involvement in their communities. The second essay was to discuss political issues each of the candidates was passionate about. For that second essay, Boylan wrote about her objections to affirmative action programs. She said that she considered those types of programs to be handouts and that achievements should be awarded on the basis of merit rather than race. Pangelinan wrote about his passion

for bettering educational opportunities for all students. He wrote particularly about his feeling regarding the failings of the public school system in Pohnpei. Timothy wrote about the challenges of economic development in the community and argued that tourism is the one of the best answers to the problem in the FSM.

We asked the high school students challenging questions about why they believed what they believed. They were all ready to defend their beliefs and had great answers to our questions.

Unlike so many people in the FSM who attend trainings, seminars, workshops, and other opportunities overseas who return with happy memories but not much else,

these three "Micronesia Youth Activists" are speaking out and putting their education into action. Timothy has delivered speeches at schools in Kosrae, exercising his communications training to mobilize the youth to stand up and have a voice on issues that concern them, as all issues do in one way or another.

Tomorrow, the students will be speaking at Pohnpei SDA. Yesterday they had a productive meeting with FSM Vice President Yosiwo George that impressed the Vice President so much he wanted them to tell their story to KPress.

KPress was equally impressed and have asked the Micronesia Youth Activists to keep us informed about their activities. They all promised that they would do so.



...Youth Council

Continued from previous page

At Thursday evening's ceremony, a member of the Kosrae Youth Development Association read each student profile. A glass-blown trophy engraved with the students name and award title was then presented to the honoree by either the Lieutenant Governor or a State Senator who gave both a congratulations and handshake, creating an instant relationship between the youth and their government.

"The kids rarely have this opportunity to be recognized and be active in government decisions, this will help them be more positive about where they come from," said Yamato Melander of Utwe, who came to support his nephew Shiro Nena, awarded for civic engagement.



Conrad Timothy Jr., awarded for Emerging Global Leader with Kosrae Department of Education Director Dr. Tulensru Waguk.

Now that the 16

teens have received their awards they will move on to their duties as the 2017 Kosrae Youth Council. This will include examining social development, participating in leadership workshops, project planning and recruiting youth to become involved in initiatives that they agree will benefit their community.

"I can image how beautiful Kosrae will become when the number of remarkable teens increases and this program grows," said Senator Maker L. Palsis of Tafunsak, Kosrae.

...RHD

Continued from front page

Kolonia) likely have the highest per capita rate of RHD in the world, or at least that have been recorded. That announcement came after 22 days of screening in District 1. Due to lack of parental consent, only 71 percent of students were screened. They

still screened 1881 students and found 39 cases of RHD that required immediate treatment.

So far, the results in District 3 are even more staggering. Already they have found 42 definite cases of the disease that will require immediate but easy treatment. At press time, much less than half the number of students that were screened during the entire RHD screening in Election District 1 (Sokehs and Kolonia) had been screened at Nett Elementary School.

Today, RHD screening was happening at Awak Elementary School but at press time, those results weren't yet in.

During the Nett Elementary screening, the team also found 20 cases of borderline RHD that will be monitored once a year. Three cases of Congenital Heart Disease—diseases children were born with rather than acquired were uncovered. There was one case of a child with a tumor within the heart that was confirmed by pediatric heart specialists at Children's Hospital of Orange County in California who act as consultants for the team. Parents would not have known without the screening.

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Senator Esmond Moses added \$46,000 to a Congress project bill to help pay for the current screening. Senator Ferny Perman did the same for the screening in his district that happened in March. It's what it costs to avoid the needless death of some of our children.

The cost is low both in terms of human life and economically. One surgery to repair heart valve damage that could have been treated early with inexpensive drugs like Penicillin costs approximately \$50,000 in the Philippines, more than the cost of screening every elementary school child in one Election District in Pohnpei.

Dr. Payne Perman said that in countries with highly developed medical systems, the prevalence of the disease is low, but in countries like the FSM, which has never had a screening program, people die needlessly.

RHD is a disease that causes life threatening abnormalities in the valves of the heart that if left untreated will eventually lead to an irregular heartbeat, heart failure, and premature death. RHD is asymptomatic to the person experiencing it. Children won't know they have a developing heart problem and parents won't know by looking at their child. It can only be found by echo cardiogram

ultrasound testing by specialists until after it's so late that expensive surgery that may or may not be successful is required.

Acute Rheumatic Fever is an inflammatory disease that can develop after pharyngitis caused by Group A Streptococcal infection, usually during childhood. RHD is the result of heart valve damage caused by this inflammatory disease. The screening process can detect the disease early so that preventive measures can be taken to keep it from developing into RHD. The process of the echocardiogram that can detect the precursor to RHD is completely painless and harmless to the child but vitally important.

Two children we photographed while they were being evaluated at Awak Elementary school certainly seemed nonplussed about the completely harmless procedure.

The team evaluating the RHD status of children in District 2 consists of Mrs. Sera Rayasidamu, an echo technician from Fiji, Mahi International volunteer Mary-Rose Benjamin, and Dr. Payne Perman.

Perman said that screening is expected to begin in Pingelap and Mwokilloa just over two weeks from now.

Seafaring, world travelling dentist serves the underserved on small islands

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 15, 2016

Federated States of Micronesia—For ten years Dr. Michael Leppert, a retired dentist from Germany has been offering emergency dental services to small islands that are underserved or not served at all as he circumnavigates the world.

After he sold his successful dental practice in Germany and retired, he took to the seas aboard his beautiful 16 meter long, 86 meter wide sailing vessel—a catamaran, the “Mariposa”. “There are only so many beautiful beaches with palm trees you can see,” he said. Along with seeing those beautiful islands, he has also set up a free dental practice aboard his boat. Each year he sees anywhere from 1000 to 2000 patients who might not otherwise see a dentist due to accessibility issues. He pays for it all himself—about \$25,000 a year. He says he receives no government support for his services though his website does provide a means of offering financial support that he hopes some people will be attracted to.

His website, www.cat-mariposa.com is produced in German but there is a tab for English speakers. It has excellent photos from most of his visits throughout the world and also a means for people to donate to his efforts, though he says that has not set up a tax deductible foundation.

The “Mariposa” is impressive with solar and wind provided power and a large supply of big batteries for power. He also has a fossil fueled backup generator, but Dr. Leppert said he rarely needs to use it unless there’s no wind and no sun for a long period of time. His dental practice is fully equipped with a high speed dental drill, sterilizing units, an X-Ray machine,

and everything else he needs to help patients with their dentistry needs up to and including surgeries. He can also help with diving accidents. He provides all of his services aboard the “Mariposa”.

It’s sometimes challenging. When he was in Pingelap, the harbor was too deep to anchor so he had to drift while he served the people there. Patients came to his boat on their own smaller boats and waited in his “waiting room”—the bow of his boat—until it was their turn. When he was getting close to serving the last patient he would sound the horn and the people of Pingelap would send the next boat load of patients out.

He gave us photos of one dental surgery and reconstruction that he performed in Pingelap aboard the “Mariposa” that was nothing short of astounding. The patients teeth were so badly rotted they were all but gone. During two visits in Pingelap, Dr. Leppert was able to reconstruct the teeth.

Dr. Leppert has more energy than most men his age usually have and passionately uses that energy to serve people and to deliver a message about the importance of good dental hygiene as a vital matter of health. “Bacteria from the teeth go straight to the heart” he says. He claims oral hygiene is one of the biggest unnecessary killers and he spends a good deal of his time teaching young people how to properly clean their teeth. He even provides supplies, paid for out of his own pocket so they can begin to do so.

He says that lemon and sugar can

also maintain oral hygiene as long as they are followed by a thorough rinse. The acid in the lemon eats the bacteria that collects on teeth.

He does not compete with dentists who have practices in the larger islands but he has donated his time to clinics if they are willing. He donated his time to the Kosrae Dental clinic at their hospital which he says seems to suffer from a severe lack of budget that effects the services they are able to offer. He also donated his time to the Pohnpei Dental Clinic at the Pohnpei State Hospital. He was surprised at the facilities and named them as the third best equipped dental facility among small islands in the Pacific that he has seen, and he has seen plenty.

From the top of his head he quoted a list of places that he has visited and practiced which included the islands of the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands, the Caribbean, Panama, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and the Marshall Islands.

This is his first trip to Micronesia. So far he has seen patients in Pingelap, Mwokilloa, and Kosrae. He had to make some repairs and has been in Pohnpei for several months now. Before continuing on his journey, he will fly to Thailand for medical treatment for a heart concern he said he knew was coming. After he returns in a couple of weeks, he will be heading to the outer islands of Chuuk, Yap,



BEFORE



AFTER

and Palau.

Dr. Leppert has another message when he travels. “It’s never too late to start”. He didn’t even begin his medical training until he was 32 and that was after he had already been trained as an electrical and mechanical engineer. He has captained large ships. He is a master welder as evidenced by his beautiful stainless steel work aboard his vessel. He knows his way around a circuit board and still, at whatever ageless age he is, climbs his nearly 80 foot mast for repairs.

He finished his medical training in his late 30’s and built a large dental practice in Germany that, at the time he sold his business, employed six dentists and 40 other people. They opened at 8:00 in the morning and stayed open until 11:00 each night.

Now he is able to give his services to people who can’t afford to pay but who desperately need it and might not get it otherwise.

“Tell them it’s never too late to start,” he said during our interview. “If I can do it, anyone can. Never give up!”



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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To be a competitive candidate, the applicant must meet the minimum requirement of each of the Evaluation Criteria enumerated below:

* Education (10%) A Master's Degree in international studies, development, economics, environment or a similar related degree is required.

* Work Experience (25%) A minimum of five to seven years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience in the development field is required. Three years of this should have been in development assistance or related work with the USG, host-government organizations, other donor agencies, or the private sector. Experience should include project design, program planning and implementation, performance monitoring, and/or the analysis and interpretation of large amounts of complex program/project/activity information.

* Job Knowledge (25%) The Specialist must have a demonstrated knowledge of viable approaches for identifying vulnerabilities of priority sectors that are important to the economic growth of all of the above countries and in addressing policy, institutional, financial, socio-cultural, and other constraints towards implementing activities that will reduce the vulnerabilities of those priority sectors from the negative impacts of climate change; demonstrated expertise in designing activities that effectively apply science and technology to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of climate data to inform planning and decision-making and in utilizing climate data to identify vulnerabilities to climate change, develop hydrology models, or other science-based climate-related research; and, a demonstrated ability to work and collaborate with a range of partners in the Global Climate Change (GCC) sector, in order to achieve specific development objectives. Knowledge and understanding of the economic, political, social, and cultural characteristics of all of the above countries; and decision making, their economic development problems, resources and resource constraints, and development prospects and priorities, is required. Knowledge of all of the above countries' disaster response policies and capabilities. The Specialist must have a good knowledge, or the potential to quickly acquire such knowledge, of USG legislation, policy, and practice relating to development assistance; USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures, and documentation; and, of the objectives, methodology, and status of assigned activities. Knowledge and understanding of the organization and respective roles of local governmental institutions and the host governments, in order to enhance effective communication, and to develop consensus on program/project/

activity implementation is required. An in-depth knowledge of federal, provincial, and local institutions, policy directions, objectives, and priorities relating to USAID activities; and, a sound knowledge of the political, economic, social, and cultural characteristics and developments in the region.

* Skills and Abilities (20%) The demonstrated ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate programs/projects/activities is required. The candidate must have good verbal communication skills, tact, and diplomacy in order to establish and develop sustainable working relations and a high level of trust with officials and counterparts. Writing skills are required to prepare regular and ad hoc reports, project documentation, and briefing papers. Analytical ability is required in order to interpret public policies, and to assist in the development of revised policies, as required; and, to develop and monitor the performance of budgets, and the development of periodic work plans. Skill in program/project programming, policies, and plans, and in developing strategies for implementation, is desired. The ability to work independently with minimal supervision. The ability to work effectively in a team environment, and to achieve consensus on policy, program/project/activity, and administrative matters is required. Good computer skills are required, in order to manage activity goals and achievements, both technical and financial.

* Communication Skills (20%) The candidate must have an excellent command of English in oral and written form. Writing skills are required to prepare regular and ad hoc reports, project documentation, and briefing papers.

Based on the successful candidate's salary history, an annual salary within the range of \$ 25,304.00 to \$ 40,484.00 and other monetary allowances are offered.

Notes:

- Substitution of work experience for the education requirement is not permitted.
- USAID reserves the right to reject any and all applicants.
- Only short-listed candidates will be notified.
- This position will be filled subject to the availability of funds.

Application letter and comprehensive resume must be received no later than December 23, 2016 via email at aidmnlhr@usaid.gov through mail at Human Resources Office, 1286 US Embassy Place Kolonia, Phonpei, FM 96941

Ambassador Horie hosts a celebration of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

November 17, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The rain that poured in torrents as guests arrived failed to dampen their spirits as they gathered for an early celebration of Emperor Akihito’s 83rd birthday, a national holiday of Japan. The Emperor’s birthday is not until December 23, but Japan’s Ambassador Ryoichi Horie told his guests that he wanted to be certain that there was a chance to celebrate the FSM’s relationship with all of the upcoming holidays and other events.

He congratulated the FSM on its 30th Anniversary of independence and reminded the guests that though for all but two of those years, the FSM and Japan have had formal diplomatic relations, Japan and what became the FSM have had relations for over 100 years. The first generation of Japanese immigrants came to Chuuk and other islands of Micronesia at the end of the 19th century. He said that one survey shows that about 20 percent of the total current population of the FSM has ancestors from Japan and named several notable Micronesians, including the nation’s first President Tosiwo Nakayama, Susumu Aizawa, a Chuukese professional baseball player in Japan who is an uncle of Ambassador John Fritz, and Koben Mori, the ancestor of former President Manny Mori.

He spoke of shared components of vocabulary such as sashimi, shoyu, denki, Jidosha, nabe, and taiso, the latter of which he discovered is being practiced as morning exercise at Pohnpei Catholic School. And he spoke about “Gambare”, a word that means

“cheer up”, “don’t give up”, and “keep it up”. He told the audience that the students of Kosrae High School, some of whom will be attending a tsunami awareness training in Japan next week just after Japan had another tsunami warning after an earthquake, sang a song for him that they had written entitled “Gambare Kosrae”.

He asked several Kosraeans in the audience, including FSM Vice President Yosiwo George to sing the song. They gladly complied and Ambassador Horie joined along.

Japan had a supporting role in helping the FSM to gain World Heritage site status for Nan Madol. He announced that Tokyo Broadcasting Station, which visited Nan Madol to produce a documentary this summer would be airing that documentary during the weekend to millions of people in Japan. He said that he hoped that it would prompt many visitors over the coming years.

Ambassador Horie proposed a toast to the health and prosperity of everyone and the friendship between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Before also offering a toast, FSM’s Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick represented the FSM in wishing the health and prosperity of Japan’s Emperor Akihito and the long lasting relationship between the FSM and Japan.



Fiji presidency a breakthrough for Pacific voice on climate change

21 November 2016

Noumea, New Caledonia – Fiji’s successful bid to preside over next year’s United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 23) is the added muscle needed to trigger more action to combat climate change for small island states, according to the Director-General of the Pacific Community, Dr Colin Tukuitonga.

Fiji’s appointment makes it the first Pacific island nation to take on this important role at a COP.

“The Pacific Community will continue to serve and support its Pacific Island members, by utilising its scientific and technical expertise to address and adapt to this ongoing climate change challenge,” Dr Tukuitonga said.

“This is a tremendous achievement for Fiji who continue to demonstrate strong leadership and commitment on the international stage,” Dr Tukuitonga said.

In February, Fiji’s parliament became the first in the world to approve the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; Fiji’s Peter Thomson is the current President of the United Nations General Assembly and Fiji also will co-organise the SDG14 Ocean Conference in June 2017 at UN headquarters in New York, thus demonstrating the country’s leadership in bringing together the international community on climate change and sustainable development.

“On the same note, this is very significant for the entire Pacific region. The Pacific has been staunch in presenting a united voice on climate change and this appointment acknowledges support from the wider global community for the voice of the Pacific.

“It also presents an opportunity to harness more visibility and support for effectively addressing this global challenge, in particular its negative impacts on small island communities everywhere,” Dr Tukuitonga said.

COP 23 will be held in November 2017 in Bonn, Germany, which is the headquarters for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

FSM Independence Day prize winners

FLOAT CONTEST

FIRST PRIZE

COM students and Enpein ECE Center \$1,000.00 for each

SECOND PRIZE

Sapwalapw ECE center

\$800.00

Palikir ECE Center

\$600.00

All remaining ECE centers received \$400.00 for participating

TALENT SHOW CONTEST

FIRST PLACE

- Dyson Rousen \$500.00

SECOND PLACE

- Wapar Youth \$400.00

THIRD PLACE

- Pohnlik Girls \$300.00

Remaining contestants received \$200.00 Each

ESSAY CONTEST

FIRST PLACE SDA HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL - Alliyah Decson \$600.00

SECOND PLACE CCA HIGH SCHOOL - Karl Manlapaz \$400.00

THIRD PLACE NMHS HIGH SCHOOL - Donovan Chess Hepel \$300.00

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Improving Island Life

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Math Seminar held in Yap by JICA Volunteers

A Math Seminar supported by JICA was held from October 19 to 21, 2016 in Yap. The purpose of the seminar was to find effective and specific procedures for "Lesson Study" to spread throughout the FSM. Lesson Study is a cycle that consists of "Pre-Lesson", "Open Class", and "Post-Lesson", and originated in Japan. Pre-Lesson means to practice for simulating Open Class with teachers. Open Class, other classrooms/schools teachers come to one classroom and observe how a presenter teaches. After that, in Post-Lesson, all participants discuss and reflect about the Lesson.

JICA volunteers and their Counter-Part teachers tried to implement Lesson Study in each state level because it is one of the good ways to improve teaching skills and strategies through discussing and sharing ideas with teachers. Yap is the only state that has already held Lesson Study in their state level. Therefore, the Seminar was held in Yap to think about Lesson Study for the future.

Through this seminar, they observed the Lesson Study presented by 7th grade teacher Viviana Tinnigig in Colonia Middle School and had a workshop for Yap teachers in order to introduce some of the

advantages of Lesson Study.

Some teachers said that Lesson Study was important because students would benefit more. Students were our first priority. We need to find ways to improve student learning.

To implement Lesson Study, JICA volunteers and teachers will cooperate together to develop for the future students.

The facilitators were JICA volunteers (Ryo Hasegawa from Kolonia Elementary School in Pohnpei, Ayumi Suzuki from Nett Elementary School in Pohnpei, Ikumi Yamaguchi from Ohmine Elementary School in Pohnpei, Eriko Shibata from Lelu Elementary School in Kosrae, Tomoaki Fujiwara from Gaanelay Rull Community School in Yap). The participants were Jimmy Gallen from Kolonia Elementary school; Kevin Ponapart from Nett Elementary School; Jessica Nanpei from Ohmine Elementary School; Tulen Peter from Kosrae State; DOE Math specialist, Ginny Fenenigog from Yap; DOE Math Specialist, Viviana Tinnigig from Colonia Middle School; Helen Leebey from Gaanelay Rull Community School, Naty Flowan' from Gaanelay Rull Community School, and other Yap teachers.



Auto Renewal of Mobile Plans Will Be Discontinued

FSM Telecom would like to inform its valued customers that effective December 1st, 2016, auto renewal of mobile plans will be discontinued. If you have subscribed to any of the 3G mobile plans below, please note that your plan will no longer renew automatically upon expiration. If you wish to continue using the plan, you have to re-subscribe to it. Pay-as-you-go rates will apply if you are not subscribed to any plan. Please call your local FSM Telecom office if you have any questions regarding this announcement.

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FSM to join elite United World College system

Giff Johnson

Majuro — The Federated States of Micronesia expects to become only the third Pacific island nation to join the United World College, a global educational program that emphasizes student diversity at its 16 member schools.

The Marshall Islands and Fiji are the other UWC members in the Pacific.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is in the process of establishing its first FSM National Committee to oversee its membership in UWC and selection of students who will receive scholarships to study overseas. “We should be awarding our first scholarship in late 2017,” said Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio, the Marshall Islands UWC National Coordinator, who is advising the FSM committee on its establishment.

Greenstone-Alefaio, who assisted the Marshall Islands to establish its UWC program that is now in its sixth year, is now based in Pohnpei, where she is working with the Micronesia Conservation Trust.

Marshall Islands students are currently studying at United World College high schools in England, China, Singapore, Germany, and Hong Kong — with a scholarship available for a Marshall Islander to study at UWC’s newly opened school in Japan for the school year starting

in August 2017. Over the past five years, other Marshall Islands students have graduated from UWC schools in Canada, the United States and Germany. Since it gained membership, the Marshall Islands has received from one to three scholarship awards per year.

The Marshall Islands UWC National Committee is chaired by Dr. Irene Taafaki, director of the University of the South Pacific Campus in Majuro.

With its focus on student diversity, the student bodies of all 16 UWC affiliated schools look like mini-United Nations, with dozens of nations represented by students. “Diversity encapsulates the experience of every student in every college,” the UWC mission statement says.

Greenstone-Alefaio returned to Pohnpei this week after attending the annual UWC congress in Italy. “Climate change, increasing global inequality, and conflict and persecution are displacing more people than ever before,” said a briefing for the annual congress. “These are just a few of the challenges we face in 2016. The role of the UWC movement is more relevant than ever, and together we want to be an even

stronger force for peace and a sustainable future.”

Although the Pacific island area is under-represented in the UWC system with only two countries being members, awareness about the Pacific was increased through Greenstone-Alefaio’s presentations at the UWC congress in Italy. Several hundred people attended the meetings.

At the Congress, Alefaio facilitated a session for the Asia-Pacific region discussion on the new UWC Strategic Plan and “presented on the Marshall Islands National Committee and how we support our students,” she said.

Greenstone-Alefaio is uniquely placed to be assisting the FSM to establish its national committee so it can meet the requirements of membership in the UWC system. She is a member of the Committee of National Committees, which is a body of national committee representatives who are responsible for taking the recommendations, requests and needs of the national committees to the UWC International Office.”



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13th Annual Budweiser Tournament cold but “fish-ful”

Pohnpei Fishing Club

November 12, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—For the 13th year in a row, Budweiser and Ambros/Shimbros sponsored the Annual Budweiser Fishing Tournament of the Pohnpei Fishing Club.

Anglers who braved the rain, and the wind were rewarded with an excellent day of fishing, albeit a cold one.

21 boats signed up to challenge the elements including seven guest fishermen from Majuro who fished aboard two charter boats. It was a first for the club, and we want to continue to make Pohnpei an international fishing destination.

Seven qualifying marlin were landed, but there were only so many prizes to go around. The tournament’s main prizes were for the Catch 5 tourney. In a Catch 5, your boat has to catch one fish from each of the following species: Billfish, Yellowfin or other tuna, Skip Jack, Mahi Mahi and Wahoo.

A qualifying marlin must be 100 pounds or over and 50 pounds or over for a sailfish.

Only one boat, Miss Yirwor caught all five species and won the grand prize of \$400.00.

There was also a separate prize for the biggest fish in each species. The following are the prizes and winners. We even had a win by Rich Angyal, a guest angler from Oregon,.

Most Species:
5 species Miss Yirwor - Angie Tretnoff, First Prize - \$400.00
4 species: Salt Life - Oliver Hawley, Second Prize - \$300.00
3species Niquisa - Benjamin Peterson, Third prize won on weight - \$150.00

Biggest Fish in each species:
Marlin - Naihila Peterson- 216.1 lb - \$100.00
Yellow Fin - Tommy Reiher - 107.8lb - \$100.00
Wahoo - Ferny Perman -36.1lb - \$100.00
Mahi Mahi - Snyther James -13.9lb - \$100.00
Skip Jack - Rich Angyal -16.3lb - \$100.00

Visibility was difficult. One boat got lost and didn’t return by the close of the weigh in. They activated their EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio-Beacon) initiating rescue operations. All crew members safely returned to



Mangrove Bay by about 8:30 in the evening after rescue operations were implemented.

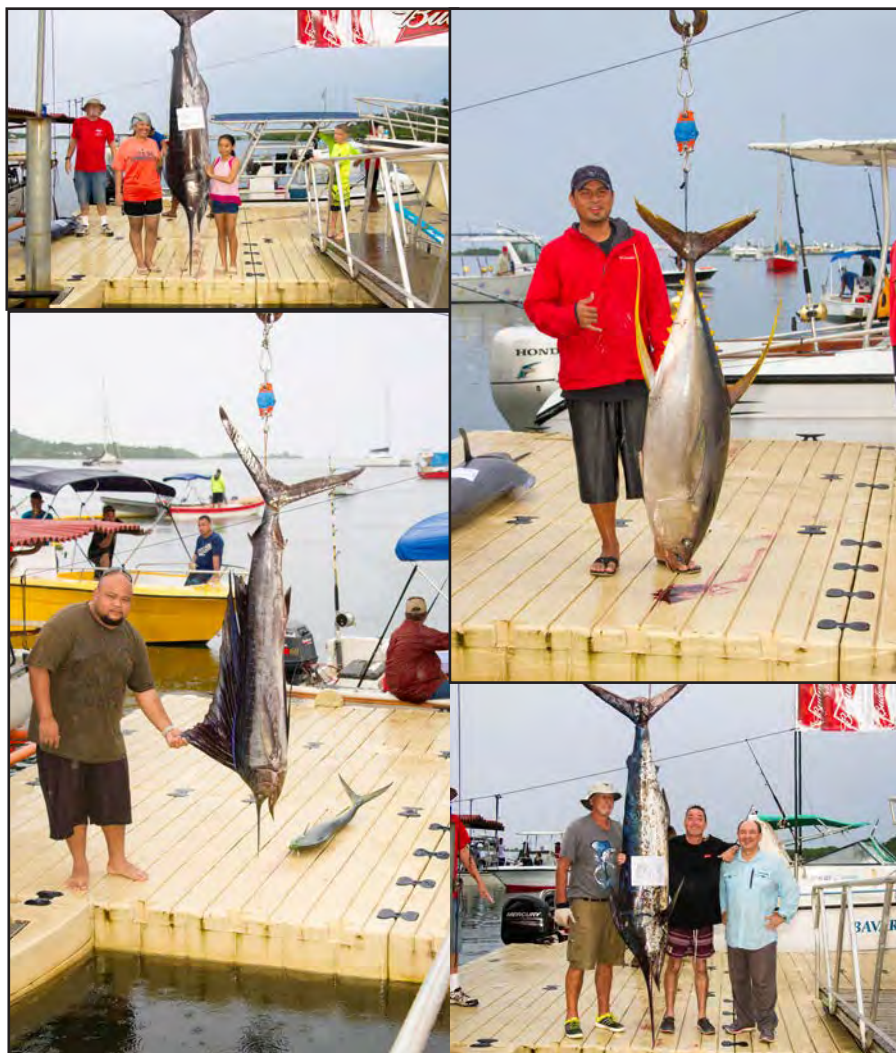
Congratulations to all the winners. Many thanks to Budweiser, Ambros, Inc./Shimbros. Each registered boat received free t-shirts and a case of Bud. “This Bud’s for you,” was what a lot of fishermen said when they got back and went to warm up.

We want to thank the captain and crew of Bavaria for donating their marlin to the

Pohnpei Hospital. Lots of people can get fed from that beast.

Many thanks to all the people that helped, Tina, Bill, Jade, Kumer’s guys, and Uta for the library. We can’t do it without you. The barbecue once again went to support the Pohnpei Public Library.

This is the last tournament of the year. The Annual General Meeting will take place in January at a date and time to be announced.



Sexual harassment problem in Pacific but little robust data

NADI (14 Nov) – Sexual harassment is a problem in the Pacific but very little data exists to give a true picture of the extent of the problem.

Police officers attending the Fourth Police Regional Training Program discussed sexual harassment and rape as part of the two-week workshop.

Funded by the Australian Federal Police and facilitated by the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre, the training course aims to equip officers with a thorough understanding of gender dynamics, the causes of violence against women and the relevant laws designed to combat gender-based violence.

A cohort of 30 police officers from 11 Pacific countries are attending the training workshop to help them understand violence against women and to deal sensitively with such cases.

The officers acknowledged that their institutions, like other organisations, have a sexual harassment problem.

Sometime those subjected to sexual harassment are unaware that they do not have to tolerate unwanted sexual behaviour.

The participants discussed the importance of having a sexual harassment policy in their workplaces so that everybody was clear on what was acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

Asked if the officers’ organisations had sexual harassment policies and whether they had seen them, many of the participants were unsure or said they did not have such policies.

The training facilitator, FWCC Coordinator Shamaima Ali, warned the participants not to participate in or ignore sexual harassment because in serious cases such behaviour could lead to rape.

Officers shared the experiences in their countries, including the similarities of in-house complaints of sexual harassment as well as the laws in place to tackle the problem.

Several officers reported the laws in their country had now been strengthened to increase sentencing tariffs and widening definitions of sexual harassment and other sexual offences.

Other discussions focused on myths about what causes rape, including the myth that how women were dressed or behaved caused the rape. Police officers acknowledged they inadvertently shifted the blame to the survivor of rape instead of focusing on the criminal offence committed by the perpetrator.

The workshop runs from 7-18 November and is being held at the Hexagon Hotel in Nadi.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Were you as shocked as I was in knowing the outcome of the United States presidential election? The victory of Donald Trump over Hilary Clinton!

I had never monitored any United States elections as closely as the November 08, 2016. I followed it meticulously considering the character and moral values of this candidate running for the highest office in the United States of America as an outsider. By saying outsider because he has never held any position in the government but he is successful businessman as a billionaire. As many political experts pointed out, it was an unprecedented election in the history of the United States.

The most qualified candidate ever lost to the least qualified candidate. The winner of the election lost all three presidential debates. The polls were way off the predicted numbers. Most of his influential party members abandoned him in the final days of the campaign, he still managed to win. His campaign rhetoric was so nasty but he came out as the winner. Despite his victory, he was the first major party presidential candidate in modern history who did not file his tax returns.

Many of the campaign issues that he raised were divisive, weird, unproductive, unimaginable, illegal and unconstitutional as well and whether his issues can survive and work in this globalization era that we all share in dealing with terrorism, trade, foreign policy, unity amongst the diverse population in the United States and so forth are the core basis of my interest to monitor the election closely. This is his campaign motto, "Make America Great Again" or in his other words, "America

First".

Listening to his rhetoric and considering the motto of his campaign overwhelmingly disturbed my conscience and just scared the hell out of me. During the election as I was watching the election results and Trump surpassed Hilary and exceeded above the 200 Electoral College, I took time out hoping that when I got back on, Hilary would lead again. Then, my daughter living in Oregon chatted to me on face book informing me Trump had over run the 270 Electoral College votes. It was so depressing as well as devastating.

We have had a great relationship with the United States of America since the inception of the Compact of Free Association on November 03, 1986 under the leadership of Republican President Reagan. When its renegotiation took place in the early part of the 2000 during another Republican President Bush, although there was a deal mutually agreed upon by both parties extending the term of five years longer than the original compact, the provisions of the compact, as amended, are not as friendly and harmonious with the establishment of another layer of scrutiny called JEMCO and the termination of the economic provision in 2023.

On January 20, 2017, Donald Trump will be inaugurated and become the 45th President of the United States of America. Thereafter going onward comes my worse fear. How will his presidency affect or have an impact on the Federated States of Micronesia or us? The Supplemental Education Grant as has presumed by many as part of the economic provision of the Compact of Free Association which is actually not is subject to the U. S Congressional appropriation for the 20 years period of this compact. Both the Houses of

Representative and Senate will be controlled by the Republican Party starting on January 20 inclusive of the Oval Office. Assuming the President requests the members of the House and the Senate to stop appropriating this grant and such is approved; imagine how this scenario will totally paralyze our educational system which utilizes 100% of the funding. This is in excess of 2.5 million dollars for Phone State alone. Most of the federal grants if not all are subject to the Executive Branch of the United States of America's blessing. With the "America First" pledge, will these grants change under President Trump? We have a lot of brothers and sisters living in the United States currently eligible for some sorts of assistance and benefits, how will their lives be like in President Trump's America? One thing that I am certain will stop as he repeatedly mentioned on the campaign trail is America's payment into the Climate Change Fund. Being one of the major donors will surely affect the small island nations like us in the Pacific. How will the other industrialized nations being the major players in this effort to fight climate change react to his action? The image of the United States as well as its influence in the world is critical to us, the small island nations when dealing with climate change. If you recall the Al Gore and George W. Bush presidential election in 2000, Gore was a champion of climate change whereas Bush was not. Bush won two consecutive elections and importance of addressing climate change during the early years was stalled for eight years as no leaders from the developed nations would like to address such a sensitive matter. It was an in their faces issue and no one would like to admit it. When Obama took office in 2008 and again in 2012, respectively, the results of his efforts in challenging world leaders to fight climate change bring us to where we are today.

Climate change is real and world leaders from the industrialized nations are seriously doing their roles in combating climate change. Hilary Clinton, a democrat like Obama, vowed to continue Obama's legacy regarding climate change. I take off my hat to President Obama in recognition and admiration of a true leader not only to the United States but the world. Republican Trump, on the other hand, promised to stop America's payment on day one of his presidency. He continuously blames China for it. You know why, he is a contributor to climate change. The United States under the stewardship of Donald Trump not advocating climate change as a priority on the world stage is a likelihood for world leaders to dump this subject of climate change taking us back to square one. Finally and the most important matter for the FSM States' survivability under the compact, the economic provision under the Compact of Free Association will expire in 2023 while every context of it remains moving forward. I have a strong feeling that our leadership in the National Government will collectively, on behalf of all the FSM people, resume bilateral discussion at our request on the economic provision of the compact one more time before the end of 2021. What is our likelihood of success in Trump's presidency? Our National government must start strategizing and act fast to learn firsthand how to deal with this monster. I said monster because of his rhetoric of divisiveness and hatred on the campaign trail which I believe the American voters supported that brought him to triumph. His success in delivering his campaign promises will miserably hit us in some sorts both for our brothers and sisters abroad and here at home.

Ausen T. Lambert

MCT hosts US delegation and local stakeholders to discuss Pohnpei-wide Mangrove Vulnerability Assessment

On Monday, November 14th the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) hosted a delegation from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at the Care Micronesia Foundation's Conference Center. The goal of this meeting was for local stakeholders to meet our guests and for MCT to further disseminate information about the ongoing Pohnpei island-wide Mangrove Vulnerability Assessment. Visitors from USFWS and USGS were Chris Swenson (FWS), Mary Abrams (FWS), Greg Koob (FWS), Sheldon Pletovich (FWS) and Dr. Zhiliang Zhu (USGS). Local stake holders represented the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, The Nature Conservancy, USDA NRCS, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, RARE, and Micronesian Productions.

Since the beginning of 2016, MCT has been

working with the Pohnpei State Government, Sokehs Municipal Government, Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), The Nature Conservancy, USFWS, USGS, USFS, Dr. Steven Crooks, the University of Hawaii Hilo, the University of Tasmania, DOI Office of Insular Affairs, Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative and community partners to implement the Increasing Resilience of Micronesia's Mangroves: Pohnpei Pilot Project. The project involves a number of components including scientific research and support, developing an island wide vulnerability assessment for mangroves, identification of mangrove management actions, assessing the feasibility of marketing carbon credits and sharing the project results with other jurisdictions. The project supports the work of the Micronesian Challenge and builds local capacity to identify and implement viable management options for increasing mangrove resilience.

The pilot project will start in Pohnpei with the community of Peidie, on Sokehs Island, a community that has many dredge sites and is concerned about the health of their mangrove forests. Mangroves are important for many reasons including acting as a nursery for small fish, protecting against shoreline erosion, and resilience against storms and tidal surges. For more information on this project please contact the Conservation Society of Pohnpei at 320-5409 or email the CSP Director Mr. Eugene Joseph at cspdirector@serhd.org



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Regional Information Management Facility (RIMF) Training Workshop Suva Fiji, 14th - 18th November 2016



FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) and FSM National Police Maritime Surveillance sent participants to attend the first RIMF MCS (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) application training in Suva Fiji from 14-18 November. Representing FSM for this training were Mr. Justino Helgen and Truman Jano from NORMA and Mr. Whylik Alfons from Maritime Surveillance. During the training FFA (Forum Fisheries Agency) introduced the Regional Information Management Facility System which is an application used on tablets used by fisheries managers and enforcement to collect fisheries information from vessels and fisheries data during boarding of fishing vessels at Ports. The technology is focusing on the use of integrated MCS tools specifically for vessel boarding and inspections,

investigation case management, violation and prosecution. It also marks the real beginning of the roll out of the FFA MCS mobile application that will provide MCS Officers with better access to relevant MCS tools and data through electronic data capture and integration with the RIMF and national IMS (Information Management System) portal.

It was a one week training facilitated by FFA at the University of the South Pacific Campus in Suva that brought together experts from fisheries authorities and enforcement agencies from Pacific Island countries. Participating countries were the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



FSM Team to RIMF Training in Suva



FFA Group

Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

First we do apologize for missing the Kaselehlie Press last edition and our case studies about our beginning teacher Navarro Navarro.

We last had our young teacher Navarro reviewing the textbooks he was to use on his first day of teaching the 5th grade. He found a Teacher's Edition for English and he was grateful for it. The Teacher's Edition showed him some ways to teach English. This is where Navarro had no training. He reviewed the textbooks and was confident he knew the entire curriculum or what he would teach. But now he had decided that that was not enough. He needed to learn about how to teach the material. All of the critical thinking questions have been about this. Navarro has already decided that a teacher must know both the curriculum and the ways to teach or methods of teaching.

In the last case study Navarro reviewed the science he was to teach. It was about animal science and plant science. But Navarro decided he would also like to teach what he had learned in environmental science in college and from his own observations. He thought it was important to teach 5th graders about sustaining our environment but he found very little in the 5th grade science book. So he decided he would teach it anyway. So the critical thinking question is this. Should a teacher teach about subjects not found in the established outlines and curriculum? Readers should not be surprised that rarely is this a Yes or No. And then when we ask for explanations or reasons the critical thinking process begins.

Today's Case

With all the books before him he opened the Our American History book first and saw the first chapter Columbus Discovers America. He noted the picture that was on page two. It showed a man who was supposed to be Christopher Columbus putting a Spanish flag on some beach with a couple of Native Americans looking on. The young man smiled when he saw the word Indians. Everyone knew that Christopher Columbus misnamed these early inhabitants when he mistakenly bumped into North America and thought he had made it to India or the Indies...at any rate, the young teacher told himself that he would point this fact out to the 5th graders the next day. And while the word "Indian" was necessary to clear up, this did not bother him nearly as much as the

word discovers. He thought again to himself "I must clear this up and at once!"

The next day he began the history lesson by having the 5th graders take out the Our American History books and told them all to look at the picture on page two. He noticed that the class was very obedient and immediately took the books out without further prompting. He thanked the 4th grade teacher to himself as these 5th graders followed directions and busied themselves opening their books and they appeared to be looking at the picture. The young teacher then asked "Does anyone see anything wrong with this picture?" he began. There were no replies so he tried again. "What about the word 'Discover'?"—Does anyone see anything wrong with that?" Still there was no answer. With that the young teacher directed a young boy in the front row to go and get a dictionary from the bookshelf at the back of the room. He instructed the boy to look up the word 'discovery' and read it to the whole class. "To be the first to find or learn of" the boy began and the teacher stopped him. "Read that again, please Mark—I want to be sure everyone heard that" the teacher said. Mark repeated again "To be the first to find ..." and the teacher stopped him once more. "Everyone look at the picture" and "Look at what it says—Columbus Discovers America." Finally, after further coaxing a light bulb seemed to go on over a boy called Pharis. Pharis said "Hey—how can Columbus be discovering a place and there are already people sitting there?" The young teacher smiled—they got it. In fact, the class seemed very proud of themselves. They nodded to each other and some even laughed. But the laughter stopped when Navarro said:

"Now take out your pens and cross out in ink where it says Columbus Discovers America." No one moved. They had followed the directions he had given earlier and taken out their books in short order but now the entire class was frozen like statues. "What's wrong?" the young man asked. "Cross out the 'Columbus Discovers America' so that no one can see it". No one moved but a shy looking girl did raise her hand. "Yes Cathy?" said Navarro. He said the girls name while glancing at the name cards a boy named Scott had suggested they all make so Navarro could learn their names. Scott's idea was a good one and Navarro was happy he had taken the student's suggestion.

"Teacher," began Cathy. "The Sisters never ... never ever let us write in the books" and then everyone was nodding. "Especially in pen ... never in pen."

The young Navarro was not quite sure what he should do. The 5th graders had told him of the school rules and this one had made sense. No writing in textbooks and of course never in pen. "Go ahead and do it this one time" the young man said and assuredly added, "I am sure that the Sisters would want us to make corrections if we find errors, and I will tell them that I said it was o.k." And he continued "If you like I will come around and do the corrections myself." Pharis said that he would do it himself and most of the others nodded and agreed to make the changes. The young teacher went ahead and did the crossing out for three girls who kept shaking their heads back and forth and mumbling "Never in pen."

With all the Discovers now crossed out, Navarro went around and put his own initials right next to the scratch outs. He proclaimed that now for sure they would not get in trouble as the initials would show the Sisters that he had authorized the change. With this done he said, "We must do more than cross out. We need to put in something better." He then wrote on the blackboard—"One of the First Europeans to Come to North America."

The class dutifully copied the phrase in their books after he assured the three worry warts that he would be around and initial the additions they were making. As he went from desk to desk making the changes official with his initials NN, he thought about school rules. He had better find out about the school rules.

Plenty of good critical thinking questions here beginning with—Should Navarro have broken the official school rule? More to think about on this question in two weeks.

WHO Healthy Islands Initiative continue to support and Promote IFCP's "Let's GO Local" Campaign

By: Emihner Johnson, IFCP

On November 2, 2016, Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) received Healthy Islands branded items including Umbrella, Hand Towels, and Aprons from the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office in Palikir, Pohnpei. These items will be used to promote on-going IFCP work with community groups, farming families, schools, and faith-based groups.

In 2013, Island Food Community of Pohnpei was named a Healthy Islands Awardee for their "Let's Go Local" project, which promotes sustainable production and consumption of nutritious local foods as an innovative tool to address the increase in diet-related non-communicable diseases. With the original award, IFCP carried out numerous awareness activities such as cultivation and cooking demonstrations in the general community and educational activities in schools. The Healthy Islands award program is coordinated by WHO, with funding support from the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea. Learn more about IFCP here: <http://www.islandfood.org/>

IFCP would like to acknowledge and thank the World Health Organization (WHO) for its continued support and assistance.

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