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Pohnpei "foreign investors" take their case to the United States

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) – June 10, 2009 – The "big names" included as defendants in a complaint filed on June 10, 2009 in the US District Court in Saipan by Robert and Patti Arthur, US citizens residing in Pohnpei, and FSM citizens Bethwel and Marihne Henry have attracted headlines in newspapers in the Pacific.

The plaintiffs named as defendants: The State of Pohnpei; the Federated States of Micronesia Development Bank (FSMDB); US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in her official capacity, and US Secretary of

the Department of the Interior Ken Salazar, also in his official capacity.

In the 15 page complaint, the "big names" were mentioned in only one paragraph. The plaintiffs asked the US court to order the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to stop releasing any funds "to Pohnpei or to the FSM for the benefit of Pohnpei, for any purpose whatsoever."

The plaintiffs, through counsel Douglas F. Cushnie, sued the defendants for breach of contract, breach of Compact, and unjust enrichment.

The dispute centers on a \$620,000 loan given to AHPW, Incorporated that was administered by the FSM Development Bank in 1993 at the instruction of an FSM entity which no longer exists that was named the Federated Development Authority (FDA).

According to Robert Arthur the FDA consisted of the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and the four State Governors.

The money for the loan was provided by the United States Government in order to develop private sector investments in Pohnpei. The fund was intended, according to 30 FSM Code 301, to "contribute to the furtherance of close economic and commercial relations between the United States of America and the Federated States of Micronesia [and] encourage the productive presence of citizens and commercial enterprises of the United States in the Federated States of Micronesia..."

The AHPW, Incorporated loan was for the establishment of two entrepreneurial enter-

See "AHPW, Inc" on Page 2

APIIL Meets in Pohnpei



The Association of Pacific Island Legislators
SEE PAGE 4

Japanese Government makes Pohnpei donations

- See back page -



From Left: Rep. JICA Mr. Hamada, Amb. Sato, Director Keller, doctors and nurses of State Hospital

US Army inducts 20 more FSM citizens



20 new young FSM citizen recruit submitted to the United States Army's Oath of Enlistment at Pohnpei's Ocean View Plaza on Friday June 20, 2009. They were Harvey Allen, Vinton Benjamin, Judith Chunn, Waldis Clark, Gilton Esau, Mavricks Hedson, Oneil Curtis Iriarte, Donna Joldersma, Josephine Lebehn, Lancelot Lebehn, Benjamin Mike, Anthony Minoske, Albertus Noah, Ricky Olerag, Lynson Panuel, Fred Abner Sigras, Yolanda Silbanuz, Achilles Susaia, Vincent Taulung, and Darryl Weitag.

Read E-Waste Part 2

How Big of a Problem is E-Waste?

Part 2 of a 4-part series on E-Waste - Pg. 6
"e-waste" is a term that is used to describe waste that has come from broken or unwanted electronics or electrical devices

...AHPW, Inc

Continued from front page

prises in Pohnpei, both of which operated successfully in Pohnpei for a few years employing many Pohnpeians. During that time AHPW, Inc. made on time loan payments.

The US Court in Saipan has made no rulings in the case. The basic issue of whether or not the court has jurisdiction in the matter has not yet been answered by the court. Since the Federated States of Micronesia is a sovereign nation, the issue of jurisdiction will be an important one for the court to decide

It may yet be some time before the US Court makes any rulings on the matter brought before it. The FSM Development Bank was served the complaint on June 19, 2009. At press time the State of Pohnpei had not yet acknowledged receipt of service.

In the FSM Supreme Court, Justice Marvin Yamase earlier ruled that the Arthurs and the Henrys are personally liable for the \$620,000 loan taken by AHPW, Incorporated.

The Arthurs disagree with that ruling.

Robert and Patti Arthur have lived and done business in Pohnpei for more than 40 years. They were placed under house arrest and their US passports confiscated after they were found to be guilty of contempt of court in the FSM Supreme Court after refusing to sell their shares in Apple Computer as the FSM Supreme Court had ordered them to do as a partial payment of the FSM court ordered judgment against them.

According to the Pohnpei State Attorney General's office, though Pohnpei State stands to benefit from any money received as payment on the judgment against the Arthurs and the Henrys it was not a party to the lawsuit filed for collection of the loan by the FSM Development Bank.

Robert Arthur says that paying the loan would be tantamount to paying Pohnpei State for the privilege of having been driven out of business by the State. He said that as far as he is concerned the issue that led to their house

arrest, though it technically had to do with the forced sale of their shares in Apple Computer, really has to do with the fact that they do not feel that it is just or fair to have to pay the loan back to an arm of the government that acted to make it impossible for them to repay the loan.

AHPW, Incorporated won a judgment against Pohnpei State in the matter. (FSM Supreme Court CA number 1999-053) The FSM Supreme Court found that Pohnpei State had driven AHPW, Incorporated out of the Pohnpei Pepper business by operating in direct competition with the private enterprise. The state through its practices artificially inflated the purchase price for pepper.

The Court also ruled that the State, by neglecting to authorize a trochus shell harvest as it had promised to do had by its inaction for several years also destroyed AHPW's trochus button manufacturing business.

Pohnpei State has paid a portion of the judgment ordered by the court but two bills submitted by Governor John Ehsa to the Pohnpei State Legislature late last year did not pass. The bills the Governor submitted would have appropriated the remaining amount of money due to AHPW, Incorporated under the judgment. The remaining amount of that court ordered money judgment is still outstanding and interest is accruing on a daily basis.

The question of whether or not the Arthur's and the Henry's were personally liable for the FSM Development Bank loan was handled at FSM Supreme Court as a separate issue. The Arthurs have long contended that the two matters should have been handled together since each matter has a bearing on the other. They made the same argument in their complaint at the US District Court.

The matters were not handled that way and Justice Yamase ruled that they were personally liable as guarantors of the loan.

FSMDB sued the Arthurs and the Henrys but did not sue AHPW, Incorporated which is an issue that was included as a foundation in the complaint filed at the US District Court in Saipan.

The complaint filed in the US District Court

tests the theory that since the money was given as a grant to the Federated States of Micronesia by the US Government, a US Federal Court has jurisdiction in the matter.

FSM Development Bank was the agent assigned to handle loan paper work, a job that the Arthurs and the Henrys say was botched.

AHPW Attorney Cushnie said in the complaint that FSMDB had been told repeatedly that the Arthurs and the Henrys were not granted the loan and that they personally had no right to receive IDF loan funds. He said in the complaint that qualified recipients of IDF money are in part, "corporations with a minimum of 20 percent citizen ownership interest." Cushnie claims that FSMDB insisted that the Arthurs and the Henrys were the borrowers but on the day of trial FSMDB changed its position and asserted that AHPW was the borrower although the corporation was never sued.

The trial court determined that AHPW was the primary obligor by changing the loan documents and amending the pleadings in that trial. That decision was upheld on appeal.

The complaint in the US court said that as a result of the change in the loan documents at the beginning of the trial on the matter, AHPW, Incorporated was prevented from asserting defenses it had at trial regarding alleged unlawful conduct of FSMDB in administering the FDA loan.

It said that during the period of time that AHPW conducted its business operations it requested FSMDB's assistance in preventing the State of Pohnpei from destroying its business. The complaint said that FSMDB failed and refused to take any action to prevent the destruction of the business.

The filing alleges that FSMDB failed to comply with the statutory provisions and as a result breached its obligations to the United States under the statutes that created the FDA, the newly created FSM agency under which US Compact funds such as the IDF were made available for investment. The FSMDB was responsible to the FDA to administer all loans, guarantees and legal actions to enforce payment obligation.

The Arthurs and the Henrys allege through their filing that the FSMDB did not prepare the loan documents according to the FDA's instructions but instead prepared documents that made the Arthurs and the Henrys the borrowers and the guarantors. It alleges that the Arthurs and the Henrys never applied for the loan and if they had, they would not have been eligible for the loan in the first place according to the law that made the loan funds available.

The US filing alleges that the destruction of AHPW's business by Pohnpei State meant that AHPW nor the Arthurs nor the Henrys could repay the IDF money. It says that the US Compact of Free Association as amended in 2003 says that if a grant recipient has previously handled US grants in an unsatisfactory manner they will be barred from receiving future grants. It alleges that Pohnpei State handled the IDF grant in an unsatisfactory manner and that Pohnpei State should therefore be barred from receiving future grant assistance from the United States.

The Arthurs and the Henrys have asked for the US Court to award damages to be paid by FSMDB and Pohnpei State equivalent to all principal and interest payments made by AHPW during the loan period and accrued thereafter. They have asked as well for the return of prejudgment interest

They have asked the court to bar the State of Pohnpei from receiving any further grant assistance from the United States.

The court has been asked to enter a judgment in the US against Pohnpei State based upon the ruling of the FSM Supreme Court that found for AHPW, Incorporated after the State acted to drive them out of business. As enforcement of the asked judgment they ask for the court to issue a writ of execution or garnishment against all Pohnpei State assets held in the United States.

They have asked for the court to issue a restraining order and permanent injunction that would keep FSMDB from seizing any shares of AHPW or from receiving any of the funds from AHPW's judgment against Pohnpei State.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Chief Executive Council meets in Pohnpei to discuss FSM PetroCorp proposal

FSM Information Services

Palikir, Pohnpei - FSM PetroCorp (FSMPC) facilitated the bringing together of the Chief Executive Council (CEC) last week on Wednesday, June 10th, to give them an update on the business operations during the first year of operation, the current financial status of the Corporation, and to present to them a proposal on utilizing the \$2 million Japan Non-Project Grant Aid (JNPGA) that former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori was instrumental in securing for the FSM after he witnessed power outages in both Pohnpei and Chuuk States.

The Chief Executive Council is made up of the four FSM Governors and the FSM President. (Note: this CEC is different from the CEC, Chief Executive Conference, which has the same Principals) Each Governor was present, minus

Governor Robert Weilbacher from Kosrae State, who was off-island on a prior engagement. Representing Kosrae State was their Attorney General, Ms. JD Lee.

The reason the CEC was called in for this FSMPC report is because they are the tertiary level of oversight of the public corporation, preceded by the FSMPC Board of Directors, who were also present, and the FSMPC management team, which has the primary level of oversight.

The Chairman of the Board of FSMPC, Mr. William Hawley, opened the meeting. Mr. Hawley stated that FSMPC wanted to report back to the Principals on an overall review of where FSMPC came from, where it is now, and to seek guidance on the vision and mission of FSMPC to help guide it into the future.

Mr. Jared Morris, Chief Executive Of-

ficer of FSMPC, gave an annual report on the operations of FSMPC and filled in the CEC on the history and status of the corporation. Mr. Morris focused on the financing of FSMPC, which started out at 100% debt financing, amounting to \$12 million. Since operations began in July of 2008, FSMPC has been able to pay down almost \$7 million on their loans, creating a lower debt to credit ratio and providing a more stable corporation. This was done by providing stable gas/diesel prices by only changing them once a month and keeping them at sustainable levels. Mr. Morris stated that currently gas prices have stabilized at the level they predicted and diesel has come in lower than they predicted, hence the recent decrease in diesel prices. By not passing on the fluctuation in oil prices to the retail pumps, FSMPC was able to generate more than \$4 million in surplus. President Mori asked if FSMPC had any timetable or plan to offer shares of the

corporation for private investors, but at this time, there is no such plan.

FSMPC also presented a proposal for the JNPGA \$2 million energy grant award to improve the financial stability of FSMPC and provide relief to the public utility corporations in all four FSM states. This first-time, non-cash aid award is to be used primarily for energy related issues, as was determined at the last State-National Leadership Conference that was held in Palikir on May 12, 2009. In this proposal, FSMPC would use the award to purchase diesel fuel and pay off more of their loan, putting FSMPC into the "green" category of having less than 20% debt in its financial picture. The money saved with this, would then be deposited into a money-making account and would provide for yearly grants of around \$35,000 to each of the four FSM utilities to support their operation and maintenance. Also, a line of credit would be extended to each utility, giving them extra days to pay for diesel fuel used to generate island power. By doing this, it would provide a "safety net" to the utility-

See "CEC" on page 5

Do It Best Hardware

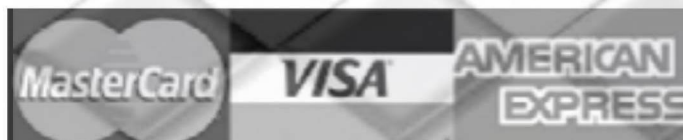
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Association of Pacific Island Legislators meets in Pohnpei

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Peilapalap, Pohnpei – The 28th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislators met at the Pohnpei Legislative Session Hall. The meetings which attracted members from nine Pacific Island nations and the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia opened on June 9, 2009.

The primary topic of the 28th General Assembly of APIL centered on the US military build up in Guam and its effect on the Pacific Islands. The legislators from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the FSM States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap, the Island of Guam, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Palau, and the State of Hawaii heard presentations from a diverse group of speakers. The speakers delivered messages regarding the military buildup in Guam in terms of educational preparedness, infrastructure needs, regional opportunities, and economic outlooks expected as a result of the buildup. Legislators also heard presentations on the efforts of Reach Out Pacific and their charitable efforts on behalf of the Pacific Islands. They also discussed grant writing and web technology that could benefit the islands.

Before the 28th General Assembly adjourned members passed 14 resolutions. Not all of the resolutions were provided to the Kaselehlie Press. APIL staff member Walden Weillbacher said that those resolutions were congratulatory in nature but

didn't elaborate further:

28-GA-01 - *"Urging the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures Regional Governments to request that the spouses, children, and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants be allowed to enter, engage in occupations, and establish residence as non-immigrants in the United States and its territories."*

28-GA-02, CD1 - *"To request that President Barack Obama, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, and the United States Attorney General ensure that the regulations implementing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 include China and Russia in the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands Visa Waiver Program."*

28-GA-03 - *"Expressing the deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) to the family and friends of the late Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur for his untimely passing."*

28-GA-05, CD1 - *"Relative to supporting the establishment of the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future, an administrative, research and development center for the Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit and the Micronesian Presidents' Summit and further requesting for greater participation in the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future by allowing for direct representation from its members and authorizing the involvement of the APIL President or designee in the ongoing*



strategic development plan process for the Center."

28-GA-06 - *"Expressing the support of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the efforts of the Legislature of the Island of Guam to establish aboriginal indigenous fishing rights within the Island of Guam, and to request that the President of the United States include Guam with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands relative to providing that subsistence and traditional aboriginal indigenous fishing shall be managed as a sustainable activity consistent with other applicable laws therein."*

28-GA-08 - *"Expressing the strong support of the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the efforts by Guam to enter into intergovernmental agreements in support of the military build-up."*

28-GA-09 - *"Requesting the leadership of the Federated States of Micronesia to support efforts by the College of Micronesia-FSM to supply trained personnel for the military build-up on Guam."*

28-GA-10 - *"Respectfully requesting the United States Department of Defense and the Governments of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the private sectors, educational institutions, trade organizations and non-profit associations involved in preparing for the military build-up, to make an extra special effort to extend the benefits of the build-up to the citizens of the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Kiribati."*

28-GA-11 - *"Requesting the leadership of Micronesia to build air links between United States-in-*

fluenced Micronesia and Commonwealth-influenced Micronesia."

28-GA-13 - *"Respectfully requesting the United States Department of Defense to commence a dialogue with the APIL member jurisdiction governments to explore appropriate means by which to share with the Pacific Island governments vital information about the surrounding seas, gained through the state of the art technology being emplaced on Guam that can readily and accurately detect and monitor the activities of vessels operating in the Pacific which may be violating national laws and international agreements."*

28-GA-14 - *"Expressing the commendation and appreciation of the 28th Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) General Assembly to all the Presenters for the informative and thorough presentation to the Assembly."*

Each of the resolutions has sufficient information accompanying them to warrant full stories of their own. Interested readers can find the full text of the resolutions at www.apilpacific.com.

APIL's President, Senator Kalani English of Hawaii was reelected for another term with APIL. He said that he has seen the strength of APIL grow since he became a member and that he wants to continue to move the organization forward. He said that he hopes to see APIL develop a more international membership. He hoped to one day see French Polynesia join the group as well as other South Pacific Island nations.

APIL met through Thursday, June 11 and sponsored a fishing derby on June 12 with over \$2000 in cash prizes for the top fisherman. All of the fish caught on that day were donated to the Pohnpei State Hospital.

The next meeting of the Association of Pacific Island Legislators will be held in Honolulu in December of this year.



APIL Executive team, Vice President (Palau) Rebluud Kesolei, Secretary (Guam) Judith Won Pat, President (Hawaii) J. Kalani English, Treasurer (Marshall Islands) Alik J. Alik, 28th General Assembly, Pohnpei, FSM



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The ocean around us; what it means to the FSM and us as individuals

-A CELEBRATION OF WORLD OCEAN DAY-

The Tuna Commission and the National Oceanic Resources Management Agency celebrated the 13th World Ocean Day on June 8 with a ceremony to present prizes to winners of an essay contest. All schools in Pohnpei were invited to participate on the theme The Ocean around us; what it means for the FSM and us as individuals. The essays offered great ideas about how absolutely important the ocean is to our environment, economy, climate and as a bridge between peoples. The three judges, Emy Musrasrik of Peace Corps, Eugene Joseph of Pohnpei Conservation Society and Brian Lynch of College of Micronesia chose essays by:

*Kevin K. Ihara
Merlisa Isaac
Avriel Mercillo
Tyana Musrasrik
Erick Olter
Irene Ongesel, and
Danalyn Worswick*

as being particularly outstanding, however all participants were highly praised. World Ocean Day is an annual event celebrated worldwide to provide an opportunity to think and learn about ocean creatures and habitats, and ways to become a caretaker. A big thank you to all those that helped Pohnpei join the global event by participating in the essay contest. Congratulations to the winners and big thanks to the judges for their hard work.

...CEC

Continued from page 2

ties so that they can obtain fuel to provide consistent island power and not run out of diesel. It would also allow them to free up cash to purchase equipment and parts for generators that are down, so they can be repaired and begin working again in a shorter amount of time.

Morris explained that this would provide a uniform benefit package to all the states in terms of energy relief. It would also allow for FSMPC to begin providing fuel at a lower cost.

One issue that came up was the equitability of the proposal for the states and national government. Each state has different fuel needs and cash flow issues at the utilities corporations. The CEC met in a private meeting, without FSMPC present, to discuss and come up with an equitable division of the \$2 million package, and in the end, tentatively agreed to look further into it. The tentative breakdown of the funds would have Chuuk getting 35%, Pohnpei 30%, Yap 15% and Kosrae 12%. The National Government would get 8%, but this, in turn, would go to paying for the Crown agents to service the purchase of fuel. Kosrae State still needs Gov. Weilbacher to sign off

on the proposal, and President Mori expressed concerns on how FSMPC would invest the money since investment management is not a primary function of the corporation. A separate meeting was set up for FSMPC to get back to the President on his concern, and on Friday, June 12th, a meeting was held and all issues were resolved.

The CEC also met the following day, as the Chief Executive Conference Principals, for a breakfast meeting to discuss a few other issues that the Department of Resources and Development wanted to bring before them. They discussed the FSM fisheries project, which will repair the existing fisheries plant in Pohnpei facilitated by a Chinese loan of \$16 million, power generation issues like setting a National Policy on Energy, and sea transport; creating a centralized service for sea transportation and uniform regulations. The Principals decided that the next CEC will be held in Majuro, in mid-July, when all the Principals will be attending the 11th Micronesian Chief Executives Conference from July 13-17 hosted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

How Big of a Problem is E-Waste?

By Robert Spegal

This is number two in a series of four awareness messages about e-waste. Support for this activity is provided by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) and the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. The information contained in these messages is from a variety of on-line and off-line sources.

"E-waste" is a term that is used to describe a type of waste consisting of broken or unwanted electronic or electrical devices. Although some of the products that become e-waste have been imported and into the FSM for the last 20 or 30 years, the quantity has been relatively small until the late 1980s. Since that time, the number of imported computers, fax machines, televisions, various types of telephones, printers, large and small household appliances, entertainment systems, electric tools, and batteries has increased dramatically. As a result, in the FSM there has also been an increase in the amount of e-waste that must be properly managed.

The e-waste problem is not a new one in some parts of the world. Many European countries banned e-wastes from being disposed in landfills in the 1990s. Many of the components of e-waste type of products are considered toxic and are not biodegradable. Thus, there is the potential for environmental damage, and this has occurred in the past. Switzerland was the first nation to implement an e-waste recycling system in 1991, beginning with the collections of old refrigerators. Other items were added during the following years. The key to the system is that most e-waste items are recyclable by re-using the parts, or by processing the materials back into raw materials for recycling.

In the US there is no national policy or legislation dealing with e-wastes, but many states have laws banning certain items from disposal in landfills. A Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) is a main component in monitors and television sets and can include lead and other heavy metals equal to more than 6% of the CRT's total weight. Heavy metals have contaminated ground water in communities across the US, so there is much public awareness of the problem, which in

turn has led to state laws. Lead/tin solder on printed circuit boards (a component in many modern large and small appliances) is another substance which can leech into ground water. It is estimated that e-waste is equal to about 2% of all the trash in US landfills. However, 70% of all toxic waste in the landfills is in the form of e-waste.

In Pacific island countries and territories, the e-waste problem is a growing one. The connection between economic devel-

The photo below shows a gray computer monitor (there is a CRT inside) discarded with other trash near an elementary school in Pohnpei State. If the glass of this monitor were to be broken by some students, the students could be exposed to dangerous substances.



opment and waste generation is obvious in every island community; there is more trash being generated by the population than there was 20 or 30 years ago. Consider the number of containers arriving at the dock. A container is loaded with either food or non-food products. Almost all of the non-food products will eventually become trash, and will need to be disposed somewhere. Improper dumping of items containing e-wastes creates pollution which can cause health problems, and can also damage the environment.

Although the 2003 to 2007 import information provided by the FSM's Tax and Revenue Office in Palikir gives an idea of how many potential e-waste products arrive in the country each year, the five year time period is too short to identify trends. However, a look at some of the numbers can help illustrate the size of the FSM's e-waste problem. For example, the data indicates that 4,372 television sets arrived in the FSM during the five years. Sooner or later, all of these sets will break. Repairs may be done, but eventually every one of these sets will be discarded. For discussion's sake let's say that the average TV set weighs about 25 pounds, and most of this weight is the CRT. Using the 6% figure referenced above, those 4,372 discarded television sets would add more than 6,500 pounds of lead and other heavy metals into our islands' environments.

We are only counting TV sets in this example. Remember there are dozens of different potential e-waste products, from air conditioners to cell phones to washing machines, imported each year. It is important to handle the disposal of these items properly. Human exposure to the toxic substances in e-waste items can lead to serious health problems, and even death.

GPPC, Inc. Donated \$6,000 to Xavier High School in Chuuk

GPPC, Inc., an Airport Improvement Project Contractor in Yap and home-based out of Saipan generously donated \$6,000 to Xavier High School through the Friends of Xavier in Pohnpei (FOXP) Organization. The company's CEO, Mr. Chieng Tan, commented that this is a gesture of his company's commitment in supporting student learning in FSM, RMI, and Palau. Mr. Tan is also a supporter of higher student learning in the Northern Marianas. Other donors include Genesis Family Clinic donating \$1,000. The rest of the donations came from alumni, friends, and family. The goal of the drive was to complement a donation from the Government of Japan to renovate the Callaghan Hall into a student center. The islands across Micronesia all donated to this effort.



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Calling All Soccer Players



Pohnpei's soccer players have an exciting opportunity this summer as former player, organizer and coach, Charles Musana, is bringing

two English coaches to the island.

Pohnpei's veteran soccer player Charles Musana, who now lives in London, England, is returning to the island in mid-July for a fortnight and is bringing English amateur soccer players Paul Watson and Matthew Conrad with him.

With the help of local coaches Edwin Sione and Dilshan Senarathgoda and others, the trio hope to promote soccer in Pohnpei, form a state team, and re-launch the na-

tional team, which has been inactive for 6 years.

Watson, who plays for English team East Fulham, plans to return to Pohnpei in September to aid in the formation of a sponsored league competition and to coach the national team players.

Preliminary talks are currently underway to secure sponsorship that will allow Pohnpei's team to play fixtures against other entities, such as Guam and Saipan. Details will be revealed once the trio have met and

discussed their plans with local authorities and with local sports administration bodies in Pohnpei and FSM.

The hope is that a large number of players of all levels will take the chance to play the game in July, helping soccer build roots for the future.

This summer's events will also be filmed for a documentary about football on Pohnpei (and possibly FSM), which will later be shown in the United Kingdom.

Chinese Ambassador says her farewells in Pohnpei

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM - June 19, 2009 – Chinese Ambassador to the FSM Liu Fei hosted a party for FSM dignitaries at the Cliff Rainbow hotel on Friday, June 19. The Ambassador, currently the dean of the diplomatic corps will be leaving Pohnpei on the 30th of June to continue her duties elsewhere. She said that her replacement will be in Pohnpei before the end of the month.

Vice President Alik Alik gave a farewell address on behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Ambassador Liu's speech follows:

Dear Friends,
Good evening and warm welcome to my farewell reception tonight. This year, we are going to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. With our joint efforts, Sino-FSM relations have withstood the test of the fast changing international situation. We have built up increasingly closer contacts at all levels, and depended mutual understanding and trust. Remarkable results have also been achieved in exchanges and cooperation in various fields such as politics, economics and trade, agriculture, fishery, transportation, education, health and alternative energy. Vice President Alik Alik will have an official visit to China in July. The visit will play an important roll to further strengthen the friendship and cooperation.

China appreciates that President Mori attaches great importance to the China-FSM relationship, and has made important contributions to the development of China-FSM supportive relationship. The FSM is an important friend to China. China attaches great importance to China-FSM relationship. It is in the interests of both peoples to comprehensively strengthen China-FSM friendly cooperation.

During my tenure here, I enjoy working with the national leaders, congress senators, traditional leaders, governors, state legislature senators, the US Embassy, the Australian Embassy, the Japanese Embassy and the local people. I would like to thank you all for the strong support and kind assistance to me. Especially for this reception, I would like to thank Hon. Mr. & Mrs. Peter Christian for sponsored the big pig, Mrs. Shra Alik and Kosraean community for the good food, Mrs. Ignacia Rober and Likie Youth, Pohnpei state and the Pilot Farm and Luen Tai Fishing company to help make this reception a remarkable one.

To conclude, I would like to point out that looking back, we find the achievements in China-FSM relations a source of great satisfaction. Looking ahead, we see a promising prospect in the relations.

*I wish to propose a toast:
To the China-FSM friendly relations and cooperation, and the friendship between our two peoples,
To your health,
Thank you.*



MARY BERMAN Attorney

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Surgeons at Chuuk State Hospital learn state of the art technique

The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). funds a Tertiary Health Service to the Pacific Island Countries program (PIP).

This program currently has a team of surgeons working in Chuuk Sate hospital. PIP is managed by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

This health initiative provides short term visits for a variety of medical specialties to 11 Pacific Island Countries. Medical specialties include cardiac surgery, ENT, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, paediatric surgery, laparoscopy, plastic and reconstructive surgery, psychiatry, urology, radiology, and a diabetes training program.

All project participants volunteer, without being paid for their time.

□ They aim to work as closely as possible with local doctors and medical staff to help

develop their skills enabling them to continue to provide these types of medical services in the future.

The team in Chuuk from 9-20 June consists of:

- Surgeon: Professor Sydney Chung, Port Moresby (PNG), Hong Kong
- Anaesthetist: Dr Harry Aigeeleng, Port Moresby
- Nurse: Mrs Eunice Lam, Port Moresby..

Previously, the team has trained surgeons in Port Moresby and Pohnpei. Following a request from Chuuk State Hospital, the team is now helping local surgeons learn the new technique of laparoscopy. This technique does away with large scars and painful surgery.

Instead of painful cuts, patients now receive keyhole surgery. A number of small keyhole cuts are made, each about a quarter of an inch wide. Special equipment is used, including a tiny video camera and tools to perform the surgery.

For the patient, it means less pain, quicker recovery and no scar. They are able to return to normal activities much faster.

Chuuk State Hospital now has a fully functional set of laparoscopy equipment, some

bought from local resources and some donated by RACS.

Since their arrival, the team has been busy delivering lectures and training staff on how to use the equipment. The first operation was conducted on Friday 12 June – a tubal ligation. A number of gall bladder removals are also scheduled .

Professor Sydney Chung said that this was very much leading edge technology and he was impressed with the level of interest shown.

"I am pleased that in a developing country like FSM, and in Chuuk State in particular, first world medical practices can be readily adopted. Local surgeons are very enthusiastic," Professor Chung commented.



Dr Kennedy Remit trying out the new instruments as Dr Herliep Nowell and Professor Chung look on.



U.S. Embassy Kolonia July 4th Open House for U.S. Citizens

Saturday, July 4, 2009 from 11:00am until 2:00pm

In honor of America's Independence Day, the U.S. Embassy invites all U.S. citizens and their families to visit our new embassy grounds in Nett, Pohnpei. Guests may arrive and leave at any time during the open house hours. The event is informal, so t-shirts and shorts are fine.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, cookies and soda provided

Live Music by "Impromptu"

Restrictions

- U.S. citizens *MUST* bring a U.S. passport to gain admission.
- Non U.S. citizen spouses and non U.S. citizen children (age 17 and under only) of U.S. citizens are welcome to attend with the U.S. citizen.
- Non U.S. citizen spouses must show some form of photo ID (driver's license, passport, etc.) to gain admission.

Cameras and cell phones not allowed on Embassy compound



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Kahmar Business Promotes Recycling



By Mary Chang

With successful recycling businesses in Guam and Saipan, the owners of Mai Xiong Recycling have banked on the hope that recycling will take off on Pohnpei too. Located on Kahmar Road (coming from Kolonia, make a right turn before the Nett bridge), the company has been open since 2007. They accept and will pay for a wide range of used materials including aluminum and steel cans, car batteries, wires, motors, and air conditioners, among other things. They are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30-5:00, and offer limited pick-up by appointment: 320-3388.

and trash alongside the road. The company is interested in having more of a presence on-island by doing outreach and would like to work with restaurants, businesses, and those involved in trash disposal to facilitate and coordinate the organization of recyclable materials. In addition, Mai Xiong Recycling welcomes school trips to the scrap yard to talk about and promote the concept of recycling.

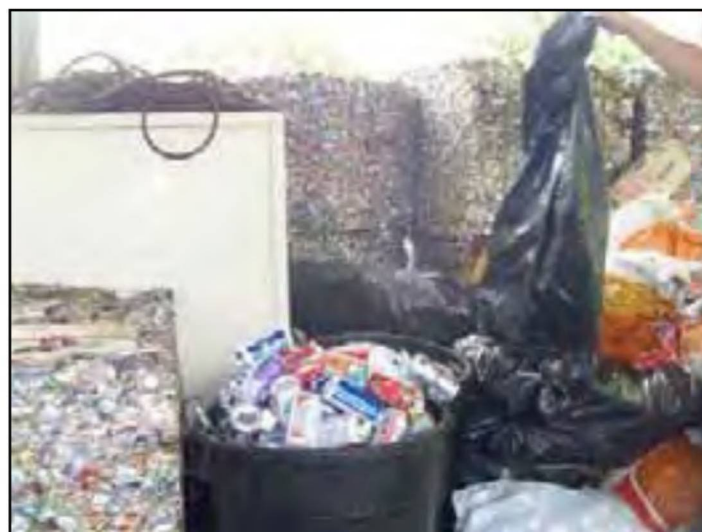
Payment for recyclable material is not high—one kg of cans can earn you 25 cents. Yet considering the lack of a government initiated and supported aluminum can recycling program such as the one that exists on Kosrae, supporting the local scrap yard by eliminating waste from the island and keeping it out of the dump, does not seem a bad option until better systems are in place.

Ms. Ma says, "Recycling starts at home." It is a habit that people must learn especially on an island that has limited space for trash disposal; recycling and conserving materials is a necessity, she says, for developing a healthier and cleaner environment.

Mai Xiong Recycling
Hours: M-Sat 8:30-5:00
320-3388; 320-5588
Free limited pick-up available by appointment. Call for a list of recyclable materials and payment amounts.

According to Ms. MA Qing, the company's collection and distribution manager, "Our business is simple. We pay people for their recyclable waste material, and organize and package it for container shipment off-island so that it can be reused." When the private company first started, it employed between 20-30 people, but business has dropped in the past year and they've had to reduce their full time staff to five, which has affected their ability to transport more recyclable material from businesses and homes.

While hopeful that business will improve, she makes it clear that the company does not support illegal and dangerous scavenging, but says that some regulars who are diligent can make up to \$30 a day by bringing in materials they gather from acquaintances



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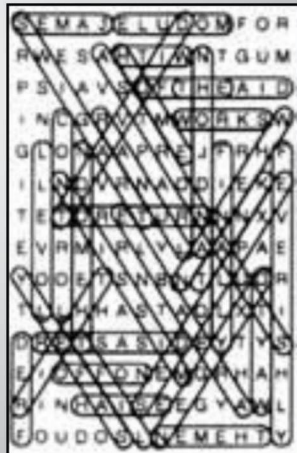
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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at:
- rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press:

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The Community Celebrates Renovation of Island Food Multipurpose Building

By Dr. Lois Englberger

Excitement and touching moments highlighted the handing over ceremony of the newly renovated multipurpose building of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) located in the Botanical Garden, Kolonia, on June 17, 2009.

Over 70 people attended the occasion, with Pohnpei State Governor John Ehsa and Ambassador of Japan Shoji Sato providing official remarks.

IFCP Adelino Lorens welcomed all and explained that the building belongs to the Pohnpei State Government and had previously been a garage but this had become very run-down. The old rusty roof of the workshop area has now been repaired and the extension room is renovated. The cost of the project was \$21,927, and was provided by the Government of Japan Grass-roots Human Security Projects. The Capitol Fabricators, Inc. company did the excellent contracting work.

Governor Ehsa spoke from his heart saying, "This has been our dream to have a center for the island food promotion work." He also pointed out that the school lunch program including local foods will be initiated in the next school term. He praised the work of IFCP and encouraged Dr. Lois Englberger and supporters to keep it up.

Ambassador Sato amazed the crowd as he presented his words in fluent Pohnpeian. Pohnpeian speakers noted that he spoke very clearly.

People enjoyed his saying that there is no more need to worrying about the roof falling down during a workshop.

Ambassador Sato made a reference to the high rate of obesity and diabetes in Pohnpei and all of FSM and agreed to IFCP's principle that "the healthy diet is crucial for the active human life, and island foods are ideal for all island people to spend less money and to eat healthier." He referred to collaborative work between IFCP and Japanese colleagues, including a workshop on "Fish Consumption Promotion."

Nine members of the Let's Go Local PICS High School Club, colorfully dressed in their yellow Let's Go Local t-shirts, entertained the group after the official remarks. Led by IFCP, this group has taken on a mission of presenting key points about the values of local food to elementary school students in fun ways, including games and songs. Since its formation in 2007, this club has made presentations to about 350 elementary school students in three different Pohnpei schools.

They sang the Let's Go Local song, with guitar accompaniment, warming the crowd, and in the end, participants joined in the chorus: "Let's go local! Let's

grow local! Let's eat local! Let's stay local!" The composer of the song, Mr. Gibson Santos, was acknowledged. On this day he also presented as a gift to IFCP a beautiful wooden bowl, hand-carved from Terminalia. It was given a centerpiece position, and filled with some unique nutritious Pohnpei bananas, including Karat and Utin Iap.

Following the ceremonies was a tour of the

IFCP Training Center and a local food lunch catered by Sepio Donre and served on traditional biodegradable plates using coconut and banana leaves. A display was made of the locally made solar dryer and the charcoal oven, and notes were made about the importance of going forward with small scale processing of local food.

Thanks are given to Sight and Life for supporting this event and to all those participating, including partner agencies and communities. Thanks are also given to Ms. Satoko Maeda of the Japanese Embassy for assistance in writing this article.



IFCP Team Again Teaches "CHEEF" Benefits of Local Food at Camp Glow

By Dr. Lois Englberger

An enthusiastic 17-member Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) team, including the Let's Go Local PICS High School Club, joined over 65 Camp Glow female Class Eight students and facilitators on June 16, 2009, held at Nihco Marine Park, for teaching about the "CHEEF" benefits of local foods.

These benefits are: Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food security. Gailliard Eliou, the past president of the Let's Go Local High School Club, who taught at Camp Glow 2008, again provided a fun class. He taught about Karat and how it contains rich levels of carotenoids, and also vitamin B2, or riboflavin, and how it has so much of riboflavin that it is more than our bodies need and goes out in the urine, making it yellow. This explanation brought forth peals of laughter!

Areline Joakim, IFCP Local Food Educator, led another fun activity. This was the presentation of five varieties of ripe fresh yellow-fleshed carotenoid-rich bananas, having special health benefits, and three other varieties, and leading the Banana Varieties Identification Game. The varieties were: Karat, Utin Iap, Daiwang, Akadahn,

Akadahn Weitahta, Inahsio, Utin Ruk and Utin Menihle. A Camp Glow student was blindfolded and provided a Daiwang banana to feel, taste and smell, and asked to identify the banana. To everyone's delight, she identified it correctly, and all cheered!

To close the program, the Let's Go Local PICS High School Club members, dressed in their bright yellow Let's Go Local t-shirts, sang the Let's Go Local song, accompanied by McKean Peter, who played the guitar. Camp Glow girls had fun in joining in the singing.

Camp Glow is an activity led by the Pohnpei Gender and Development Committee, with support by Peace Corps Micronesia. Emy Musrasrik, one of the facilitators, welcomed IFCP members, and noted how happy she was to see the youth involved with IFCP. She also recognized some of the Let's Go Local High School members, as they had been Camp Glow students in past years.

IFCP was happy to also see the Camp Glow booklet, provided to all students. It featured color copies of the Carotenoid-Rich Foods poster, showing the differences between the yellow- and white-fleshed bananas and their important health benefits.

Thanks are given to the Forum Secretariat and Sight and Life for support in this activ-



ity and again to Camp Glow for allowing us to join in this meaningful activity.



10 of Pohnpei's top eighth grade graduates have been selected to participate as exchange students to Japan.

They are:

Maybelline Mari Ihara, Calvary Christian Academy; Maxine Iehsi, Seventh Day Adventist; Jenelle Seiola, Lewetik Elementary School; Judy Tom, Salapwuk Elementary School; Lee Roy Lynch, Our Lady of Mercy Academy; Kenneth Edmund, Nett Elementary School; Billy Epina, Saladak Elementary School; Andreas Lloyd Panuelo, Ohmine Elementary School; Nitsin Elias, Sapwalap Elementary School; Anastacio Primo, Awak Elementary School

Astronomical Tide Prediction
June 24 through July 7, 2009

	Pohnpei		Chuuk	
	6/24	07/1	6/24	07/1
Wednesday	04:14AM 4.3 11:19AM 0.7 04:55PM 2.3 09:53PM 1.2	04:08AM 2.0 09:15AM 2.6 03:59PM 1.3 11:18PM 3.2	03:04AM 2.4 11:42AM 0.0 03:42PM 0.2 06:22PM 0.1	01:37AM 1.3 01:58PM 0.4
Thursday	06/25 04:43AM 4.1 11:49AM 0.8 05:30PM 2.4 10:25PM 1.3	7/2 06:05AM 1.8 11:03AM 2.3 05:01PM 1.3	06/25 03:31AM 2.3 12:06PM 0.1 03:58PM 0.2 06:47PM 0.1	7/2 12:11AM 1.5 01:56PM 0.4
Friday	06/26 05:13AM 4.0 12:20PM 0.9 06:07PM 2.4 11:00PM 1.5	7/3 12:16AM 3.5 07:19AM 1.4 12:35PM 2.3 06:01PM 1.2	06/26 03:57AM 2.2 12:30PM 0.2 04:26PM 0.3 07:06PM 0.2	7/3 12:15AM 1.7 09:17AM 0.2
Saturday	06/27 05:44AM 3.8 12:52PM 1.0 06:51PM 2.4 11:41PM 1.7	7/4 01:06AM 3.9 08:13AM 1.0 01:42PM 2.3 06:55PM 1.1	06/27 04:20AM 2.1 12:51PM 0.2	7/4 12:39AM 2.0 09:28AM -0.1
Sunday	06/28 06:18AM 3.5 01:28PM 1.1 07:45PM 2.5	7/5 01:52AM 4.2 08:59AM 0.6 02:37PM 2.3 07:44PM 1.0	06/28 04:40AM 1.9 01:11PM 0.3	7/5 01:11AM 2.3 09:57AM -0.4
Monday	06/29 12:37AM 1.9 06:58AM 3.2 02:10PM 1.2 08:52PM 2.7	7/6 02:36AM 4.5 09:42AM 0.3 03:24PM 2.4 08:31PM 0.9	06/29 04:51AM 1.6 01:28PM 0.4	7/6 01:47AM 2.5 10:31AM -0.5
Tuesday	06/30 02:02AM 2.0 07:53AM 2.9 03:00PM 1.3 10:08PM 2.9	7/7 03:19AM 4.6 10:23AM 0.2 04:08PM 2.5 09:16PM 0.8	06/30 04:30AM 1.4 01:45PM 0.4	7/7 02:23AM 2.6 11:09AM -0.6

Loerzel to leave Guam Governor's Office for top Micronesia Challenge communications position

By Jeff Martin

Pohnpei, FSM – Adrienne Loerzel, a political and environmental veteran with more than 10 years experience as a journalist and advisor to Guam Governor Felix Camacho, has been selected as the Micronesia Challenge Communications Specialist, the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee announced today.

“Ms. Loerzel has worked on numerous Micronesia Challenge projects in collaboration with the Guam Coastal Zone Management Program, and is quite familiar with the goals and mission of this ambitious regional project,” said Marion Henry, Assistant Secretary with the FSM Department of Resources and Development and Chairman of the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee. “Her background provides her with a unique perspective on the challenge and the needs of the regional partners who will be working on this program. I have no doubt she will prove to be a tremendous asset in moving the Micronesian Challenge forward.”

Loerzel currently serves as the main environmental policy advisor for Gov. Camacho and has worked on a number of issues pertaining to the Micronesia Challenge, including coral reef conservation, water quality, and invasive species management.

In 2001 she served as the primary bill writer and research assistant for then Senator Camacho.

Prior to working in the governor's office, Loerzel was an award-winning reporter on environmental and land issues for Guam's largest daily paper, the Pacific Daily News. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Biology from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and has completed graduate courses in Environmental Science and Marine Biology at the Water and Environmental Research Institute, University of Guam.

“As a lifelong resident of Guam, I have always been passionately interested in the preservation of natural resources both on my home island and in our unique part of the world,” said Loerzel. “I have had the privilege of traveling throughout the region and have a great appreciation for the natural environment that is such a fundamental part of the island lifestyle.”

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by the Chief Executives of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

Pohnpei Landfill trash compactor funded by the Japanese Government

The Embassy of Japan

Kolonia, Pohnpei – June 8, 2009 - The Grant Contract signing ceremony for improvement of the dumpsite in Kolonia, Pohnpei State took place on June 8, 2009 in Kolonia, Pohnpei. The Project is funded by the Government of Japan in an amount of \$97,087 USD under the Grass-roots Human Security scheme and will supply a landfill compactor for more efficient and effective waste management operation at the dumpsite located in Dekehtik.

FSM, like other nations in Oceania foresees a sharp increase in waste and the environmental pollution that is associated with it.

The dumpsite in Dekehtik, Kolonia, has been used for 30 years and its waste disposal capacity has been seriously degraded over the year. In addition, the dumpsite lacks such essential waste disposal equipment as compactors a factor which contributes to a bad smell, methane gas, and spontaneous fires. Pohnpei residents have

often complained about those issues.

The landfill compactor will be able to considerably reduce the size of the waste and minimize the risk of generation of methane gas and fires.

Since the dumpsite is located near the International Airport where the runway extension project is in progress the improvement of the dumpsite will bring positive effects to attract more tourists in the FSM in the near future.

The landfill compactor itself does not change the whole state's waste disposal system but it is expected to be a big step toward better waste disposal management.

The addition of a compactor at the Dekehtik landfill will improve the dumpsite with the expected result of creating a good harmony between the development the environment, which helps to ensure human security on the island.

Japanese Government donates medical equipment to Pohnpei State Hospital

June 8, 2009, Kolonia, Pohnpei - The handing over ceremony of the project for ‘Improvement of Medical Equipment’ took place at the Pohnpei State Hospital.

US\$ 60,960 was provided under the Japan's Grass-roots Human Security Scheme to supply a Medicine Delivery Car with a refrigerator to prevent medicines from deterioration during deliveries, 2 fetal monitors and 3 incubators for improvement of medical services for perinatal patients.

In the remarks by the Ambassador Shoji Sato, he emphasized the importance of operation and maintenance for long-lasting use and bearing greater benefits to a wider population in Pohnpei State.