

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Duncan Kerr says that Australia is working toward a more “knitted together” Pacific

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, The Hon Duncan Kerr SC MP (Senior Counsel Member of Parliament) visited the FSM on July 10-12 and met with FSM's President Mori and Cabinet members to discuss issues important to both countries. This is the first visit of an Australian dignitary of such high rank in a number of years. His position is equivalent to that of a US Undersecretary of State.

His visit precedes the 40th Pacific Islands Forum meetings that will be hosted by Australia in Cairns from August 4-7 of this year. A post dialogue forum will begin immediately following the meetings.

Kerr, who hails from Tasmania, has represented Denison in the Parliament since 1987. In 1993 he served as the Attorney General of Australia on an interim basis. He was Australia's Minister of Justice from 1993 through 1996. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd appointed Kerr to the position of Parliamentary Secretary

for Pacific Island Affairs after the victory of the Australian Labor Party in the November 2007 election.

Secretary Kerr sat down with The Kaselehlie Press on July 10 at the residence in Pohnpei of Australian Ambassador to the FSM Susan Cox. He commented on the beautiful view from the veranda of Pohnpei's lagoon, loosened his tie, leaned back in a comfortable chair and engagingly talked with us for over 30 minutes.

Kerr: ...the Leaders Forum in Cairns (is) very much a practical get together focused on the global economic crisis, the issues of climate change which are so important for the Pacific Islands, and to initiate approval for beginning discussions on free trade arrangements in the Pacific to build on PACER, the PACER Plus negotiations.

We're also seeking to have leaders to reinvigorate what's been a decliningly relevant Post Forum Dialogue process. After the leaders' retreat and the decisions of the Forum are made, what has occurred is that friends of the Pacific,



Forum partners, who are not members of the Forum have come together for what is called the Post Forum Dialogue. But contrary to the idea of the Dialogue it's been a Post Forum Monologue with each country essentially delivering its position statements and with very

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DJ Jeilo on trial in Pohnpei for the murder of Ron Kersey

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM - The murder trial for the murder of Ron Kersey began at Pohnpei Supreme Court on July 17, 2009, one day short of a month after his murder.

At approximately 6:45 on the evening of June 18, Ron Kersey, a US citizen and long time resident of Pohnpei was severely beaten in his home in Nanpohnmal. Not long afterward he was found by family members on the floor of his home. He died shortly thereafter.

DJ Jeilo was arrested for the murder just over three hours later. In addition to the murder charge Jeilo is also charged

with five other charges in connection with the murder including Manslaughter, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Assault and Battery, Trespass, and Disorderly Conduct.

Pohnpei Attorney General Scott Garvey ordered an autopsy, a procedure his office says should always be conducted whenever there has been a murder. The autopsy revealed that the cause of death was blunt force trauma.

This is not the first time that Jeilo has been in trouble with the law.

Indeed, Jeilo was the defendant in two of the three cases begun at the Pohnpei State Supreme Court on the 17th. He is accused of vandalizing and burglarizing the building where the Aqua Serv water

See "Murder Trial" on page 14

Governor Ehsa signs Memorandum of Understanding for "Five Star Resort Hotel" in Lukop, Madolehihmw

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Unicorn Star International Holdings Limited (USIHL), a subsidiary of Hotung International Group. USIHL has expressed interest in investing in a premier hotel/resort complex in Pohnpei.



Section 7-125(a) of Title 37 of the Pohnpei Code codifies the development of a premier hotel/resort complex at Lukop, Madolehihmw as the first of five of its specifically named priority economic development projects for the State of Pohnpei.

The other four projects named in the Pohnpei Code include a light industrial park in Palikir, Sokehs, a Five star hotel complex in Kolonia, coconut products development complex in Pohnlangas, Madolehihmw, and projects within the Planned Development Zone at Dekehtik, Nett. Many of these priorities have been on the books for several years.

According to the MOU, USIHL is interested in developing a major resort/hotel and casino in Lukop, Madolehihmw, Pohnpei. Governor's office representatives said that the plot of land being offered by the State for the project is public land (plot number 069-D-01)

The MOU says that its intent is

See "5-star Resort" on page 5

Camp GLOW 2009



Camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) was held from June 16th-19th, 2009 at Niheo Marine Park in Pohnpei, Micronesia

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From Strangers to Friends

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Read this truly inspiring story of how strangers became friends

Maritime Law Man



Petty Officer Takesy Reim is 43 years old and is from Kolonia Town. He is also an elected member of the Kolonia Town Government representing Section 2.

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FSM's Silent Heroes

By: Eugene Pangelinan

Petty Officer Takesy Reim is 43 years old and is from Kolonia Town. In fact, he is also an elected member of the Kolonia Town Government representing Section 2. His wife Quileen Lawrence Reim resides in Kolonia with their four children. PO Reim has worked for the Maritime Surveillance Unit (MSU) for over 19 years and has been assigned to the FSS Palikir, FSS Independence and currently is assigned to the FSS Micronesia. He has dedicated a good part of his life to enforcing the FSM's maritime laws.

Last September, PO Takesy Reim and PO Ramsky Andon were selected to participate in the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). FSM sends two officers to participate in peacekeeping duties each year since 2005.

Prior to arriving in the Solomon Islands (SI) to begin their peacekeeping duties, the pair spent two months in Canberra, Australia undertaking preparatory trainings which included desktop studies, physical training, military police and navigation. Upon completion, the two arrived and PO Reim was immediately assigned to marine duties operating small boats responding to incidents, transporting peacekeepers and supplies between islands. Andon was assigned to Lata Island.

After completing six months of marine duties, PO Reim was re-assigned to general duties (GD) in Honiara, the capitol of SI. It is here that I met with PO Reim.

Question: How did you get selected for this mission?

PO Reim: I was selected by the Chief of Police. When he asked me if I would be willing to do this, I told him if it was good for the FSM, he was prepared to do it.

Question: Why did you accept it?

PO Reim: I thought it would be a good experience and improve my skills to do my job

better and it would be good for my future. What I would learn from the mission I could use to also train my colleagues.

Question: When did you arrive in Honiara and what prepared you for this mission?

PO Reim: PO Andon and I arrived on November 20, 2008 to begin our mission. Before we came to Honiara, we spent two months in Canberra, Australia in training like classroom learning, physical fitness and military police skills.

Question: What was your first thought when you arrived and you realized the nature of your mission and your duties?

PO Reim: I first wanted to make sure my supervisor told me what to expect and guide me in performing my duties well. I was confident I could do the job and what I was doing was representing the FSM so it was important for me to do good job, like those before me.

Question: Describe your mission and where?

PO Reim: I was first assigned to the marine duties and then was recently assigned to general duties we call GD. In GD we patrol the villages and provide assistance to the local SI police force. We are not permitted to carry firearms and only provide backup and advise to the local police. They do the arrest. PO Andon is assigned to Lata Island and doing the same kind of mission there.

Question: Do you think your presence here is making a difference to the people of SI? Why?

PO Reim: I believe that what we are doing is good and appreciated by the people here. They tell us our assistance is welcome and the advise we give is good. We improve their lives by giving them peace and there is law and order, well, most of the time there is law and order. People always thank us for what we are doing and it feels good.

Question: What kind of situation have you

been involved with?

PO Reim: I have responded to murders, fightings and domestic incidents. The most is stabbing situations and its most common here in SI, tribal disbutes are always flaring up.

Question: Have you ever had your life threatened or been put in a life threatening position?

PO Reim: We responded to a stabbing in one village recently and it was dark and many people around and we had to be careful. So we used our training and kept an eye out for each other and covered our backs. We made sure everyone was at a distance and we assisted the SI police.

Question: Describe the best thing about your mission or job here?

PO Reim: I feel that the experience I gained here will make me a better law enforcer in FSM and I can go and help my country. I have good knowledge of crowd control which I don't think we have back home (laughing).

Question: Describe the worst thing about your mission or job here?

PO Reim: I really miss my family, its hard being gone so long and I think of them all the time. I expected that but I am going home soon for a vacation and I can't wait to get there and see my family, I really miss them.

Question: Do you think the people here appreciate your presence, what your doing for them?

PO Reim: I believe they welcome the RAMSI mission and its giving them peace compared to what they had before, civil disorder and lack of law and order all over the islands.

Question: Do you personally feel RAMSI belongs here? Why?

PO Reim: I believe RAMSI should be here, without RAMSI, there will be civil disorder



PO Reim at their
RAMSI Headquarters

and chaos. We are a peacekeeping mission and that's what we do here, nothing else. The SI Police really want us here to help them and we support them including providing equipment and transportation.

Question: What is your advice for the next person coming here to carry out this mission after you?

PO Reim: He must remember that God does all things and he should be prepared to behave well and represent the FSM well on this mission. We have a good reputation here and the next person must maintain that reputation.

Question: Do you think FSM should continue participating in RAMSI missions?

PO Reim: Of course we should, it is important. But I would like to see our higher officials look into improving our conditions as volunteers in the RAMSI mission. We need better benefits while on this mission such as better compensation. I hope they look into it.

Question: What will you take back with you when you return to the FSM?

PO Reim: I will take back a lot of experience from this mission which I hope to share in training our FSM enforcement people to be better enforcers of the law. I will also take back memories of people and friends I have made here.

PO Reim and his colleague PO Ramsky Andon will both complete one year of their mission in Solomon Islands in November 2009.

The
Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

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Bill Jaynes
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ONPA Audit Report on Chuuk State Department of Education

FSM Information Services

Palikir, Pohnpei - July 13, 2009 - The Office of the National Public Auditor announces the release of Report No. 2009-04 An Inspection of Procurement Activities at Chuuk Department of Education. The report is available for public review online at the Auditor's website www.fsmopa.fm and copies are available at the Auditor's offices in Palikir and Weno.

The inspection was performed with the dual objectives of determining whether supplies were purchased and delivered to schools in a timely manner and whether the Department spent its budget for contracts, fixed assets, and other current expenditures in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and regulations. Work was performed in accordance with the Quality Standards for Inspections issued in 1993, as amended, by the U.S. President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency and the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency.

The inspection revealed that the Department

did not provide and deliver the necessary supplies to its schools in a timely manner. Although \$232,557 was spent on fuel and vessel charter costs for delivery of textbooks and necessary supplies, school principals surveyed as part of the inspection were not satisfied with the services provided. Inspection of the textbook warehouse revealed science textbooks that had been in storage for eight months and still had not been sorted for delivery. As a result of this finding, the Office of the Public Auditor is conducting a follow-up audit to determine the extent to which Chuukese students had school textbooks available to them during the 2008-2009 school year.

The inspection also concluded that the Department poorly managed and ultimately did not spend the Compact sector and Supplemental Education Grant funds in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures. As a result, purchases were made without obtaining the required number of bids and, at times, appeared to have violated conflict-of-interest laws. Additionally, inventory record keeping practices were lax and state assets were missing. Furthermore, in some instances purchases were made without the proper au-

thorization and required supporting documents were not available for review.

Approximately five percent (5%) of purchases reviewed appeared to violate bidding and conflict-of-interest requirements. The Department purchased laptop computers, solar powered batteries, office supplies, and other items from businesses that were owned by immediate family members of DOE officials. Additionally, in several instances DOE seemed to have violated bidding requirements, which require an agency to obtain several bids before making a large dollar purchase, by making several small purchases rather than one large purchase. For example, in December 2005 DOE made nine separate purchases each worth \$23,580 from the same vendor.

Inventory records were incomplete. Eighty-six percent of the fixed assets and vulnerable items tested by the auditors were not recorded in the asset registry or lacked complete financial records. A physical inventory conducted by the auditors revealed that \$32,105 worth of DOE properties were missing. DOE staff admitted taking assets and vulnerable items to their residences without having proper authorization to

do so and without documenting that they took the items. Similarly, because of poor record keeping practices, \$42,041 worth of food purchased for the school lunch program could not be accounted for.

The audit also revealed that supporting documentation was not available for 35% of the expenditures reviewed. In total, \$2.2 million of purchases lacked the proper and adequate supporting documentation such as contracts, purchase orders, etc. Additionally, 23% of tested purchases were approved but the individual approving the purchases lacked the authority to do so.

The audit said that some of their finding had been referred to their offices Criminal Investigation Division for further review.

The audit report was reviewed by the Department of Administrative Services, which agreed with all the findings and recommendations. The Compact Funds Control Commission (CFCC) also reviewed the audit report and generally agreed with the findings and recommendations. The Chuuk DOE received the audit report but did not provide a written response.

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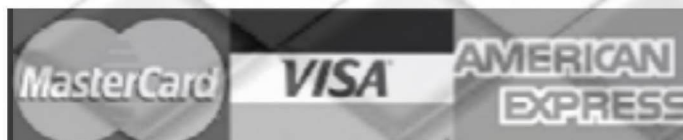
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...Kerr

Continued from front page

little interchange. (The dialogue) has become increasingly seen as peripheral and hard to engage the attention of Pacific Island leaders. We knew it had to be reinvigorated.

I've been running past the leaders of the Northern Pacific Islands Australia's intentions to put to the leaders an idea of reinvigorating that Post Forum Dialogue and bringing in not just the normal Post Forum Dialogue partners but also the international financial institutions: The World Bank, the IMF (International Monetary Fund), and the ADB (Asian Development Bank), with a view to building on the effectiveness of the discussions on the global financial crisis, looking at best practice on development assistance, better coordination and approaches for development assistance, and to continue after this forum to use the Post Forum Dialogue to bring in these larger numbers of players to have informal but practical discussions that move the agenda forward rather than simply make speeches.

KPress: *And how is that going to work. How are you going to make this happen?*

Kerr: Our Prime Minister and I have been encouraging in discussions with the very senior representation for the international financial institutions to be present in Cairns and we've had a pretty good reception. We think that institutions like the ADB, the IMF, and the World Bank are likely to be represented at quite a high level, some at their leadership level.

We're trying to encourage post dialogue partners like Japan, the United States, and all the other countries, (including) the EU to be represented at senior levels. Assuming that occurs and the leaders agree it will be ready to happen. The right people will be there.

I mean there's no shortage of focus because everyone's conversation has been dominated by the way in which the global downturn will affect their local economy. That's as true of the Northern Pacific as it is anywhere else. I think it will be a very useful vehicle for exchange of opinion.

Australia has commissioned some high level research on the impact of global economic downturn on the Pacific. That will be shared with all leaders beforehand so I think the opportunity to make some serious ground in integrating our thinking is there.

And of course, the other reason, if I can be just very straightforward about it, the other reason for being out here is to build on our already existing commitment of really trying to treat the Pacific with greater respect. We came to office determined to reinvigorate our relationship with the Pacific.

I visited the North Pacific once for President Toribiong's inauguration in Palau. I wasn't able at that stage to make a round trip of it but I think this a starting of a process that is not going to be completed quickly. It's a process of rebuilding relationships which were very strong in the early years of post independence governments in the Northern Pacific because the Forum in Australia had taken the lead on speaking up for these countries to get recognition in the United Nations as independent sovereign countries against some resistance from other parts of the world at the time. So there was a lot of closeness then. Re-establishing that closeness is something that we put some weight on.

KPress: *I wish I'd had a chance to get a copy of the book that you published in 2001 (Elect the Ambassador; Building Democracy in a Globalised World) at what was really the beginning of the recognition of reality of globalization. The Pacific hasn't really come to terms with the whole concept of globalization...*

Kerr: Well no one has truly. I mean, the book is very much, uh, I found it a little bit ahead of my time. I've always had the misfortune of being clever before my contemporaries and they don't like it and I'm unpopular but there is a growing movement now.

There's an international group of parliamentarians that has been established looking at global governance, the idea to establish some kind of parliamentary forum in the United Nations. Increasingly, I think it's a live issue for debate.

Interestingly I was listening to "Talk Back Radio" on a local channel in Australia before I came (to the FSM) and issues that I've written about over a decade ago were being spoken of by call in listeners. So it was very curious.

I don't think it's broadly enough based yet but the reality is that we're having to come to terms with the idea that the most important decisions are taken at the national level is increasingly underchallenged. Increasingly now, we have some of the most important decisions that affect the lives of millions of people are being taken at the transnational level. We have not yet effectively developed institutional structures of democracy that reach through those levels and enable those levels to be subject to the idea of accountable, responsible government like we have for national systems.

It's a big challenge. It doesn't lend itself to easy solutions. The book was an attempt to grapple with some of those ideas.

KPress: *The FSM is loosely confederated and so this subject would probably be even more important in the FSM than anywhere else where governance is all state run and the national government has a coordinating role.*

How did your visit go today with the Secretaries and the President?

Kerr: Ah, very well. I'd met the President and the Secretary (of Foreign Affairs, Lorin Robert) at the inauguration of President Toribiong so it wasn't a surprise for them who I was or how I interact. It's always "breaking that ice" that's the most difficult part of any meeting and we'd already done that so I thought it was a pretty relaxed discussion around a serious set of agendas that are coming up at the Forum and raising some of the bilateral issues that we're both concerned about: our commitment through the patrol boat program, the fisheries program; the work we're assisting with, the Transnational Crime Unit, it's not really bilateral but it's an assistance in a multilateral agency across the Pacific. Appreciation was expressed about our work in lots of little levels.

There wasn't anything that I'd say was contentious. It wasn't just a conversation about how much we liked each other. It was a conversation about trying to build on a good base but not one as robust as we would wish it to be. We both acknowledged that we could make this relationship stronger.

KPress: *So nothing groundbreaking, nothing new but mostly you talked in terms of rehashing where you are?*

Kerr: Nothing that I can talk to you about.

KPress: *Good for you! Touche!*

I spoke with someone a few weeks ago during the Association of Pacific Island Leaders conference held here who was from Tasmania, where you're from. He said that Tasmania has some very similar issues to island nations. In terms of the politics and some of the development issues there are some similarities aren't there? Can you think of any?

Kerr: The thing that Tasmania grapples with is that Tasmania continually educates its young people and then finds that the most adventurous of them leave. What we hope is that the cleverest of them come back. We can't and shouldn't trap young people in an island environment and say that they can't leave. It doesn't work.

We have to invest in education. We have to invest in opportunities. But we've also got to recognize that at least half of our young people are going to seek their fortune outside of Tasmania, and then we hope they come back.

We've got to find pathways for them to return.

KPress: *Is it an economic development pathway?*

Kerr: It's an economic development pathway. It's a social pathway. It's a lifestyle pathway and a lot of people are coming back to the state for lifestyle. It's a very nice place to live.

Modern communications should mean that it's easier to business from the periphery but one of the interesting things is that the myth of technology exploding the advantages of metropolitan space seems to have not been proved to be true. The centrifugal pull of places which have large existing skill bases remains as strong as ever. And probably the shift towards urbanization has increased over the last 15 years despite what, on its face we thought was going to be a technology that would enable you to work from home in Tasmania just as easily and be connected with the rest of the world. But in practice people still seem to need face to face time with the business peers that they're working with.

That means that people do have to go out there, cut their teeth in the larger world and once they've got those connections, and experience, and confidence they can build their industries back home. But without that first confidence building people don't seem to be able to do it.

KPress: *I suppose there might be one very pointed question I might ask. Why is Australia interested in the North Pacific?*

Kerr: We see ourselves as partly responsible for reinvigorating a relationship that was allowed to deteriorate a bit in years past with the Pacific as a whole.

I think it's fair to say that there was a degree of frustration with the previous government with its relations with the Pacific. I don't want to be critical but Solomon Islands emerged as a real crisis. That absorbed a huge amount of attention from within the Pacific.

There were some tensions with our relationship with Papua New Guinea.

We came into government able to make a fresh start. Always that opportunity to have a fresh start gives you the opportunity to have a look at everything again and we saw that we need to really reinvigorate, renew our relationship with the whole of the Pacific.

My appointment as Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Islands Affairs has reflected that.

My visits to the Northern Pacific and also visits to the French collectivities are engaging with parts of the Pacific which, because of geog-

raphy and psychology, have not always been central to people's thinking.

We're saying that we can't really be honest about our engagement with the Pacific unless we engage the whole of the Pacific.

It's a two way process. We need to encourage a positive response to that.

So far I'm very pleased because each of the President's I've talked to said that "Yes, we're going to make it to Australia."

Well, firstly I think all of them said that they were going to New Caledonia for the French Summit which I think is a good thing, and then they're going on to the leader's forum in Cairns. They're all, at least contemplating staying for the Post Forum Dialogue. I did stress how important it will be.

See "Kerr" on following page

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...Kerr

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These are small steps toward reengaging in a way that will be more than rhetorical.

With a bit of luck we'll see a lot more Australians in my kind of role coming through here in the next few years.

KPress: My own perception has been that Australia has focused mainly on the South Pacific, is that a function of "the squeaky wheel" or is there something else that might have caused this.

Kerr: I think it's both a function of geography and psychology. I mean, our most immediate and largest Pacific island country is Papua New Guinea: 6 million people, right on our doorstep, 700 languages, huge development challenges. You can swim from Cape York to the Western Province in PNG. That is always going to be right in focus of our attention inevitably.

And then we've had the collapse of the Solomon Islands.

There's been political disagreement on the

coups in Fiji.

It's not surprising that our attention is often directed to these events.

But don't underestimate the effort we're going to make to include the Northern Pacific now and also to reengage our relationship with the French collectivities.

They're emerging either to greater autonomy or independence depending on their choices down the track. Whatever they are, autonomous or independent we want to see them as playing a greater role in the Pacific.

That's a psychological thing. They speak French. They don't necessarily feel as engaged with the Pacific and yet, in Vanuatu, French is a second language. So there's no reason for that.

We need to overcome that problem and it's not a problem of distance. It's two hours between Australia and New Caledonia, and lots of people (from Australia) holiday there but the governments of New Caledonia have not engaged very greatly and we've not very greatly engaged with them, even though the SPC (South Pacific Commission) is headquartered there.

With the Northern Pacific it's a bit of distance. There's a physical issue.

Everywhere I've travelled people have been raising, "Can we improve transport links?"

Certainly I don't have a magic wand about that.

I think that some of these things may flow naturally. For example, if tourism increases into the Northern Pacific from Australia so too will the economics start to change. And there are, our Ambassador was pointing out, quite a number of Australians visiting as tourists to each of the countries of the region. So, maybe over time I think you'll see a more "knitted together" Pacific. That's what we hope anyway.

KPress: When Prime Minister Rudd was elected he brought with him a different Australian attitude toward global warming. What changes have taken place in terms of that problem since Prime Minister Rudd took office?

Kerr: Of course, one of the first things we did was to sign the Kyoto Protocol which John Howard had singularly declined to do.

We have legislation proposed in our Parliament. It is not certain whether it will pass.

Our opposition parties have indicated they'd prefer further delay before its consideration. We want to be able to go to the negotiations for the successor agreement to Kyoto, not only to say that we have an aspiration and an objective but also that we have legislated and have an already established carbon trading mechanism put in place.

Whether we'll be able to do that will depend on our parliamentary process. But certainly we've got legislation in the Parliament now which we hope to be passed before those meetings.

Sadly at the moment I'm not able to give you the assurance that you would have wished because we're not in a position to control what the other members of the Parliament do.

Our system can sometimes give a government control of these things. John Howard had control of both chambers of Parliament for a period of time but we don't. We have a majority in the House of Representatives but no certain control of the Senate.

At the moment, the parties that are able to control the majority of the Senate are denying us the opportunity to get our legislation through.

We're trying at least.

6th Annual
**2009 "INS" MAROSONG
POHNPEI HALF MARATHON
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4:00 p.m., Saturday, August 22nd



Start: 4:00 p.m. at INS Store
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- 3rd Place - \$100
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- 11-20th - \$15
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- 1st Women - \$300
- 2nd Women - \$200
- 3rd women - \$100
- 1st Junior - \$100

No registration fee. All runners will receive finisher's medal, INS souvenir t-shirt, hat and gift bag

For more information contact the FSMNOC office (320-8914)

...5-Star resort

Continued from front page

to facilitate the development of a hotel/resort, duty free, and casino at Lukop while also "addressing the potential social, cultural, and environmental impact of such a development in Pohnpei."

By signing the MOU as both parties did in Taiwan on June 25, Governor Ehsa has agreed to submit to the Pohnpei Legislature by December 15, 2009, an omnibus development statute for the

development of the hotel and casino on the public land in Lukop. The hotel and casino would be no smaller than 1000 rooms and would be constructed in three phases. The bill Ehsa has agreed to submit to the Legislature would provide USIHL an exclusive casino gambling license and would also provide for regulation of the activities of the development including gambling activities.

Pohnpei State Public Affairs officer Hainrich Stevenson said that the governor's office will be commissioning a study on the impacts of such a project and will incorporate the findings into any proposed omnibus bill.

From an outsiders point of view the MOU is not clear on who would be building the resort. Stevenson said that the foreign investor would be responsible for that.

If the submitted bill passes the Pohnpei Legislature, Ehsa and USIHL will enter into negotiations for a detailed MOU involving the construction and management of the proposed "Micronesian Tourism Complex."

The MOU is active for 18 months. If the terms are not met by that time the MOU will be terminated.

The MOU was signed by both parties in Taiwan on June 25 of this year.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A new business in Pohnpei is looking for qualified personnel for the following positions:

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Prep cook

Waiters & waitresses

If you are in Pohnpei you can pick up application forms at Arnold's Pizza.

If you are not in Pohnpei you can email your resumes to apb@mail.fm.

Some experience will be required for the baker and prep cook positions.

Short term contract can also be negotiated for the baker position.

The kindness of strangers – who become friends

By Bill Stinnett

Hal Moskowitz travelled from New York to Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia to see his niece, Caitlin Corneliess, a volunteer teacher with Jesuit Volunteers International at St. Cecilia School. I had the pleasure of meeting him and was impressed that he would travel out all this way just to visit his niece.

While staying at the Truk Stop Hotel he happened to see Jojo Peter, President of the College of Micronesia, Chuuk Branch, in

our restaurant on several occasions. Hal inquired about Jojo and learned who Jojo was, his position, and eventually they were talking.

Jojo lives in a wheelchair and at some point, Hal volunteered to look into getting Jojo a new wheelchair. We old timers in Micronesia have heard offers to help like this hundreds, if not thousands of times, and we listen politely but don't hold our breath.

Still, there was something about Hal and when he asked for a tape measure so he

could measure Jojo's wheelchair, I hustled up to my office and brought one down and he, his friend, and Jojo measured away.

Hal had a great time in Chuuk, a wonderful visit with his niece Caitlin, and as all visitors eventually do, departed Chuuk for home. Jojo and I would mention his new wheelchair in passing because we each saw and heard something in ole Hal's manner and voice that make us thing "maybe this guy is different".

Hal made contact with Jojo and me and pretty soon we realized that this kind offer from a stranger turned friend was going to happen. Hal got the wheelchair and then discussion began about how it was going to travel from New York to Chuuk.

We islanders have friends and family in almost every major city between New York and here so my suggestion was to find someone coming this way, give them the chair and have them check in as a wheelchair bound passenger – that way, the airlines would deliver the chair for us.

The chair travelled from New York to California, on to Hawaii and finally to Chuuk.

Jojo now has a brand new ultra light weight multi-adjustable sports chair. (A Sunrise Guardian Quickie 2 wheelchair valued at approximately \$3000.)

Moskowitz is an Assistive Technology Provider in NYC. He secured a donation from the manufacturer representative and added some of the accessories like coated hand-rims for grip and rear anti tippers for safety.



Jojo and Caitlin in his new wheelchair and sitting in the Truk Stop Restaurant where it all started with a chance meeting between strangers

Micronesian Public Safety Academy graduates 2nd class

The Embassy of the United States of America

On July 16th, the Second Micronesian Public Safety Academy Graduation was held at the campus of the former Pohnpei Agriculture and Trade School (PATS). The graduation concluded a 2009 Police Academy program funded by the U.S. and FSM governments, administered by an Australian police advisor, and taught by FSM national and state police instructors.

The ceremony commenced with the raising of the FSM state and national flags and the graduates' procession into PATS church. Following the FSM National Anthem and an opening prayer, speeches were given by Pohnpei State Chief of Police Joseph Roby, Pohnpei State Lieutenant Governor Churchill Edward, and Academy Commander Joab Paul. An awards presentation proceeded and certificates were awarded to both students and Academy staff. Academy Valedictorian Delincoln Norman Jr. led the class in reciting the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. The ceremony concluded with a song from the Academy's Pohnpei Delegation. Australian Police Consultant Donna Fenlon served as Master of Ceremonies.

Also attending the ceremony were Secretary of Justice Maketo Robert, FSM Senator Peter Sitant, Chargé d'Affaires William D. Douglass of the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia, Chargé d'Affaires Qin Jian of the Chinese Embassy, Second Secre-

See "Academy grads" on page 10

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Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.
2524 North Santiago Boulevard
Orange, California 92867
United States of America
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Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
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Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.
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Telephone: (714) 283-1155
Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com

FSM's largest solar PV power plant operational in Yap

Yap Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

On July 8th the lights went on island-wide for the first time on Faderai, one of the islets of Ulithi atoll in Yap. The electricity powering these lights is coming from the sun and it is captured and stored into large batteries by the FSM's largest solar PV (photovoltaic) power plant. For the past two weeks a mixed team of technicians from Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap had been busy installing this 28 kWp (kiloWatt peak) solar power plant, funded by the European Union (EU).

A total of 216 solar PV panels were installed on racks and concrete foundations, pointing towards the sun. Three large battery banks are storing the solar-energy during the day, for daytime as well as nighttime use. Inverters with a combined capacity of over 20 kW will convert the DC (Direct Current) electricity from the solar panels and batteries into 240 V / 60 Hz AC (Alternating Current), feeding it into

an underground (i.e. typhoon-proof) mini-grid cable system.

The electrical power from this solar plant can be used to run not only lights, but also refrigerators & freezers, TVs, radios and DVD players, VHF and HF radios, mobile phones, photocopiers & printers, fans and computers. However, there are limitations and for instance air conditioners, water heaters and rice-cookers can not be hooked up to this solar system without eventually overloading it.

The 36 households on Faderai will have to pay for the electricity they are getting from the solar power plant through cashpower meters. This will generate income to pay for the salaries of the 2 YSPSC plant operators, regular maintenance & upkeep, as well as battery-replacement (after an estimated 7-10 years).

Not far from Faderai, also in Ulithi atoll, another slightly smaller mini-grid solar power plant (19.5 kWp) was installed on Asor islet earlier this year, providing the same electrical services to the 18 households there.

Already months before in both locations the community participated in preparing the grounds for the installation. They were also actively involved during the installations, supporting the installation team with food and accommodation, and giving a helping hand on the installation site.

The two Ulithi solar power plants in Yap were the final installations in a series of 16 solar systems that were installed over the past 8 months in FSM, funded under the 9th European Development Funds (EDF 9) programme. The other solar installations were installed on Pingelap, Moch, Sapwaufik, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi, Satawan, Udot and Onoun.

In total nearly 1,000 solar panels were deployed on all these islands, assisting them to move into the 21st century with a reliable and sustainable power supply.

The European Union is taking a global lead in the move towards a renewable energy future, and will continue to support introduction of these technologies in FSM in a new round of funding (EDF10), starting in January 2010.

In the long run solar energy can make FSM less dependent on outside fossil fuels; a goal worth pursuing.

...Academy grads

Continued from page 9

tary Mariko Harada of the Japanese Embassy, and Pohnpei State Attorney General Scott Garvey. Also present were the members of the FSM Law Enforcement Association, which coordinated training for the Academy. FSM National Chief of Police Pius Chotailug heads the Association.

The First Micronesian Public Safety Academy was held in 2007. Upon receipt of a \$107,000 Technical Assistance Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), the Academy began its second session on April 20, 2009. This year's academy recorded forty seven graduates: fourteen from Chuuk, twelve from Pohnpei, nine from Yap, two from Kosrae, and ten from FSM National. Three of the graduates were female.

The ceremony marked the end of a rigorous three-month training regimen at PATS. The participants endured classroom and physical training six days a week, from 5:30AM to 10PM.

When asked the highlight of this year's Academy, Fenlon noted "watching [the students] grow and develop into self-confident individuals able to give back to their communities" to be an extremely rewarding experience. "I think all of the students were surprised as to what could be achieved when they applied themselves personally and professionally. Witnessing this realization was like watching forty-seven light bulbs go off over forty-seven young minds."


Although plans to continue the Micronesian Public Safety Academy have not been cemented, Fenlon stressed the need for ongoing law enforcement training in the FSM; "A permanent Academy would not only produce additional well-qualified public safety officers, it would also enable current officers to update and enhance their credentials. Having continuous training at PATS would benefit both those in the program and the communities which they will eventually serve. It's a perfect opportunity for capacity building."

SURF DAY FOR KIDS IS BACK!



Surf's Up!

Come join us for a day of FUN IN THE SUN & SURF at Nahlap, August 16th, Sunday. All day water and surf activities for kids from 10 to 80 years of age. Surf instruction, surfboards, jet ski, stand-up paddle boards and BBQ will be provided. **FREE** Nahlap entrance fee and boat taxi ride for kids age 10 to 18 years of age. For over 18 years of age participants, Nahlap fees will apply.



Sponsored by Pohnpei Surf Club, FSM Telecom, FSMNOC and Nahlap Island Resort. The ocean, currents, reef and surfing can be hazardous. All participants must be excellent swimmers. All participants under 18 years of age must have adult supervision to join. All participants must sign release forms in advance to join. Please call the Pohnpei Surf Club at 320-7845 after August 6.



POHNPEI SURF CLUB Nahlap Island Resort

Young FSM Athletes Compete Around the World

By Jim Tobin

This summer, the Federated States of Micronesia will be sending over 20 young FSM athletes to numerous locations around the world to compete in regional and international sports competitions and championships. The FSM will compete in the 2009 IAAF (International Track and Field Association) Youth World Championships, 2009 FINA (International Swimming Association) World Swimming Championships, 2009 Oceania and Micronesia Sub-Regional Athletics Championships, 2009 Oceania Pacific Junior Tennis Championships and 2009 Pacific Mini Games. The FSM National Olympic Committee (FSMNOC), FSM Athletics Association, FSM Swimming Association and FSM Tennis Association have received funding, through numerous grant applications to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Tennis Federation (ITF), IAAF and FINA, to assist with travel, accommodation, stipend and uniform costs of the FSM athletes and coaches participating in each competition. The selection of athletes and coaches were made by each FSM national sport association.

Ashley Apiner (Pohnpei) and coach George

Steven (Pohnpei) will travel to Sudtiral, Italy from July 08 – 12 to attend the 2009 IAAF World Youth Athletics Championships. Apiner will run in the 100m (meter) dash. A group of 4 FSM swimmers and coach Sweeter Daniel, all from Pohnpei, will compete in the 2009 FINA World Swimming Championship in Rome, Italy from July 24 to August 02. Kerson Hadley will swim the 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly and 50m Breaststroke; Debra Daniel - 50m Freestyle and 50m Breaststroke; Dionisio Augustine - 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly and 50m Breaststroke and Rayleen David – 50m Freestyle and 50m Breaststroke.

Marcellus Akapito (Chuuk) and George Steven will lead 7 FSM runners: Twinsanne Sam (Chuuk); Yondan Namelo (Chuuk); Yonder Namelo (Chuuk); Mither Wendolin (Pohnpei); Justine Rodriguez (Pohnpei); Pahnrasco Ardos (Pohnpei) and Marlon Etold (Pohnpei) to the Gold Coast, Australia from August 04 - 08 to participate in the Oceania Regional and Micronesia Sub-Regional Athletics Championships. Akapito, Sam and Namelo will then travel from Australia to Berlin, Germany to compete in the 2009 IAAF World Athletics Championships, with both FSM athletes competing in the 100m dash.

Rising FSM junior tennis stars Terry James

Rush, Sharon Adams and Alyssa Hawkins, and coach Caroline Adams, all from Pohnpei, will compete in the Oceania Pacific Junior Tennis Championships in Nadi, Fiji from August 16 – 26. All three FSM tennis players finished high in the final standings of the just completed North Pacific Junior Tennis Qualifier held in Guam.

The Cook Islands will host the 2009 Pacific Mini Games from September 21 to October 02. The sport program includes: Athletics, Boxing, Golf, Lawn Bowls, Rugby 7s, League 7s, Netball, Sailing, Squash, Table Tennis, Tennis, Touch Rugby, Triathlon, Va'a (Canoeing) and Weightlifting. The FSM delegation will be led by Manuel Minginfel (Yap) 9 times South Pacific Games Weightlifting gold medalist and 3 times Olympian. Also competing for the FSM will be: Falmed (Yap) and Jason Galam (Yap) in Weightlifting, and Mihter Wendolin and Reloliza Saimon (Pohnpei) in Athletics.

This year, a goal of the FSM National Olympic Committee is to assist the 4 FSM States of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap in selecting and training their athletes and teams for the upcoming 2010 Micronesia Games in Palau. The FSMNOC is assisting the FSM States with sports equipment and bringing in expert international coaches and trainers in

Athletics, Basketball, Softball, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling and Weightlifting in the coming year. Ryan Burns, FIBA Oceania Basketball Development Officer from Melbourne, Australia, has been visiting the FSM States for the month of July holding numerous Basketball clinics. The FSMNOC just received IOC approval for a 2009 Olympic Solidarity Development of National Sports Structures in Wrestling grant. Jacob Clark from Minneapolis, Minnesota has been hired as the expert instructor and will visit the FSM States for the next 5 months. His schedule is: Yap - July 28 to September 02; Pohnpei - September 02 to October 07; Kosrae - October 7 to November 10 and Chuuk - November 10 to December 17.

Pohnpei will be hosting Liberation Day sports competitions starting in August and finishing on September 11. The 2nd Kosrae Games will be held from October 30 to November 07. From the games, each state will select athletes and teams for the 2010 Micronesia Games. Also scheduled for next year is the first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore from August 14 – 26, 2010 with 26 sports in the program. The FSMNOC hopes to identify 4 – 5 good young FSM athletes to represent the FSM in Athletics, Swimming, Wrestling and Weightlifting at the Youth Olympics. In 2011, our dream is to hold the 4th FSM Games in Pohnpei. The next Olympic Games will be held in London, England in 2012.

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to an order of the FSM Supreme Court entered November 20, 2007, public notice is hereby given that the parcel of land described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel No. 56-B-05 located in the Kipar area of Sokehs Municipality, consisting of an area of 30,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 056-B-00.

Also offered by the FSM Development Bank for sale by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms is the parcel of land described below:

Parcel No. 073-E-03 located in the Rohi area of Kitti Municipality, consisting of an area of 39,624 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 073-E-00.

- There is no minimum bid amount for the parcels.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "FSMDB Land Auction" by personal delivery to FSM Development Bank, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor of the Namio Building, Kolonia, Pohnpei.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2009.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, and e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person submitting the bid.
- All bid submissions must state a bid amount separately for each parcel. Bids may be placed on one or both of the parcels.
- The winning bidder will be notified in writing by FSM Development Bank. Each winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the bid by delivery of a cashier's check payable to the FSM Development Bank no later than 10 days after the winning bidder is notified.
- If the winning bidder fails to remit payment within the required time, the award will be granted to the next highest bidder and the same conditions will apply.
- FSM Development Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
- The property is offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to its condition whatsoever.
- The winning bidders will take title to the parcel through a quitclaim deed issued by the FSM Development Bank.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel at the FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, fax no. 691-320-6533, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, website: www.fsmdb.fm

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Carpetbaggers or community members? Choose...

Dear Editor,

I have watched and read the on goings between the Arthur's and the FSM/Pohnpei Government. I have discussed this in bars, at beaches, on the Internet, and over meals. I have discussed this in Saipan, Guam, Pohnpei, and over the Internet with people as nearby as Chuuk and Yap, and as far away America and Israel. Usually it is not me that instigates this topic in conversation. It has never ceased to amaze me, that so many people, in such widely dispersed areas, are cognizant of the ongoing's of a small island in the middle of the Pacific. Most of the people I talk to are business people and entrepreneurs, like myself. The same basic concepts continually reappear in all the conversations.

First, it is amazing to many that this government, this judicial system, and more importantly the people behind it, are modern enough and in the end honest enough, to actually have come up with a court ruling, stating more or less, that the Government actually ran these people out of business, the government did it illegally, and the people need to be properly compensated. This is something that is hard enough to accomplish in "first world" countries, let alone "second or third" world countries. For honest people who desire to set up a business, a life, and to be a creative force for advancement/good of the people of another land, this is a major thing, it is a wonderfully attractive thing. When a system is in place, and legal precedents have been made that assure something close to an honest, level playing field - then you have a magnet that will attract the type of people and investors that FSM needs to grow. The opposite is to attract the carpetbaggers.

Second, that the government actually followed through and made some of the compensation payments - only adds to the positive feelings. When courts rule, and then politicians follow through on that decision (i.e. actually making timely payments) it proves that the law of the land can be trusted over the good old boy network. It means I can safely invest my time, my money, and my heart into a place and its wonderful people. These are things that reverberate around the world, attract even more good people and investments. And more importantly, it leaves a good taste and feeling in the hearts and minds of those already investing here - for it is these people, and their impressions, that are true ambassadors for the country.

Third, when payments are halted and new legal proceedings are started, (against those same people) it becomes apparent that the good old boy network is still alive and well. When the new proceedings request money/compensation from the exact same companies (or individuals) that were illegally run out of business (determined by court decision), it simply smacks of cronyism, corruption, and an immaturity based around simply getting even. It tells the world that you may win in court here, you may do things legally, but it does not matter because the law is different for different people; because the good old boy network is alive and well, and it will always win out here over law.

When your life is invested in a place that will not allow you to own your own land, your business ventures must be done with a predominance of local ownership, you can never become a citizen, and yet you hang out there for 40 years, raise a family, have grandchildren - it must be a place you love. When you set up businesses that help the local economy, train scores of young kids, and you give your time and effort to many local causes, you would hope that you would be considered part of the local community. The present actions against the Arthur's show the world - that no matter how long you live here you will never be part of the community. You will always be an outsider. You are not allowed to make a profit, for it will be claimed that any profit is a WINDFALL, and thus any profit must be bad and returned.

The damage caused by the new proceedings has already been heard around the world. The question is whether or not sanity and fairness will out in the end - and will it be done quickly enough to stem the negative tide. Many, many people are watching these results and the speed in which they happen. The question now is whether or not FSM will attract and keep the right type of people, or chase them away. Whether or not carpetbaggers will be the norm and thus short term gains made at the expense of the future. I am not alone in holding off with present and future investment, and tying that decision to the precedents being set presently in regards to the Arthurs. I have faith in Pohnpeians and Micronesia. It is my home, too, my only home. I pray it stays that way.

Thank you,

Dr. Joel Joseph
FSM Veterinary Services
Pohnpei Animal Hospital

Resio Moses, much too young!

Dear Editor:

May I share with Pohnpeians, citizens of the FSM, and people worldwide who have come to meet or work with the Honorable Resio Moses, the regret I feel at his passing. He was

much too young and would have accomplished even more if he had been given time.

I appreciated his help with some of the Micronesia Institute programs at a

FSM and Pacer-plus?

Dear Editor:

If the FSM is participating in the "PACER-plus" trade talks scheduled for August in Cairns our delegation should decline to remain or become part of the PACER group.

Unlike many of the island participants we do not export anything to any of the other participants.

There is no way for any of the other participants to do anything about our non-participation other than to reduce the amount of assistance they give us.

We should ask Australia and New Zealand if they will reduce the amount of assistance that they give us if we do not participate in

PACER.

The only explanation given for joining PACER's predecessor that I was able to obtain from the FSM taxation people was that "we didn't want to get left behind".

This is a plan that we do not need to be part of unless it will mean we will lose assistance. If participation is the cost of keeping that assistance then this should be acknowledged.

I ask that someone from PACER tell us the benefits of PACER to the FSM. If my analysis is wrong I will apologize with a sakau ceremony.

Mat Mix

Chuuk Special Education audit clarification

Dear Editor,

Thank you for giving so much space to ONPA's latest report regarding the audit of Chuuk State Special Education Program (SEP) Funds published in the July 8-28 issue of the Kaselehlie Press. Your paper plays a very important role in providing public awareness and thus enhancing transparency of public spending.

I would like to clarify an issue regarding the salary calculations performed by the K-Press. The news team did not know that the total salary expenditure presented in the audit report included the salaries of non-teachers such as program supervisors, bus drivers, etc. As a result, the amount estimated and reported in the article was overstated.

We estimate the average salary of qualified teachers to be approximately \$6,200. FSM law defines a qualified teacher as a teacher who has earned an Associates degree and passed a national certification exam. We found instances in which non-qualified

teachers were paid more than qualified teachers.

According to officials with the Chuuk Department of Education, experience not education was a primary factor in determining salary. As such, a teacher who lacks the academic background deemed necessary to teach but who has, nonetheless, acquired years of experience can earn more than a qualified teacher. As a result, we concluded that there is no financial incentive for the teachers to work towards their degree requirements. In fact, we found that only eight unqualified teachers were actively working towards earning their degrees.

Again, thank you very much for always giving ONPA reports a space in your newspaper and for the contribution the Kaselehlie Press makes towards the goal of achieving of transparency in government operations.

Sincerely,
Haser Hainrick
FSM Public Auditor

MARY BERMAN
Attorney

Chinese Spoken
Experienced in immigration Law

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Kolonias, Pohnpei
FM 96941

time when true privatization was not well understood in the islands. My own dear husband Brewster Chapman died when he was only 61, and so I can have some sense of how Resio's wife must be feeling. Please convey

to her my deep sympathy and understanding.

Thank you.
Patricia Luce Chapman
former CEO, The Micronesia Institute

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei has an Active 11-Member Summer Team

By Dr. Lois Englberger

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), based in its Training Center in the Botanical Garden, Kolonia, has been very fortunate to have an active 11-member summer team. Four master's degree level students have come from three different universities in the United States (US) to assist in research and other project activities.

Ms. Alyssa Bittenbender from the University of Arizona has been working with Mand Community in Madolenihmw to assess present dietary habits, which relate to health issues. This is a part of a global health project initiated in 2005.

Ms. Kim Del Guercio from Emory University, based in Atlanta, Georgia, has been working with Kapinga Village in Kolonia Town. Ms. Kaleigh Emerson, also from Emory University, has been working with the Salapwuk Community in Kitti. Both have focused on diet, health, and food security issues.

Ms. Sueko Matsumura from Johns Hopkins University, based in Baltimore, Maryland, US, assisted in a project with Pohnpei farmers discussing health issues, crop va-

rieties and local food production (see accompanying article).

Mr. McKean Allen Peter and Ms. Maylance Ladore, both from Pohnpei, are from the Let's Go Local High School Club based at PICS High School, Kolonia. They assisted Ms. Guercio in the Kapinga Village project. Ms. Mary Lorens, from Pohnpei, is studying at a university in the US for her bachelor's degree, but has been home for the summer and has been assisting Ms. Emerson in the Salapwuk study.

The main IFCP staff includes Ms. Lymer Yamada, IFCP Assistant Office Manager and Ms. Areline Joakim, IFCP Outreach Manager, along with Ms. Kathay Larsen, Peace Corps Volunteer, Office Manager and Dr. Lois Englberger, IFCP Research Advisor. Mr. Adelino Lorens (not in the photo) from the Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs, assists IFCP as Chairman of the Board.

The entire team has been active in IFCP island food promotion presentations, singing the Let's Go Local songs, sharing about yellow-fleshed bananas and other foods rich in provitamin A and other nutrients and their "CHEEF" benefits (Culture,

Health, Environment, Economic and Food security), and developing island food promotion materials.

from so far away, as well as its on-island team, making up its enthusiastic summer team, as well as all those from partner agencies and Pohnpei communities!

IFCP would like to thank all those coming



IFCP Summer team at their Training Center in Kolonia. Back row (left to right): Kaleigh Emerson, Alyssa Bittenbender, Kathay Larsen, Dr. Lois Englberger, McKean Allen Peter, Maylance Ladore, Kim Del Guercio, and Mary Lorens. Front row (left to right): Sueko Matsumura, Lymer Yamada, and Areline Joakim.

Astronomical Tide Prediction July 22 through August 4, 2009

	Pohnpei		Chuuk	
Wednesday	7/22	7/29	7/22	7/29
	05:35AM 3.9	01:46AM 3.7	04:07AM 2.1	01:45AM 1.5
	12:35PM 1.7	07:47AM 1.4	07:56PM 0.0	07:35AM 0.7
	05:20PM 2.3	01:43PM 3.7		01:06PM 1.5
	10:38PM 1.5	07:51PM 1.0		07:08PM 0.4
Thursday	7/23	7/30	7/23	7/30
	06:03AM 3.6	02:09AM 4.0	04:28AM 2.0	01:43AM 1.8
	01:41PM 1.9	08:22AM 1.1	08:03PM 0.0	08:10AM 0.5
	05:22PM 2.1	02:18PM 3.7		01:41PM 1.4
	10:23PM 1.8	08:16PM 0.9		07:13PM 0.4
Friday	7/24	7/31	7/24	7/31
	06:40AM 3.3	02:36AM 4.4	04:49AM 1.8	01:55AM 2.1
	07:46PM 1.9	08:58AM 0.8	08:06PM 0.1	08:49AM 0.3
		02:52PM 3.7		02:15PM 1.2
	08:43PM 0.9	08:20PM 0.4		07:20PM 0.4
Saturday	7/25	8/1	7/25	8/1
	08:32AM 3.1	03:05AM 4.6	05:07AM 1.6	02:14AM 2.3
	06:39PM 1.7	09:35AM 0.7	08:00PM 0.2	09:31AM 0.1
		03:27PM 3.5		02:49PM 1.0
	09:09PM 0.9	07:27PM 0.4		07:27PM 0.4
Sunday	7/26	8/2	7/26	8/2
	02:30AM 2.6	03:37AM 4.7	04:53AM 1.4	02:37AM 2.5
	05:04AM 2.5	10:14AM 0.6	07:15AM 1.3	10:18AM 0.1
	11:23AM 3.1	04:02PM 3.3	10:36AM 1.5	03:19PM 0.7
	09:36PM 0.9	07:41PM 0.3		07:28PM 0.3
Monday	7/27	8/3	7/27	8/3
	01:26AM 2.9	04:10AM 4.7	03:17AM 1.3	03:03AM 2.5
	06:32AM 2.2	10:56AM 0.7	06:39AM 1.2	11:15AM 0.1
	12:25PM 3.3	04:38PM 3.0	11:47AM 1.5	03:41PM 0.4
	07:06PM 1.4	10:03PM 1.1		07:21PM 0.2
Tuesday	7/28	8/4	7/28	8/4
	01:29AM 3.3	04:46AM 4.6	02:11AM 1.3	03:30AM 2.6
	07:12AM 1.8	11:42AM 0.9	07:03AM 1.0	12:43PM 0.1
	01:07PM 3.5	05:16PM 2.6	12:29PM 1.5	03:31PM 0.2
	07:28PM 1.2	10:30PM 1.3		07:03PM 0.1

Pohnpei Farmers Discuss Health Issues, Crop Varieties, and Local Food Production

By Dr. Lois Englberger

On June 25, 2009, a total of 38 participants, including twenty farmers, met at the Island Food Community of Pohnpei Training Center (IFCP) for a workshop for sharing information relating to health issues, crop varieties and local food production. The workshop was coordinated by Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs, College of Micronesia-FSM, and IFCP, and was opened and led by Adelino Lorens, Chief of Agriculture.

Dr. Rally Jim, Guest Speaker, shared with participants about the alarming situation in Pohnpei relating to health. As he pointed out, **"One in three Pohnpei adults (aged 25 to 64 years of age) now suffer from diabetes, as shown by the 2002 Pohnpei STEPs survey data."**

He explained that the primary risk factors are overweight and obesity, diet and physical activity. There was no documented diabetes in Pohnpei in 1948, at the time of a US Navy study, which shows that **the traditional diet/lifestyles protected people against this disease and still could.**

Farmers provided information about the varieties of banana, breadfruit, coconut and other tree and timber crops that they grow on their land. All farmers reported that they have Utin Ruk and Inahsio, and Karat, but many did not have the banana varieties of Peleu, Iemwahn, Utiak, Karat en Iap, Mangat, and Ihpali.

As to breadfruit, most all farmers had the varieties Meihupw, Meikalak and Meinuwe, but very few had Mei Kole. For coconut, all farmers had the varieties Nih Toal and Nih Weita, and three-fourths had Nih Adohl, the variety of which one can chew the sweet juicy husk.

Most farmers were aware of the Pohnpei Bananas poster, which provides information on health and about the amounts of the provitamin A carotenoid, beta-carotene, contained in the yellow-fleshed varieties. Many did not know about the information in the poster, including the fact that Utin Iap, one of the rarest bananas in Pohnpei, contains the most beta-carotene, which provides health benefits. Many people also do not understand well about the causes of diabetes, namely poor diet and lifestyle, including low physical activity.

The farmers discussed and listed the major problems to crop production as follows: loss of traditional knowledge and skills of agroforestry farming practices; poor soil fertility; lack of farming tools, supplies, and equipment; lack of planting materials; neglect; stealing; an excess of competing activities; and the growing population.

Participants enjoyed the fresh drinking coconuts and local food lunch catered by Sepio Donre's catering service.

Thanks are extended to all participants, and the donor agency Sight and Life, supporting workshop costs.