

# The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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# Pingelapese People's Organization holds first canoe festival



Photos courtesy of Darlene Apis



### Pingelapese People's Organization

On December 28, 2013, the Pingelapese People's Organization Incorporated (PPOI) celebrated the completion of its canoe building project with a canoe racing tournament at Sokehs Island Bay. The competition was held amongst Pingelapese who reside in Pohnpei from each of the four groups (pwekil) on Pingelap Island, namely PwekilMweniap/Pasik, PwekilPeruku/Namahl, PwekilSakarekapw/Ihlong, and PwekilKakahlia/Pelenekeus.

PPOI is a non-profit organization that became an FSM chartered organization on August 07, 1997. The organization was established in order to help promote education, to encourage better socioeconomic welfare, and to preserve the unique Pingelapese See "Canoe festival" on page 5

**-Special Edition-**  
**The Kaselehlie Press-**  
**A YEAR IN REVIEW**  
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# College of Micronesia-FSM receives \$100,000 donation from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation

FSM Information Services

December 30, 2013

At a handover ceremony at the FSM President's Office, Mr. Kasio E. Mida, Chairman of the College of Micronesia-FSM Board of Regents, and the COM-FSM Acting President Joseph Habuchmai represented the college in receiving a \$100,000 donation from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The donation was formally announced during the occasion of the trip by Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori to Hong Kong last month, during which the President also availed time to meet with the FSM Honorary Consul in Hong Kong, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Dr. Tan is the founder and chairman of the foundation.

Before giving the check to the college representatives, President Mori commented on the usefulness of this kind of support that compliments the FSM's long-term priority for post-secondary education. He also acknowledged the work done by Ambassador Akilino H. Susaia, FSM Ambassador to China, which expedited the processes to bring in this specific donation.

On behalf of the COM-FSM community, Mr. Mida thanked President Mori and conveyed the college's appreciation for his strong support over the years. He also remarked, "the gift from the Tan Sui Lin Foundation is greatly appreciated and welcome, and we will make sure the college will make good use of it to strengthen its programs for and services to our students".

COM-FSM Acting President Habuchmai joined Mr. Mida in highlighting the college's gratitude toward the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and thanked the FSM Government for its part in securing the assistance.

To protect supporters' confidence in COM-FSM, President Mori encouraged the college to put in place a particular system for the acceptance of assistance such as this in a manner that mutually addresses the good intentions of the donor and the prioritized needs of the college.

Present with President Mori were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert, Ambassador Susaia and Chief of Staff Leo Falcam Jr.

# Japan provides approximately \$1.9 million non-project grant for FSM

Embassy of Japan

On December 26, 2013, the Government of Japan and the FSM Government held a signing ceremony at the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs for the Exchange of Notes for a Non-Project Grant Aid for the Provisions of Industrial Products. This is the second signing ceremony for the Exchange of Notes this year following the Project for the Improvement of Domestic Shipping Services granted to the FSM in August of this year. This project in the amount of two hundred million Japanese Yen will be utilized to purchase the industrial products manufactured by the disaster affected areas caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck Japan in 2011. This Non-Project Grant is intended to support and facilitate the FSM's efforts to improve its infrastructure and persevere towards boosting its economy. This ceremony marks the third Non-Project

Grant Aid the FSM government receives from Japan.

In his remarks, Ambassador Suzuki highlighted on the fact that this ceremony is unique as it marks the first-ever second Exchange of Notes within one-year. This event itself, he said, speaks of the continued fortification of the ties between the two governments.

On the receiving end, FSM Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert thanked the Government of Japan for their continuous support and friendship with the FSM and remarked that this signing ceremony is special as it resembles a continuation of the Holiday season with the receiving of the grant.

The Exchange of Notes took place at the Department of Foreign Affairs conference room with the attendance of The Honorable Lorin Robert, Japan Ambassador to the FSM Eiichi Suzuki, and staffs from Department of Foreign Affairs and Embassy of Japan.



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# Citizen calls for account of Madolenihmw public projects

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

January 7, 2014

**Pohnpei, FSM**—As the result of a phone call from a concerned citizen of Madolenihmw and following interviews with municipal government officials, Pohnpei's Office of the Public Auditor conducted a review on the administration and accountability of public funds in Madolenihmw. The review was limited in scope and covered only the \$105,000 that was allocated for community projects funds during fiscal years 2010 through 2012. That amount was approximately 10 percent of total municipal government budget during fiscal years under review.

As a result of the review, Pohnpei's OPA released a three page management report to communicate their findings and conclusion to management and appropriate government officials. The letter was copied to Governor John Ehsa, Speaker Peter Lohn, Meninkeder Lapalap, and the members of Menintiensapw.

The letter says that the \$105,000 was divided equally among the seven major sections in the municipality. The Councilmen representing each section (lopidi) were the designated allottees of the project funds. Check disbursements, accounting and reporting were the responsibility of the executive branch.

The Management Letter listed three principal findings of the review.

Under the first finding, "Lack of Project Plan", the management letter said that there were no project plans for most of the community projects that would justify the expenditures made to implement them. It said that most of the community projects and programs were selected and implemented at the discretion of the Councilmen.

The second finding said the projects suffered from "weak project administration, monitoring and reporting". It said that funds were appropriated in one lump sum. Councilmen for each section selected projects or programs at their own discretion. "In most cases, funded projects were not properly documented, justified and monitored, making it difficult to track progress," on the projects. "Project reports were not prepared to ensure compliance with State laws.

The third and final finding was that there was non-compliance with the Pohnpei Financial Management Regulations.

"Disbursements of project and program funds were often processed based on requests made directly by the councilmen without proper justification."

Because of the mismanagement of the community projects, the Madolenihmw Municipal Government (MMG) cannot answer the basic expressed questions of its citizens such as:

- Who has legal custody over assets procured with project or program funds?
- What expenditures should be allowed and disallowed?
- Who has primary responsibility over assets purchased, including maintenance and protection?
- In the event of property sale, who has authority to keep and dispose the proceeds from the sale?

The auditors concluded that the MMG's practice related to public funds for community programs and projects "undermined the basic principles of government standard operations, in particular the separation of powers (amongst) the three branches of government."

They said that the lack of clear policy guidelines should be of concern to the government leadership and the people. "Unclear policy and compliance guidelines increase the risk for fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement of public resources."

The management letter made four recommendations to strengthen and improve transparency and accountability of its community project and program funds, specifically:

1. Lawmakers should not be involved in the administration of the community project and program funds.
2. MMG should establish suitable and clear policy guidelines governing project funds, and guidelines should include a requirement for the preparation and submission of project implementation and project progress report prior to disbursement of funds.
3. Management should ensure that project funds are spent strictly for the purposes intended and in compliance with applicable laws.
4. MMG should consider and adopt its project and program development plan to guide management in its administration of public project funds.

The Management Letter was signed by Ihlen K. Joseph, the State Public Auditor.



**FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA  
DEVELOPMENT BANK**

**Corporate Office  
P.O. Box M  
Pohnpei, FSM 96941**

## POSITION RE-ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2013-005-A

**Opening Date:** December 27th, 2013

**Closing Date:** January 26th, 2014

It is the policy of the FSM Development bank that FSM citizens be given first priority for employment consideration with other Micronesians, U.S. citizens, and other nationals utilized in positions for which no qualified citizens are available.

**POSITION & GRADE:** Loan Officer, Grade 4  
**LOCATION:** FSM Development Bank, Yap Branch  
**SALARY:** \$16,515.20 minimum per annum, Higher Salary may be Considered Depending on Qualification

### GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Illustrative only):

1. Provides information regarding the Bank's services, functions, loan procedures and business advantages to potential customers and clients.
2. Interviews applicants for loans and compiles all necessary data regarding the client's proposed project. Informs clients regarding the Bank's requirements and standards for loans. Negotiates and explains terms and conditions of loans to applicants. Issues applications and other lending documents. Assists applicants in completing the documents and/or direct them to appropriate agencies for assistance. Ensures that all loan applications are properly documented.
3. Assesses the economic and financial viability of proposed projects in terms of management experience, technical abilities, marketing, and financial capabilities. Conducts detailed feasibility studies regarding proposals as necessary.
4. Compiles information and prepare loan packages in standard formats for review by the Branch Manager and Credit Committee.
5. Administers the disbursement of loan funds to approved projects.
6. Ensures that borrowers fulfill the terms and conditions set out in loan document and lending guidelines. Monitors projects progress via reports and with visits to the project.
7. Pursues the collection of loan payments on current and delinquent loans. Provide assistance to clients with problem accounts within the established policies and procedures of the Bank. Report progress regarding such loans to the Branch Manager and implements instructions accordingly.
8. Promotes Bank's business and develops recommendations to market the Bank's services in the local community.
9. Other responsibilities as assigned.

### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economic, Finance, Accounting or related field from a four-year college or university; plus one to two years related work experience and/or training. Ability to read, analyze, and interpret general business proposals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations. Ability to perform economic and financial analysis on loan packages. Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from clients/customers, and the general public. Ability to work with mathematical concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios, and proportions to practical situations. Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in writing, oral diagram, or schedule form.

### FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications, curriculum vitae, and at least three letters of reference shall be completed and submitted to: The FSMDB Yap Branch Office or to the FSMDB Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei with mailing address as follows: FSM Development Bank, P.O. Box M, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941 by mail; by fax to 320-2842 or in person at the FSM Development Bank's Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei on or before January 26th, 2014.

## Pastor Edmund Kalau - A life dedicated to bringing hope and changing lives

### *Pacific Missionary Aviation*

January 9, 2013

**Guam**—Pastor Edmund Kalau, founder and President Emeritus of Pacific Mission Aviation, died on January 8, 2013 in Guam. He was born on July 9, 1928.

He is survived by his beloved wife Elizabeth, children and their families: Esther and Peter Reichert, Heidi, Ben and Isla Wright, Christel and Nicole Reichert; Norbert and Sylvia Kalau, Nadya, Chelsea and Alexander; Dieter and Lori Kalau, Kristoff, Erich and Kimberlie.

“Ed was a great mentor for me and inspired me and a lot of people by his dedication to what he was sent to do here,” wrote Epel Ilon who serves as a deacon at Pohnpei’s Pacific Missionary Fellowship. “He became a good friend of Micronesia and will be greatly missed!”

Pastor Kalau’s journey to the man he became began in the most unlikely of places. He was born and raised in East Prussia, bordering Lithuania. At the age of 10 he joined the Hitler Youth Movement where he received an extensive and very successful atheistic indoctrination in Hitler’s Third Reich philosophy and future for Hitler’s Germany.

When Edmund was 14, he joined the Hitler Youth Flying Corps. There, he learned not only to fly gliders and advanced soaring planes, but also how to build them. Those who qualified could transfer at 16 years of age, to motor powered flight training for another 2 years. All of these happened while attending special High School for the Hitler Youth Leadership. At that time, Edmund was fully committed to Hitler and Germany’s cause.

Edmund’s father was a professional military man. He greatly encouraged his son by his devotion to the armed forces and strict Prussian military discipline. The Spartan up-bringing and his father’s special training helped him later to escape from the Russians, when he became a prisoner of war.

When he joined the Luftwaffe, German Air force, he already had 4 years of required training in meteorology, aerodynamics, and basic flying. After a short combat training, due to the fast advancement of Russian armies into Germany, he and many others were sent to the eastern front to repel the

Russians. Because of inexperience in combat flying many young pilots did not return.

In 1945, the war ended. Germany was in shambles, and so was the future for Ed Kalau. However, his Mother’s prayers wrought a miracle in 1947, when he turned from Atheism to Christ. A Russian, an enemy of his country, led him to accept Christ as Savior.

In 1950 Edmund entered a seminary to become a missionary. After four years of training he was chosen by the Mission Board to be sent to Micronesia, formerly a German colony.

In January 1956, Rev. Edmund Kalau and his wife Elisabeth started serving as missionaries in Palau and Yap (Micronesia). Rev. Kalau made numerous trips to the outer islands with the then Trust Territory-operated field trip ships. On nearly all trips, sick people were taken aboard to be transported to the district center hospitals, but because of the long distances and slowness of the ships, many patients died en route.

Witnessing this again and again, Rev. Kalau was troubled in his heart and mind that there was no better or more effective way to help the outer island people, especially with their medical needs. The idea of airborne help was envisioned.

Rev. Kalau personally raised funds in the U.S. and Germany and with another pilot, Maurice Pickard, ferried the first aircraft from the U.S. to Yap in July 1974. The Mission Society for which the Kalau’s worked for over 20 years did not share the vision of an expanded aviation program.

Knowing the needs of the people and how much help could be provided with an airplane, especially in critical medical situations, and more importantly, knowing that this was what God had called them to do, the Kalau’s opted to leave the Mission Society and obey God’s direction in their lives. With three teenage children in school in the Philippines and no support, it was not easy. However, God was good in providing some faithful friends in Germany and the U.S. who came up with a modest support for them along with some extra funds for aircraft maintenance and fuel.

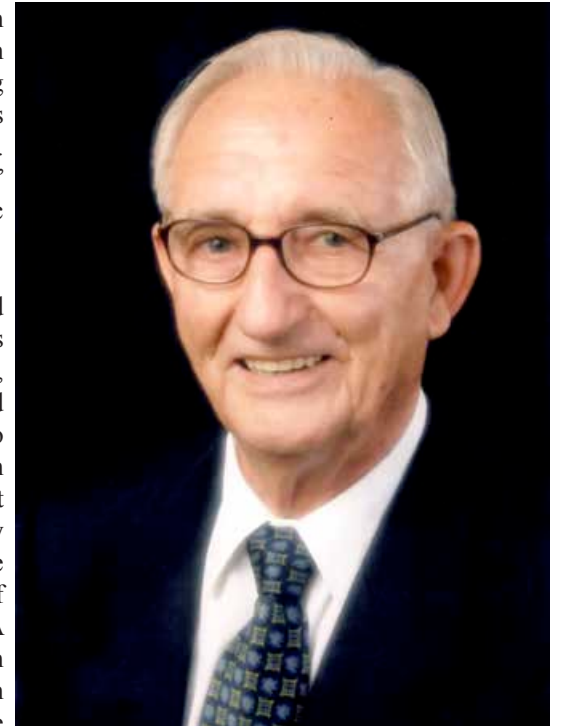
In 1975, Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA) (DBA Pacific Mission Aviation)

was incorporated in Guam. With the same burden for the salvation of people in the Philippines, Flying Medical Samaritans (FMS) PMA was incorporated in 1982 in the Philippines. In 2008, Flying Medical Samaritans’ name was changed to Pacific Missionary Aviation, Philippines, Inc.

God gave a greater vision to Ed Kalau. Medical missionary vessels were put into service in Micronesia, Medical Ship MV Sea Haven and the Philippines, M/L Samaritan to reach those atolls and islands with no airstrip. Church planting, support and evangelism intensified, especially in areas where once the doors were closed, but now open because of the committed services of PMA. A Maritime & Fisheries Academy with a campus ministry was established in 1989 in conjunction with the Yap State Government. In 1998, PMA turned over the responsibility of the Academy to the National Government. PMA has also established youth centers, a printing shop, a television and broadcast studio and FM and SW radio station. In the Philippines an orphanage, learning centers, and dormitory facility with youth ministries were also established. These are witnesses to the ever present faithfulness and blessing of the Lord of the harvest and the faithful friends and supporters of PMA!

He was led to establish Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA) in 1975 and served as President until 1999. With the same mission and vision; PMA was established and incorporated in the Philippines in 1982.

After serving with PMA in Pohnpei for 25 years, Edmund and Elizabeth Kalau “retired” from active mission work in August 2004, and relocated to the island of Guam where he served as Senior Pastor to PMA’s mission church – Pacific Mission Fellowship. What was the secret of his energy and enthusiasm? Love for his Lord and love for the Island people.



*Pastor Edmund Kalau  
July 9, 1928 - January 8, 2013*

About his “retirement”, Edmund said “Some think that it must be a great burden at my age to still minister and help where needed. This is not a burden – this is what I have been called to do, having been called out of darkness into His wonderful light. Until God in His time will send someone to take our place, Elizabeth and I will cheerfully serve and thank Him for such a privilege.”

While on Guam, Edmund continued his efforts in helping and assisting the community, local governments (FSM, Palau, Guam) in reaching out to the local Micronesian people who have made the island of Guam their home so that they would be productive citizens of the island of Guam.

Pastor Ed Kalau’s life was dedicated to bringing hope and changing lives to the people that he served. And by God’s grace, he continued to do so until the Lord took him home. He thanks the people of Micronesia for their love and friendship, and the opportunity to serve them!

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**...Canoe festival***Continued from front page*

culture. The organization's theme for 2013 was "Strengthening Collaboration and Understanding Brings Successful Results". As part of its efforts to promote its theme and preserve the Pingelapese custom, this year the PPOI conducted a canoe building project with assistance from local canoe building instructors from Pingelap Island. The local instructors worked directly with their respective pwekil throughout the whole project. The instructors were Jimmy Ehmes, Kensiro Boaz, Moden Boaz, Nickelson Mark, Nixon Boaz, and Oltrik Alex. The sacrifices and commitments made by these men were immeasurable because they had to be away from their families and homes for seven months. They provided the training for free. The invaluable project was targeted at any Pingelapese man who wanted to learn or refresh his knowledge and skills on the canoe building process. As a result of this project, there were a total of 6 new canoes that were built by the four groups.

To celebrate the important milestone in the organization's history, a canoe racing tournament was held amongst the four pwekil. The competition comprised four heats for men, four for women, and two heats for coeds (two men and two women on each canoe). The events took a whole day to complete and began with very important opening remarks by His Majesty Doahkesa Dr. Berysin Salomon, Wasalalalap Nanmwark of Pingelap. At

the end of the event, the total points for all of the races determined the winning team. Pwekil Sakarakapw/Ihlong (red team) took first place. Pwekil Peruku/Nemahl (blue team) came in second. The third place winning team was PwekilKakaliha/Pelenekeus (white team). Pwekil Mweniap/Pasik (yellow team) earned the fourth place.

At the closing ceremony, the speakers all agreed that the event was a great success.

The hosting group for this year, Sakarekapw/Ihlong wishes to acknowledge every individual who helped by buying raffle tickets and who contributed in other ways to the fundraising event that took place on December 21, 2013. The proceeds from the fundraising were used to support the canoe festival event. They would also like to give special recognition to the following individuals/organizations for their generous contributions to the event:

Bank of FSM, Best Buy Store, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, Etscheit Family, FSM Development Bank, Moylans Insurance Underwriters Inc., National Fisheries Corporation, Pohnpei Department of Education, Pohnpei Department of Health Services, Pohnpei Port Authority, Pohnpei Transfer & Storage, Senator David Panuelo, Sokehs Municipal Police

For more information regarding the PPOI, please contact either the outgoing PPOI President Kosaky Keller or 2014 PPOI President Cliff James at Pingelap Municipal Government Office at 320-1238/5042.

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*Kulo malulap, Kinisou chapur, Kammagar, & Kalahngan!*

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## 2023 Planning Committee assesses FSM economy and long-term fiscal stability at 2nd meeting

*FSM Information Services*

**December 17, 2013**

**Saipan, CNMI** – The second meeting of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) 2023 Planning Committee was held in Saipan, Northern Marianas, on December 7-8 with the focus on creating long-term fiscal sustainability and evaluating feasible strategies in stimulating economic growth.

FSM President Manny Mori opened the meeting, noting the challenges facing the FSM economy with the expiry of financial assistance under the amended Compact of free Association with the United States in 2023.

The President also pointed to the need to sustain economic growth and emphasized the urgency for the strengthening of contributions to the Compact Trust Fund to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability and reduce the looming budgetary gap moving forward. Lack of action in addressing such shortfall at the present time will add more weight to the bleak financial burden that is foreseen to worsen at the start of fiscal year 2024.

The President further added that economic reforms, particularly revenue mobilisation and public administrative reforms, need to be immediately carried out to enhance and support economic growth strategies.

The State Governors from Chuuk, Pohnpei and Yap, and the Lt. Governor of Kosrae, concurred with the President's emphasis on far-reaching reforms and underscored the need to bolster fiscal stability and sustainability while growing the economy. The Leaders noted that for this to happen, clear and time-specific strategies and targets need to be designed and carefully executed with the greater involvement of private sector and development partners.

Updating the Committee on a number of on-going undertakings, the Secretary of the Department of Resource and Development (R&D) presented a progress overview on

sectoral reforms and noted that challenges continue to be significant due to limited support and capacity constraints.

The 2023 Planning Committee Secretariat, led by the Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management (SBOC), with support from the Asian Development Bank and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, presented a long-term fiscal sustainability analysis and options for creating fiscal space to support the accumulation of funds for the Compact Trust Fund. The Office of SBOC also emphasized that significant efforts on fiscal front, along with political and leadership resolve are imperative to closing the expected shortfall in the Compact Trust Fund by 2023.

Additionally, with assistance from the FSM Development Bank Chief Executive Officer, the Leaders were also provided an appraisal on the business climate in the FSM and the challenges that are faced by investors and entrepreneurs. The business climate overview, with input from both the FSM Development Bank and the Department of R&D, was done with awareness of the existing rating on the "ease of doing business" in the FSM and the need to address the impacts of such assessment on business opportunities throughout the FSM.

The Committee agreed that the next meeting will be held in April/May 2014 with focus on:

- Progressing the work on Comprehensive Action Plan to be launched in the near future; and
- Finalize and prioritize (by timeframe) the proposed economic growth strategies in the four priority areas – Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Energy – and other cross-cutting issues (such as infrastructure development and financing), in steady consultation with the Private Sector and relevant stakeholders.



**FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA  
DEVELOPMENT BANK**  
Corporate Office  
P.O. Box M  
Pohnpei, FSM 96941

### POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2014-001

**Opening Date:** December 27th, 2013

**Closing Date:** January 26th, 2014

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**LOCATION:** FSM Development Bank, Corporate Office  
**SALARY:** \$16,515.20 minimum per annum, Higher Salary may be Considered Depending on Qualification

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6. Ensures that borrowers fulfill the terms and conditions set out in loan document and lending guidelines. Monitors projects progress via reports and with visits to the project.
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# Happy "News" Year from The Kaselehlle Press

Happy New Year to the readers of The Kaselehlle Press! 2013 is behind us. As the New Year ramps up, and the number of years before the financial provisions of the Compact expires dwindles to single digits, we thought it would be good to do a headline recap of the 2013 news year.

I thought to use George Santayana's famous quote from 1905 in his book, "Life of Reason, Reason in Common Sense" and repeated by many famous people since then, but I find it a bit too cynical even for my taste. He wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Certainly some of the news in 2013 should be memorable for that reason but sometimes things from the past SHOULD be repeated.

In 2013, the College of Micronesia made bold strides and regained its accreditation status, and held several commencement exercises for its successful graduates. Entrepreneurs began to look into new product lines such as coffee for potential export. Habele, the Cuthbert project and other donors including foreign embassies continue their philanthropic work in the islands. The message of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei to "go local" continues to be heard throughout the FSM. Several alternative energy projects were implemented in the FSM. Yvonne Neth, a Pohnpeian artist gained international attention. Doctors from all over the world visited the FSM to provide services that are otherwise not available. Some real progress has been made on climate change adaptability in the FSM. Onouh, Chuuk got a new library and a usable airstrip. The FSM Postal service ramped up

its ability to provide service in the FSM in a variety of ways including infrastructure and now the ability to track mail through the US Postal Service System. The International Organization for Migration continues its education program on human trafficking, and training for FSM emigrants who are considering a move to the United States. Swimming classes started. Women's groups were strong and rightfully getting stronger. The supposedly taboo subject of domestic violence began to be discussed in earnest. Trees were planted. Streets and neighborhoods were cleaned.

There were hundreds of good news stories in 2013.

There were of course, several stories to which Santayana's quote should rightly be applied--incidents that seem to happen over and over again.

Sometimes we need a little reminder of what has gone before, both the good and the bad.

Happy New Year to all and may all of your news be good news!

**Bill Jaynes**  
Managing Editor

Full stories can be found at [www.kpress.fm](http://www.kpress.fm)

## January 11, 2013



- China in the next decade: New leadership, new master plan - Guest Perspective
- Chuuk fisheries resources over exploited
- East-West Center announces applications for APLP
- Happy New Year from IFCP
- Majuro's Government 'deports' repeat offender to remote island
- Memorial scholarship renewed by midwestern family
- Merry Christmas from IFCP for sponsors of Pandanus Fair in Mwoakilloa
- Pohnpei Government Housing units under review after audit
- Pohnpei Manpower Development and Training program rudderless
- Pohnpei? Never heard of it! (Letter to the Editor)
- President and Congress talk frankly at start of the Sixth Regular Session
- President Mori welcomes participants to thea Investment Seminars in Japan
- Sharing the Christmas spirit: Visits to the hospital, clinic and prison
- Signing ceremony for procuring school equipment project for Calvary Christian Academy
- Social Security Administration announces tax shares increase
- Solar Power Project in Pohnpei to be completed soon
- US Construction Civic Action Detail Team donates to Yap Department of Education
- Weilbacher rings in New Year with 360 pound Marlin in Guam
- Work by various community members on Yap's traditional canoe completed

## January 28, 2013



- AusAID Small Grants Scheme funds a new IFCP project
- Bank of Guam offers \$10k in college scholarships
- COM-FSM Board of Regents holds community meeting in Pohnpei
- Congress passes new payment procedures for corporate income tax
- Deaf WorldTeach brings American Sign Language to Chuuk
- Education on climate change and disaster risk reduction program underway in Micronesian schools
- Faleomavaega elected as ranking member of subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
- Five Pacific Island Nations to be insured against natural disasters
- FSM Secretary of Justice on the go for anti-trafficking outreach to the States
- Identifying hazards, vulnerability and the capacities in Yap communities
- IFCP received a generous contribution from Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- IMF Executive Board concludes 2012 article IV consultation with FSM
- Island Food Community of Pohnpei Outreach in Inpuspusah, Malem, Kosrae
- Mr. Kandhi A. Elieisar took oath of office as the new Consul General in Hawaii
- New IOM office opens in Chuuk, Micronesia
- Oceania Television's coverage of FSM World Heritage ranking
- OICA strengthens faculty; prepares for start of education programs
- Remengesau sworn in as President of Palau's 9th Constitutional Government
- Senator Halbert submits bill to "offset" Compact decrement
- U.S. Federal Investigators on Guam to probe grants
- United Airlines unveils discounted "Visit Micronesia" fare
- Vice President Alik on medical referral to Honolulu





**February 11, 2013**

- 2013 Pohnpei State Scripps Spelling Bee Competition
- Acknowledging Mr. Gibson Susumu; member IFCP Board of Directors
- Canada Ambassador made a courtesy visit to IFCP
- Cuthbert clears airstrip
- First meeting of the Chuuk Advisory Group on Education
- FSM Comprehensive Cancer Control and Prevention Plan rolls out at Cancer Day celebration
- FSM Post Office had groundbreaking for new site in Kosrae
- Governor Ehsa disavows URA—suggests a new Pohnpei Tax system
- Hope for Change - Letter to the Editor
- IFCP welcomed Australian Volunteers International
- Pingelap Government receives Japan Government grant
- Sentencing training for judges and probation officers
- Solar energy electricity generation system project up and running for FSM Government
- Students from Chuuk graduating mid-April from Center of Micronesian Empowerment
- Valentine's Day: It's June and July full moons, not February 14

**February 25, 2013**

- A brief glimpse at the Pohnpei State Strategic Development Plan
- Climate change adaptation in Micronesia
- FSM launches the National Emergency Operation Center
- FSM pump prices steady; region continues upward spiral
- Go Local! Go Ohmine Public Elementary School!
- IOM empowers FSM educators to stabilize natural disaster casualties
- IOM enhances Yap Elementary School preparedness
- Kosrae to update State Strategic Development Plan for 2014-2023
- Pacific Trailways makes Nana Laud accessible through trail building
- Pohnpei EPA environmental surveillance laboratory certified
- Pohnpei Sailing Club New Year's Cup 2013
- PowerPoint screen shots gives a glimpse into proposed "Service Tax"
- President Mori urges progressive information sharing with communities on ETG investment in Yap
- Sekere Elementary School in Pohnpei conducts Madeu (cinnamon tree) planting
- Taiyo Micronesia Corporation declared one million dollars dividend
- UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage workshop in Yap
- Volunteer brings lacrosse to Pohnpei—all welcome to join
- Yap High School student wins Lab Open Day Speech Contest in Hawaii

**March 11, 2013**

- A healthy local substitute to white flour
- Chuuk Deaf Center
- Court bars Election Commissioners from election travel
- Court orders Pohnpei to release Luen Thai freight
- Ending violence against women – hand in hand - Editorial
- Gearing up for Cultural Day 2013
- Go Local with Ramen!?
- International Medical Corps explores local collaborations for disaster preparedness and resilience
- New arrivals get all their vegetables from their own garden
- President Mori applauds and says "thank you" regarding four Congressional Acts
- Swimming pool is not an FSMNOC thing it's a community thing
- U.S. Veterans Administration Representative to visit Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae
- Unofficial National Election Votes for two year term Congress seats
- USAID supports the training of emergency responders
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission fishing tournament
- Yap day celebrated in Pohnpei

**March 25, 2013**

- Australian volunteer helps FSM to build soccer program
- Celebrating International Women's Day – Chuukese Style
- Controlled ozone-depleting substance training to be held at FSM OEMM facilities
- Disaster hit Justice Department at the Capitol - Letter to the Editor
- FSM Women In Business Network (WIBN)
- Handing over ceremony for Farming Project in Kosrae State
- JICA commences Preparatory Survey on the Project for Improvement of Domestic Shipping Services in FSM
- Let's Go Local reaches to Southern Outer Islands of Pohnpei
- MERIP and the University of Hawaii work together to monitor water quality on the Nanpil River
- NOFA warns that fee enforcement could hurt Pohnpei economy
- Onoun airstrip ready for landing
- Perman claims violations of election law in Pohnpei's ED #1
- Pew applauds unprecedented conservation win for sharks and manta rays at CITES
- Trio Chicago and Friends to perform March 27
- Xavier High School thanks FSM for funding support in honor of its 60th anniversary

**April 8, 2013**

- CGC Washington returns from multi-mission deployment
- Cheryll Ligohr wins "New Century Scholars" award
- COM-FSM rolls out NGO class
- Embassy of Australia sponsors uniforms for Lukopw Youth Group
- Fire trucks for Chuuk
- FSM and IOM open the first Migrant Resource Center in the Pacific
- FSM Junior Tennis Qualifiers (NPQ) Tournament
- FSS Micronesia completed a multi-tasked round-trip—fines from fishing violations collected
- GO LOCAL Kalahngan ong Ms. Chizuru Seki
- IOM holds the first Migrant Resource Center (MRC) workshop in Pohnpei, FSM
- Japan Government donates classrooms for school in Chuuk
- JEMCO discusses FSM's long term fiscal plans at midyear meeting
- Keitani Graham Memorial FSM Athlete of the Year Award announced
- Photo exhibit on our changing environment
- PNA continues to add value and generates return to Pacific EEZ's
- Pohnpei's Governor Ehsa calls press conference
- Trio Chicago and Friends brings beautiful music from America
- USA makes \$6.6 million in Compact payments to FSM in March
- What's in Pohnpei's proposed SDP – Agriculture Sector

**April 22, 2013**

- After nearly four decades Pohnpei tourist magnet calls it quits (The Village)
- Auditors say Pohnlangas and Kolonia Ice Plant revenue is missing
- Caroline Islands Air returns to Onoun, Chuuk after runway clearing project
- CHEEF benefits of Going Local presentation
- Empowering communities in Sokehs
- Kiribati drifters lost at sea for 20 days rescued in PNG waters
- Major Pohnpei hospital renovation completed early and under budget
- Mini pandanus and karat banana fair on Cultural Day, April 01, 2013
- Mourning the loss of The Village - Letter to the Editor
- Vital confirms second 100kw solar array in region

**May 6, 2013**

- 10,576 bags of trash collected in this years Earth Day cleanup
- Australian Embassy donates camera equipment to KPress
- College of Micronesia FSM Pohnpei Campus hosts Skills Expo
- FSM Office of SBOC releases FY2012 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the Compact Trust Fund
- FSM Telecom again compares well in the Pacific region according to report
- Investigator Leelkan Southwick earns CFE credential
- JICA supports health workshop for Pohnpei State health workers
- Library Week 2013
- Neth wins runner up prize in PNA/NFA World Tuna Day Art and Talent Quest
- North-REP launches awareness materials on Earth Day 2013
- Over 650 elementary school students attend Earth Day celebration
- Palau "graduates" from U.S. Peace Corps service
- Pohnpei joins the world in dawn ANZAC Day commemoration
- Recess "Goes Local" at Ohmine Elementary!
- U.S. provides \$7.3 million in Compact grant assistance payments in April

**May 20, 2013**

- Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform
- Commemorative Dr. Lois Englberger stamp issued
- Donated dictionaries helping college bound Chuukese
- Eighteenth FSM Congress delegation meets with President Mori at the start of first session
- Engaging technology: Using tablet computers for teaching English and reading
- Fire trucks go down in Kosrae—United Airlines doesn't
- FSM identifies need for more north-south Pacific connections
- New Pacific Plan Desk Officer appointed in FSM
- Our Lady of Mercy debaters to represent Pohnpei at nationals in Chuuk
- Pohnpei Fishing Club Annual Tournament hauls in mighty fish
- RMI Drought: UNICEF calls for attention to health and hygiene needs
- Seagrass habitat conditions in Yap
- Senate group OKs Medicaid for Micronesian migrants
- SPC and Pacific Disability Forum join forces in the Pacific Region
- Test shows that Pohnpei's piggeries are fouling Pohnpei waters
- The National Conference of Student Leadership (NCSL)
- The stamp of Dr Lois Englberger of Island Food Community of Pohnpei - (IFCP)
- U.S. government provides assistance to drought victims in the Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Vice President Alik urges students to know their governments and to do well in school
- Youth to Youth environmental education

**June 3, 2013**

- 2013 Yap Homecoming Festival
- A thank you to the people of Micronesia - Letter to the Editor - Bob and Patti Arthur
- All good things come to an end - Chuuk Deaf Program
- Congress deliberates on a proposed "FSM chemical weapons act"
- Congress passes supplemental budget for Tax Reform and other FY13 requests
- Controls of FSM public project funds are weak and invite abuse
- Friends of COM-FSM Foundation board introduced to the college community by Board of Regents
- FSM State and National Leaders endorse investment facilitation recommendations
- FSM, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and commercial vessel partner to rescue five in distress
- JICA supports RMI drought relief efforts
- Kosrae road project is an example of Pacific adaptability to climate change
- MCT receives grant from AusAID for Micronesia Challenge
- MV Caroline Voyager delays TC&I and education trip to the Mortlocks and Northwest regions in Chuuk
- Palau Community College 50th Commencement Exercises
- Pohnpei girls shine at Camp GLOW
- President Mori informs State Governors on 2013 Household Income and Expense Survey
- President's State of the Nation Address
- Reverse osmosis units ease water shortage in Marshalls
- Robots Battle in Micronesian 'Yapital Robo Day' Competition
- Scientists "virtually certain" that human activity has been the cause of global warming
- Some Pacific journalists wary of climate change issue
- The CHEEF Mobile Volunteering benefits the organization & the volunteer
- Yap Legislature calls for cancellation of ETG Foreign Investment Permit

**June 17, 2013**

- Charmaine Scotty elected to Nauru Parliament; second woman in history
- Eighteenth Congress concludes First Regular Session
- Expert calls for Domestic Violence Laws in the Pacific to be gender specific
- First Chuuk State Summit on Energy Security and Electrification
- FSM and Chuuk dedicate first grid-tied solar energy system at Chuuk Airport
- FSM Maternal Child Health Program calls for public input
- FSM Police Academy kicks off at PICS High School
- Guam Micronesia Island Fair
- Pohnpei LittleLeague
- Pohnpei Trade Fair
- President Mori receives Rear Admiral Tilghman D. Payne
- PUC...trees...and a power recovery plan
- Sekere to COM pipeline to provide clean drinking water to hundreds
- Teen climate change activist shows that age doesn't matter
- Ultimate show of Pacific unity
- UN launches book on Island Food Community of Pohnpei
- Yap Coastal Fisheries Management effort puts communities in the driver's seat
- Yap Congressmen briefed Yap State leadership
- Yap public announcement concerning resolution on Foreign Investment Permit for ETG

**July 1, 2013**

- Campus security responds swiftly to Residence Hall fire
- Help students and hospital patients have access to local food!
- Japan presents equipment to FSM and Pohnpei governments
- Legislature requests scrutiny of Pohnpei Visitor's Bureau
- Pandanus Climate Frontlines Project presented at UNESCO Traditional Calendar Symposium, NZ
- Peace Corps Go Local!
- PNI NATION from Pohnpei places on Pacific Break album
- President Mori gears up for Micronesian Presidential Summit in Palau
- President Mori signs two public laws and reiterates concerns
- President Obama signs a disaster declaration for the Republic of the Marshall Islands
- RMI citizens receive water, hygiene kits, and chlorine tablets from USAID
- Room for improvement in FSM's anti-human trafficking efforts
- Salt intake and non-communicable diseases workshops by WHO in the FSM
- SPC and IUCN to increase cooperation to address conservation and development needs
- Team of Pacific Island journalists selected to cover regional climate change and disaster risk management meetings
- U.S. Postal Services' Tudela calls on President Mori, conducts Postal Service security training
- Women with the moves for a prosperous Pohnpei

# July 15, 2013

**Healthy Pacific advocates for social justice for FAS in US**



**FSM President Emmanuel Mori congratulates COM-FSM on reaffirmed accreditation**



# July 29, 2013

**11 teams compete in Pohnpei Basketball Invitational Tournament**



**PUC silent as Pohnpei's power crisis deepens**



# August 12, 2013

**Countdown to Micro-Games begins - planning well underway**



**Joint firearms training begins in Pohnpei**



# August 26, 2013

**Market and International Youth Day in Pohnpei**



**Pohnpei Boxing Club gets a booster shot in the arm**



# September 9, 2013

**Chuukese man severely beaten by five thugs in Nanpohnmal**



**FSM Police Academy graduates proudly accept their honors**



# September 23, 2013

**Senator Panuelo supports Pohnpei Women's Associations**



**College Holds 20th Anniversary Convocation**



# October 7, 2013

**"American Sports in Action" Successful beyond US Embassy's wildest dreams**



**Special 24 page EXPANDED Edition**

# October 21, 2013

**Pohnpei celebrates World Food Day Trade Fair & International Day for Disaster Reduction**



# November 4, 2013

**Educators celebrate "Education Day" in Pohnpei**



**Second direct flight from Japan arrives in Pohnpei**



**Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia CHRISTMAS LOAN**

# November 18, 2013

**Audit raises serious concerns about government overtime payments**



**Pohnpei eco-adventure maps show the way**



# December 2, 2013

**Pohnpei Community helps Typhoon Haiyan Victims**



**Congress mulls telecom bill and other priorities at 2nd special session**



**Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia CHRISTMAS LOAN**

**July 15, 2013**

- A new Marshall Islands biography now available
- Awak youth hits against underage drinking
- Best Practice Recognition from WHO (IFCP)
- Coral reef health dependent on proper land management - Editorial
- Culture czar says culture and climate change more closely linked than he thought
- Ehsa fast tracks shark preservation legislation
- First Special Session of 18th Congress to address 'sunset clause'
- Fishing club donates to library Summer Reading Program
- Hawaii-based Sekere families rekindle family ties and awareness, visit Palikir
- Jennifer deBrum, RMI government's voice of climate change
- Kolonia Youth Soccer Club holds first youth soccer boot-camp
- Kosrae PACC a shining example of climate change adaptation measures
- Local organisations reach out to the Australian Embassy for support
- Missing beach in Majuro restores passion for the islands
- New FSM rep to regional weather organization is a "man of action"
- Pacific Meteorological Council opens in Fiji today
- Pohnpei State dumpsite's J-PRISM makeover
- This Saturday Fun Run/Walk & Plant Local!
- Volunteering at Island Food Community

**July 29, 2013**

- 360 local foods planted at the fun run - IFCP
- Charities holds scholarship workshop on Yap
- Congress pushes back tax reform deadline to accommodate State action
- FAA on the spot for answers on decision to handle Micronesia as foreign
- FSM attends negotiations in Brussels, Belgium
- FSM Junior Tennis to compete in Fiji—coaches thank donors
- FSM proposes to establish regional airline
- GAO official says compact impact reporting is not reliable or consistent
- JICA and FSM government confirm report for preparatory survey for improvement of domestic shipping services
- Micronesian Presidents endorse Emgul Communique, recommit region-wide cooperation
- New JICA volunteers dispatched to FSM
- Pacific Leaders Call for Oceanwide Shark Protections
- Pohnpei Fishing Club holds "Big Fish" Tournament
- Pohnpei Seaport seeks funding for facility upgrade: \$17.1 million project
- President Mori receives India's fourth Ambassador to FSM, H.E. Amit Dasgupta
- RMI Government relief initiatives supported by air, sea, international partnerships
- Speaker Halbert in Chuuk for National Law Day Debate 2013

**August 12, 2013**

- Chinese company loses casino license - Samoa
- COM students create art on a large scale at Pohnpei library
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training for the FSM
- Fourth group of caregivers certified - Palau
- FSMTC deal could more than double Yap bandwidth and quadruple speed
- IFCP continues project on the outer islands
- Island Food Community has a new website!
- Just a couple of dangerous "A" words - KPress Perspective editorial
- Kosrae State granted medical waste incinerator from Embassy of Japan
- New Peace Corps director arrives on island
- Special Session extends tax clause and assistance nationwide
- Tagged tuna recaptured after 13 years on the run
- Third meeting of the Chuuk advisory group on education reform
- US provides \$7 million in compact grant assistance payments in July

**August 26, 2013**

- A Coffee Industry for Pohnpei?
- After a long break Pohnpei begins issuing Foreign Investment permits
- Changes to Australian visa arrangements
- Ihoang - Champions of 2013 Pohnpei Little League
- Let's Go Local poster - IFCP
- Local apple wine for sale - IFCP
- Manta Trust reps educate Pohnpei students
- PACC Program Manager says misrepresentation not intentional
- Pacific Teacher Scholarship Award
- PICS Principal receives notification of demotion by letter
- President Mori signs Congressional Act No. 18-11, item vetoes \$895,000
- Record tuna catch in 2012
- Recovery loan repayment forgiven for Kosrae and Chuuk
- Simple but brilliant idea showcases Micronesian musical talent
- The 8th Legislature appoints new Yap State Public Auditor
- Vice President Alik attends first Pacific Island Development Forum in Nadi, Fiji
- YAP OPA's Compliance Investigation Division promotes Yap State Ethics Law
- Yvonne Neth selected as "Next Generation" artist

**September 9, 2013**

- 10 year aspirations and targets presented and endorsed at Kosrae State Leadership Conference
- Call for recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities in FSM
- Facing a rising tide - OPED
- First courtesy call on President Mori by Peace Corps Director, Dr. Reid
- International students gather at Nihco for "Harvest School"
- Japan grants FSM project for improvement of domestic shipping services
- JEMCO passes three restrictive resolutions at annual meeting
- Kosrae State in dire need of kidney dialysis machines - Letter to the Editor
- Kudos to Pohnpei State Police - Letter to the Editor
- Minginfel wins gold - FSM athletes compete around the world
- Not just the bananas are good for you! - IFCP
- NZ commits \$5m to low-lying countries
- Palikir Community Group aims to eradicate harmful starfish from the Palikir reef system
- Regional energy workshops strengthen national capacity in the energy sector
- Top 10 nutritious leafy greens of the Pacific - IFCP
- US Ambassador visits Pohnpei Buzz Coffee Farm
- Yap Congressmen brief members of State Legislature
- Youth Environmental Ambassadors (YEA) Club

**September 23, 2013**

- 24th annual meeting of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme opens in Samoa
- AusAID continues support to OLM Catholic High School
- Charity outfits student athletes in Yap
- China economic growth slowing by choice, government spokesperson says
- China reforming its internal environmental policies for quality of life
- China serious about its contribution to climate change
- FSM's Mori wants 'rebalancing,' meets with Interior official in Majuro
- Habele announces public literacy project in Pohnpei
- IFCP treated to a special local lunch
- Japan grants roads and a mobile clinic for Kosrae and Chuuk
- K Press Editor joins Pacific Islands journalists for a discovery of China
- Pacific climate change outlook bleak, says academic
- Pacific Regional Environment Programme increases support to Pacific members
- Palau's human-trafficking prosecution leads to two felony convictions
- Pohnpei Catholic School's new classrooms from the government of Japan
- Solomons leadership commission due to impose fines on politicians
- SPC supports tree planting ceremony marking 65th birthday for ACS
- U.S. Embassy funds Kosrae domestic violence "Peace Program"
- US Provides \$6 million in compact grant assistance payments in August
- World Food Day Trade Fair & International Day of Disaster Reduction

**October 7, 2013**

- Auditor finds sales tax collection procedures to be "poor and lenient"
- Blue Nile Fishing Tournament
- China - a personal perspective - Editor Feature
- Climate change has reached our shores - Editorial
- Delegates talk national budget support for delivery of climate change finance
- Filipino Community's KBP did it again - hosting its annual medical outreach program
- FSM and Palau affirm joint telecommunication improvement through submarine cable system
- FSM budget bill becomes law
- FSM mulls firm decisions in response to demands on budget matters
- FSM National Chamber completes 5 year strategic plan
- FSM's First Lady attends museum lunch hosted by Michelle Obama
- FSM's new Compact fund distribution formula becomes law without signature
- JICA in-country training for Department of Health and Social Affairs in Chuuk
- Let's do it! Pohnpei - Pohnpei EPA
- Madolenimhw communities spearhead Nanwar marine conservation effort
- Marshalls, FSM: Investment but no health, education progress
- Micronesia Red Cross Society launches International Humanitarian Law Handbook to FSM legislators
- New officers elected to Pacific Judicial Council
- Pacific Climate Change Centre to show environmental leadership
- Pacific's Progress toward the 2015 Millennium Development Goals deadline
- Pohnpei at the top of the pack
- President Mori meets with Tongan Prime Minister, signs declaration on energy data repository
- Senator Figir makes his telecom position known in open letter to constituent
- Senators carefully evaluating World Bank grant for Yap fiber
- Small island states at UN call for global statesmanship to mitigate climate change
- Threatened by rising seas, small island nations appeal for more aid at UN
- US Government shutdown hurting small US Pacific island territories
- World Food Day Trade Fair & International Day of Disaster Reduction October 16th event

**October 21, 2013**

- CPUC continues to move forward
- FSM outlaws shining laser pointer at aircraft, with exceptions
- FSM Postal Services puts in tracking capacity and installs new boxes
- FSM TC&I submits bill to liberalize FSM telecommunications
- How are we doing with the national standards of Public Health Accreditation Board? - Yap DHS
- In the case of Domestic violence, silence isn't golden - Guest Editorial
- International Day of Disaster Reduction Celebrated in Chuuk
- JICA volunteers restore monument to the unknown soldier on Sokehs Ridge
- Mrs. Maria Linda Mendez commissioned as First Honorary Consul of Spain in the FSM
- National Tobacco Control Action Plan stakeholders meeting takes place in Pohnpei
- New Chuuk hotel, apartments and offices set to open
- New JICA volunteers dispatched to Pohnpei State
- State audit questions Pohnpei's climate change measures
- The Search for Superman - Editorial
- U.S. Government provides \$6.1 million in compact grant assistance payments in September
- World Food Day 2013 contest winners

**November 4, 2013**

- An early morning visit from "the boss" - KPress Perspective
- APT Telecenter destined for Woleai Atoll in Yap
- Australian Embassy supports RMI school library
- Bethwel Henry addresses Close-Up students on UN Day
- Conservation enforcement and

- compliance training
- Embassy of Japan in FSM holds 'Japan Week'
- Five from FSM selected as Substance Abuse Prevention Trainers
- Kosrae Tennis Association dedicates new tennis court lights
- Pohnpei buzzes on "Pohnpei Buzz"
- President Mori maintains course on reform measures pending with Congress
- President Mori signs Outer Islands Airport Improvement law and two other measures
- Private sector development agent PSBDC to close its doors
- Recipe tester wanted - IFCP
- Report on impeachment resolution locked in committee
- Transfer of kidney machines awaits response from Pohnpei State Government
- Vital generators in testing phase at power plant
- World Food Day a success for Island Foods

**November 18, 2013**

- Cakes & cookies can be good for you & our community!
- FSM President Mori and Speaker Halbert join "double play" celebrations in Tokyo
- Global climate conference opens in Warsaw, Poland
- Mr. Uemoto first FSM National to become an FSM citizen
- Underchanged immigration law
- Postal delivery begins in Kosrae while new post office is under construction
- Quality Coffee in Pohnpei
- Telecom - should it be a monopoly? - Letter to the Editor
- Two men land huge marlin in tiny skiff
- Two public health workers depart for NCD prevention training
- U.S. Awards \$53 Million in Compact Sector Grants for Fiscal Year 2014
- US provides \$33 Million in Compact payments in October
- What color for the FSM? - Letter to the Editor
- Yap recognizes World Food Day and International Day for Disaster Reduction

**December 2, 2013**

- "Let's Go Local" for Christmas - IFCP
- Australia appoints its new Ambassador to Micronesia
- Congress mulls telecom bill and other priorities at 2nd special session
- Dr. Merlynn Abello-Alfonso assumes new post as Philippines' Honorary Consul in the FSM
- Famous historical character of Yap featured in "Villains, Scoundrels, and Rogues"
- FSM fighting to lower greenhouse gas emissions under Montreal Protocol
- FSM Government provides revised settlement offer to PII
- Governor says lifestyle diseases kill too many Pohnpeians and sets up task force
- Korean food in Pohnpei, don't let the name put you off
- Nukuoro Island community-based adaptation project
- Raising awareness on the risk of human trafficking in Micronesian schools
- Rotary Quiz Night raises thousands for scholarships
- The Republic of the Marshall Islands joins IOM
- U.S. Embassy grants \$39,000 to Waa'gey

# Micronesian Chief Executives affirm solidarity: facing challenges and seizing opportunities as a region

The 19th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit in Saipan ended on the 6th of December after three days of meeting. The six Governors and three Presidents from all the States, Territory, Commonwealth and National Governments in Micronesia discussed a range of issues with guidance from selected professionals, practitioners, academicians, leaders and high level staff members from within their various jurisdictions.

At the Summit, a total of fifteen (15) agenda items were presented to and discussed by the Leaders with input and guidance from several presenters. Among these items were:

**Climate Change:** Climate Change discussions highlighted the obvious fact that many of the islands in Micronesia are already being drastically affected by various impacts of climate change. This imminent experience explains why the Leaders agreed to continue exert efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Under the same subject, the Leaders congratulated Governor Eddie Baza Calvo of Guam for his appointment to the Presidential Commission on Preparing the US for effects of Climate Change. Governor Calvo was requested to assist other Micronesian entities in the context of this newly appointed role to "gain funding for appropriate adaptation projects". The Marshall Islands raised awareness of fellow Leaders to the existing Majuro Declaration on Climate Leadership endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum countries at the 44th Pacific Islands Forum in Majuro a few months back.

**Micronesian Challenge:** Considered a "success story" for the region, the Micronesian Challenge (MC) continues to garner the support of the Chief Executives in its expanded efforts, which now includes the development of the Micronesian Challenge Business Plan.

The MC presenters indicated that \$11 million is spent annually for the protection of more than 6,800 square kilometers of conservation reserves in the region. The MC hopes to achieve a total of 13,500 square kilometers of protected areas by 2020. The MC Business Plan "establishes a commitment to raise an additional \$42 million across the region" (\$7 million annually) to match projected costs for meeting the initiative's conservation targets.

**Regional Health Insurance:** The Chief Executives viewed components of a proposed regional healthcare plan that originates from the Association of Pacific Islands Legislators (APIL). Various indicated benefits of contributing to a region-wide healthcare plan were explored along with a recommendation for the need of a regional study to be conducted to better situate its potentials based on the experiences of current stand-alone plans in the MCES jurisdictions.

The Leaders expressed interest in the concept of a regional medical insurance plan and the prospects on the benefit of pooling resources for such plan.

Other Decisions

In a separate side-meeting, the Presidents of the FSM, the Marshall Islands and Palau agreed to extend the College of Micronesia Treaty, subject to legislative approval, to September 30, 2023 as recommended by the COM Board of Regents. "COM Land Grant federal programs are operated through the 'Treaty Among the Governments of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau Regarding College of Micronesia'". At the latest status, the treaty was effective until September 30, 2013.

The Chief Executives held a separate session that involved officials from the US Department of the Interior that mostly concerned a report from the US Government on the impact of an estimated 56,000 citizens of the Freely Associated States residing in US jurisdictions. The Leaders had the opportunity to express their view on the report. The Governor of Guam "indicated his disappointment in the overall movement of the U.S. Government and the Department of Interior on issues of Compact Impact, especially the failure to develop a template for the measurement of impacts, failure to report in a timely fashion to the U.S. Congress and the failure to respond to overall health care, education, corrections and other impact issues". Other Leaders expressed concern regarding data compilation in the process for determining compact impacts.

The Leaders also touched on the issue of the status of the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future (MCSF), which is seen as a coordinating organ for the MCES. The DOI suspended a grant in February 2013 and support for the Center were put on hold.

As one of the last actions for the Summit, the Leaders agreed to improve the configuration of the MCSF to strengthen its secretariat function and be more responsive to the MCES.

Additionally, three resolutions also resulted from the Leaders' deliberations.

Resolution 19-01 pledges "expanded support of the Micronesian Chief Executives for existing regional, national and local initiatives to implement invasive species awareness, impact assessment and research, management and biosecurity programs and the continued support for the implementation of the Micronesian Biosecurity Plan".

Resolution 19-02 underscores the Chief Executives' recognition of and support toward the "social and economic development of the region through enhanced telecommunications capacity in the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia".

Resolution 19-03 stresses the Chief Executives' "recognition of the accomplishments of Francis X. Solomon, an advisor of the Prior Service Program and the first director of the Technical Assistance Program at the Office of Insular Affairs and commemorating his death of August 22, 2013".

The Leaders also acknowledged the action taken by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) which adopted a resolution in support of the development of the Micronesian Biosecurity Plan (MBP). A letter from the Leaders expressing appreciation for the State of Hawaii's supportive action was sent to Governor Neil Abercrombie with request for Hawaii's full participation in the development of the MBP and inclusion in the Micronesian Invasive Species Council as a non-voting member.

As a tribute to a departed Statesman, the Chief Executives took time to honor the passing away of President Nelson Mandela. A moment of silence was observed.

Before closing, the Leaders expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and announced that the 20th MCES will be held in Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia. The specific date for the next meeting will be determined and announced by Yap State.

The following is a link to the 19th MCES communique (the outcome of the meeting).

[http://fsmpio.fm/communique/19th\\_MCES\\_Communique'.pdf](http://fsmpio.fm/communique/19th_MCES_Communique'.pdf)

## December 16, 2013



- A-One Mart opens doors for business
- Caring about people with disabilities
- Chuuk Advisory Group on education reform
- Human trafficking awareness training
- Japan Embassy hosts Emperor's birthday celebration
- Make Christmas special by Going Local
- Micronesian Congress passes Climate Change Law
- New JICA Advisor to the President of FSM
- Pohnpei Women's Council has a new home
- Spain and multi-lateralism: What can we contribute to the United Nations Security Council - Editorial
- Special session passes Climate Change Act, works on Telecom Bill
- U.S. Embassy Consular Services to close for the Holidays
- US provides \$8.7 million in Compact Grant assistance payments in November

## December 30, 2013



- A volunteer's first Christmas in Pohnpei - Letter to the Editor
- College Celebrates 58th Commencement Exercises
- Frequent travel disrupts delivery of services to the public - Guest Perspective
- FSM and Japan - Celebrating 25 Years of Diplomatic Relations
- FSM expands diplomatic reach in Asia-Pacific
- FSM First Lady Emma Nelson-Mori keeps December 25 Christmas giving tradition with hospital patients
- IFCP Board is complete!
- Islands Business posthumously names Pacific activist as 2013 Pacific Person of the Year
- Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UNDP Resident Representative visits FSM GEF Small Grants Programme
- ONPA digs into National Government travel expenditures
- ONPA releases Audit on Food Security efforts in the FSM
- ONPA Releases Inspection Report of Chuuk State Tax and Revenue Office
- Pohnpei State Hospital conducted a Quality Assurance Seminar with JICA Volunteers
- Spirit of giving broadens during 62nd Operation Christmas Drop
- Swim meet at the Pohnpei pool

## Background and function of Micronesian Shipping Commission

### Micronesian Shipping Commission

Traditionally, commercial shipping within the former Trust Territory area was administered by the High Commissioner under Secretarial Order 2902, which allowed the provision of commercial shipping services by a single liner-carrier under a franchise agreement approved by the High Commissioner.

Because of the role of shipping in the administration of the TTPI, S.O. 2902 was designed primarily to induce commercial carrier operation in an area of low cargo volume and vast distances by providing the designated carrier with the necessary protection against competition and further dilution of the limited cargo volume available in the trade. However, by the mid-1970s, the volume of trade in the TTPI area had risen dramatically to a level where the single carrier concept and service could no longer accommodate the demand for reliable shipping.

Following the demise of TRANSPAC in 1974, the High Commissioner by virtue of Executive Order 113, established the "Entry Assurance System" to allow controlled competition in the provision of shipping service in the TTPI. Under this scheme a few selected carriers were allowed to provide liner service on specific routes to and from

the TTPI. The number of carriers authorized to service a particular route was determined by the volume of cargo moving in that trade route and the selection of carriers was based on the merits of proposals submitted by carriers in terms of frequency, rates, employment opportunities, financial background and investment in the TTPI ports. The operations of these selected carriers were reviewed annually to ensure compliance with their proposed service and in accordance with a set of criteria established under E.O. 113. Carriers that did not comply with the terms of their entry assurances were terminated forthwith.

With the establishment of constitutional governments in the FSM, Palau, and RMI in 1979, the responsibility over shipping and flag state matters did not change hand immediately. The FSM and RMI assumed these responsibilities upon affectivity of their compacts of free association, in the case of the FSM in 1986.

During the transition period prior to the transfer of these functions, the High Commissioner continued to regulate shipping and issue entry assurances; but the actual decisions affecting approval and disapproval were jointly made by the FSM, RMI, and Palau through the annual Micronesian Shipping Conference.

In 1984, during one such annual conference and in anticipation of the imminent turnover of these functions, the FSM, RMI, and Palau initialed an Agreement to continue to coordinate decisions affecting international shipping service. This was due in part to the interrelation of shipping routes within the three entities and the need for a united front in the negotiation of rates and other desirable service components; but most importantly the system had been proven to be the best in accommodating the desired quality and quantity of shipping service for the region.

In 1988, a revised Agreement was developed and signed by the representatives of the FSM, RMI, and Palau to the Micronesian Shipping Conference to form a "Micronesian Shipping Commission" to perpetuate regional consultation and cooperation on decision affecting international shipping service. The Agreement adopted in substance the criteria created under TTPI E.O. 113 as the basis for regulation of Entry Assurance for the three entities. The Republic of the Marshall Islands adopted the Agreement as an executive treaty, but the FSM and Palau failed to obtain congressional action to ratify the Agreement because of certain concerns.

In 1997, a final revised Agreement was developed to accommodate the concerns

of the participating governments and was signed by Secretary of Transportation and Communications (FSM), Minister of Transportation and Communications (RMI), and the Minister of Commerce and Trade (ROP) on behalf of their governments.

In spite of the non ratification of the Agreement, FSM, RMI, and Palau continued to meet annually as a matter of necessity to review and issue entry assurance under de facto Micronesian Shipping Commission from 1986 up to the Agreement's ratification on March 12, 1998 by the Legislative Body of the Government of RMI, November 25, 1998 by FSM congress and finally on September 16, 1999 by OEK, Republic of Palau.

During the period from 1986 and up to the dates the MSC Agreement was ratified by the three participating governments, the existence of the Micronesian Shipping Commission and its effectiveness in regulating international shipping was only possible because the carriers in the system fully supported the concept of the Entry Assurance.

The MSC meets annually to review carriers' performance and new proposal for shipping service to and from the region collectively called Micronesia sub-region

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## FSM Ambassador presents credentials to King of Thailand

FSM Information Services

January 8, 2014

**Bangkok, Thailand** – On December 12, 2013, His Excellency Akillino H. Susaia, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Royal Kingdom of Thailand, took part in a ceremony to present his Credentials to the Government of Thailand. Ambassador Susaia was among other resident and non-resident Ambassadors presenting their credentials to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. At the ceremony, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn received the letters of credence on behalf of his Majesty who was ill for the occasion.

Ambassador Susaia had been cross-accredited earlier to Thailand, in accordance with the Thai Government's rules and regulations on accrediting Ambassadors. Based in Beijing, China, he had long awaited for the opportunity to present his credentials to the Government of Thailand.

In his statement on the occasion, Ambassador Susaia extended greetings from President Manny Mori to His Majesty King Adulyadej and expressed his wish for the 'good health and prosperity' for His Majesty and the people of Thailand. Ambassador referred to Thailand's role in the Asia-Pacific region as critical given its rise as one of the emerging economies in the region. He referred to the visit of President Mori in November 2013 to Bangkok in search of opportunities in the area of tourism, fisheries, and other sectors, as a testament to FSM's desire to enhance the development cooperation between FSM and Thailand.

In response, His Majesty wished President Mori and the people of FSM happiness as well as prosperity. He

stated that the standing good relations between FSM and Thailand is made possible because of the "friendly ties, mutual understanding and sincere goodwill" that the two countries continue to enjoy.

Ambassador Susaia is the first FSM Ambassador to be accredited to the Royal Kingdom of Thailand.

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# Believe in the "Go Local" campaign? Become a 2014 member of IFCP!

By *April Turner*

*Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP)*

For more information, visit [www.islandfood.org](http://www.islandfood.org), call IFCP at 320-3259 or email at [info@islandfood.org](mailto:info@islandfood.org).

Did you know FSM has the highest rate of diabetes in the world?

### Membership Payment

#### Pay by Check

Please make checks payable to "Island Food Community of Pohnpei" and send to: PO Box 1995 Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941 Federated States of Micronesia.

Did you know FSM has the 2nd highest rate of obesity and overweight in the world?

Want to change this in your lifetime?

#### Pay by Cash

Please visit our office to make payment. Membership is payable annually by calendar year.

Be a part of the fight against this NCD crisis by joining Island Food Community of Pohnpei. Our work depends on your support.

### Membership benefits include:

- Subscription to the Go Local Newsletter
- Free planting materials, including rare nutrient-rich varieties
- Access to resources, research and educational materials
- Free island food recipe sheets
- Invitation to IFCP annual general meeting

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Please visit [www.islandfood.org](http://www.islandfood.org) Get Involved page.

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Please deposit/transfer directly into the IFCP bank account using your name and "Membership" as a reference.

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## The Stats:

? Over half Pohnpei preschool children




have Vitamin A deficiency, leaving them vulnerable to infection, anemia & night blindness

? 1 in 3 adults




have diabetes

? 73% Pohnpeians




are overweight or obese

? Epidemic of NCDs



like, cancer, diabetes & heart disease

? 82%



eat less than 2 servings of fruit & vegetables per day

Source: Yamamura et al 2004, Hawai'i Journal of Medicine & Public Health 2013

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## More than 30,000 people reached in 2013!

By *April Turner*

*Island Food Community of Pohnpei*

In 2013, Island Food Community of Pohnpei reached nearly 10,000 people directly through our various community activities, school education and meetings. Indirectly, through our extensive media reach, the Go Local! campaign has potentially reached every person in Pohnpei!

Here's the stats:

- Community activities: 47
- School activities: 45
- Meetings: 98
- Newspaper articles: 62
- Radio press releases: 28
- Newsletters: 13
- Facebook likes: 374

Thank you for the continued community support of Island Food Community of Pohnpei. We look forward to another year of supporting the community strengthen the culture, health, environment, economy and food security of the Pohnpei islands and its people.

Special appreciation to the agencies that have provided invaluable funding throughout 2013:

Australian Government, Australian Volunteers International (AVI), Children's Healthy Living Program (a USDA grant to University of Hawaii), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Pohnpei State & FSM National Government, Rotary Club of Pohnpei, UNESCO, US Government, Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, World Health Organization and many others.

# Second Oath of Allegiance ceremony in 2013: Carrie Lynn Boylan becomes FSM citizen

On December 17, Carrie Lynn Boylan became the second person in the history of the Federated States of Micronesia to obtain FSM citizenship through the new naturalization process when she renounced her US citizenship and received the Oath of Allegiance from President Manny Mori. Mrs. Boylan's father, Russel Jay Varner, is a US citizen and her mother, Rene'e Etscheit-Varner, a Pohnpeian from Nett Municipality, which made Mrs. Boylan a national of the FSM. Pursuant to a change in the law, FSM nationals may apply for and be granted citizenship under Presidential approval. Mrs. Boylan applied to become an FSM citizen by renouncing her US citizenship and applying for FSM citizenship through this new process. Aliens (those individuals who are not born or adopted to an FSM father or mother), need Congressional approval to become FSM citizens.

is born in another country or to a parent who is a citizen of another country, the child maintains citizenship in both countries until, within three years after reaching his or her 18th birthday, the child chooses which citizenship he or she wants to keep. If no election is made, then the child automatically becomes a national and loses his or her citizenship.

Mrs. Boylan was born in California, USA and moved to Pohnpei when she was less than two years old, where she grew up. She later went back to the USA to receive her education and after that came back and stayed in Pohnpei to date. Mrs. Boylan and her family have been engaged in the business commercial sector in Pohnpei State for more than 15 years. She is the operator and owner of Perfume and Things and is also the operator and owner of Varner Boylan Corporation, a real estate agency. Mrs. Boylan is married and has 4 children, 3 of whom were born in Pohnpei.

The FSM Constitution does not allow adults to hold dual citizenship, that is, a citizen of both the FSM and another country. However, when a child, who has at least one FSM citizen parent,

Present for the naturalization ceremony were family and friends of Mrs. Boylan as well as Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert, Justice



Mrs. Boylan, getting ready for the pledge of allegiance while husband and sons watch from the side. President Manny Mori administers the oath.

Secretary April Dawn Skilling, and Chief of Staff Leo Falcam, Jr.



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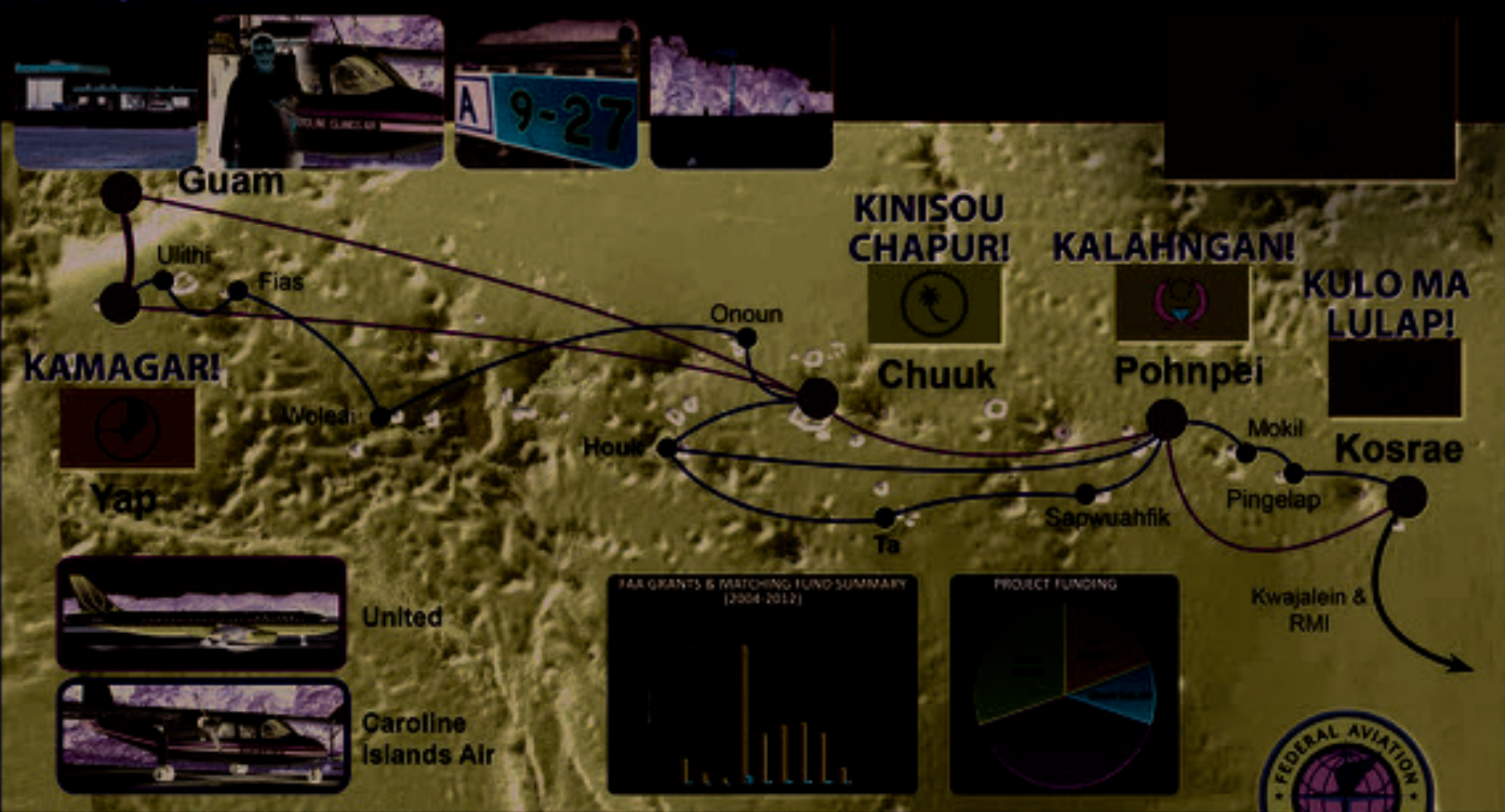
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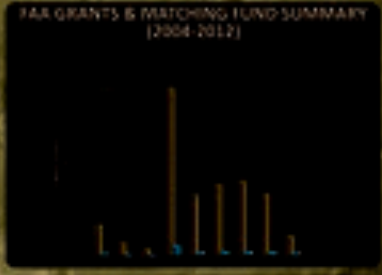
**KINISOU CHAPUR!**  
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**KALAHNGANI!**  
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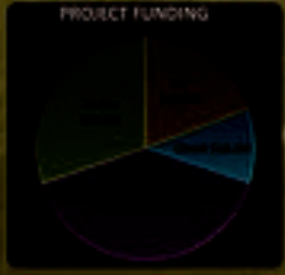
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**FAR GRANTS & MATCHING FUND SUMMARY (2004-2012)**



**PROJECT FUNDING**




Under FSM President Mori and the FSM Airline Taskforce and the US Federal Aviation Administration:

- \$180M has been invested
- Generated \$4M in local tax revenue
- Provided over 150 local jobs
- Significant training of FSM Inspectors, Engineers, and skilled workers

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