

# Pohnpei celebrates 72nd anniversary of the United Nations and new commitments to world goals

By **Bill Jaynes**  
 The Kaselehlie Press

October 24, 2017

**Pohnpei**—Pohnpei celebrated United Nations day this morning at the PICS track and field. A highlight of the program was the introduction of FSM Youth for the UN’s Strategic Development Goals (SDGs), each of them carrying signs representing one of the 17 goals decided on by the

member nations of the United Nations.

Though the opening of the event was delayed by rain, everyone in Pohnpei knows that rain is a sign of blessing. Once the rains passed, Master of Ceremonies, Norleen Oliver quickly took the microphone and began the program.

Father Ken gave an inspiring opening prayer.

Oliver gave an outline of the day’s agenda and explained the selection, training and participation of the FSM Youth for SDGs.

Vice President Yosiwo George gave the opening speech.

“Today we celebrate 72 years of an international commitment towards maintaining peace, eradicating poverty and inequality, combatting climate change and its detrimental effects, and fomenting close collaboration within and among Nations,” he said.

“The Federated States of Micronesia became a member of the United Nations on September 17, 1991, and since then has been active in promoting the UN mandates. Today, through this public event, it is in my capacity as Vice President that I reiterate FSM’s commitment to this international organization,

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# FSM Court hands down light sentences to convicted human traffickers in Chuuk

By *Bill Jaynes*  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

October 30, 2017

**Chuuk**—Associate Justice Larry Wentworth of the FSM Supreme Court in Chuuk handed down surprisingly light sentences for the FSM’s first successful human trafficking prosecution.

Convicted felons Cortez Benedicto and Rieta Eram each faced as much as 45 years in jail and \$85,000 in fines for their crimes. What they got was significantly less than that.

Justices are not required to define reasons for their sentences and no reason was given for the light sentences provided for the victimization of a then 14 year old girl.

The Court decided that Benedicto’s sentence of 15 months should be suspended except for weekends between 6:00 PM on each Saturday night until 6:00 AM each Monday morning and placed on probation for the rest of the 15 months. While he is on probation he can’t leave Chuuk without the permission of the Court. He must report to the Court’s

Ombudsman every month. He can’t have any contact with the victim of his crime. When he is not working, he is to be confined at the GPPC Construction camp in Mwan. The Court also assigned a \$5000 fine which can be paid in a lump sum. Otherwise, he must pay \$200 each pay period until the fine is paid. The \$200 he initially paid for bail is being applied to that fine by court order.

Eram’s sentence was even lighter. She got probation for 15 months and no fine for providing a minor in her custody to

Benedicto for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The sentence has some prosecutors shaking their heads in bewilderment.

“We have to respect the Court’s decision because that is how the criminal justice system works. We will work within the law and keep on enforcing it. If we need the law to be amended for more strict minimum punishments we can ask Congress to consider that possibility as an amendment,” said Joses Gallen, FSM’s Secretary for the Department of Justice.

# China donates books and cash to Pohnpei Public Library

By *Bill Jaynes*  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

October 27, 2017—The Pohnpei Public Library today received a donation of books and cash. The Embassy of the People’s Republic of China donated three large boxes of books covering a wide range of subjects on China from regional histories and explanations of their political system right through to topics of China’s National Defense.

Counselor LI Cuiying of the Embassy presented the books saying that she hoped that they would help provide useful information about her country that the Library doesn’t currently have. Visitors who were at the library at the time were asked to be part of the photo.



She also presented a check in the amount of \$1300 for use by the library.

The Pohnpei Public Library is a non-profit organization.



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Bill Jaynes  
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# Japan donates money for procurement of tractors to Pohnpei Agriculture

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

October 31, 2017

**Pohnpei**—Ambassador Ryoichi Horie of Japan and Pohnpei’s Governor Marcelo K. Peterson signed the agreements necessary to mobilize the donation of money for the purchase of two tractors for the Division of Agriculture. The \$84,900 donation will also cover three implements for the tractors as well as freight and wharfage.

Governor Peterson thanked the Ambassador and the people of Japan. He said that farmers had often approached him since he became governor asking if the State could once again provide tractors but the State didn’t have the resources. Nicholas Solomon, Pohnpei’s Director of the Department of Resources and Development said that the tractor the State owns has been broken beyond repair for over a year. He said that he is glad the State will now be able to once again provide the important service for food security for Pohnpei.

Adelino Lorens, Chief of the Division of Agriculture also thanked the Embassy and people of Japan.

During his speech, Ambassador Horie said that he felt that the donation is an important one for the people of Pohnpei. He also spoke briefly about President Christian’s recent State visit to Japan during which he met with Emperor Akahito and also with Japan Prime Minister Abe. He said that during that meeting, Abe announced that it would be providing the FSM with approximately \$3 million as further grant assistance.

He expressed his disappointment that two previous donations that the Embassy of Japan had provided were overdue for completion and encouraged the Governor and his staff members to be sure that the tractors are purchased very quickly so that they can be put to use right away.

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**Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is  
the end of working hours on:  
Wednesday November 15, 2017**

# Pohnpei True Value and 11 other sponsors host the 22nd Annual True Value Tournament

*Pohnpei Fishing Club*

*October 21, 2017*

**Pohnpei**—18 boats along with their captains and crew braved the elements in pursuit of big fish for the 22nd Annual True Value tournament on Saturday, October 21. Plenty of fish were caught, including some large barracuda. The weigh in was conducted at the Dekehtik boat dock.

For 22 years, Pohnpei True Value has sponsored a fishing tournament in Pohnpei. This year the tournament was jointly sponsored by 11 other sponsors as well. The sponsors were Air Niugini, San Miguel, Ambros, Jonquil, Pohnpei True Value, Pacasia, Monje, Hardiflex, Sewan, Barnett, Pacific Islands, International, and Nihon Tekkan.

One of the prizes for the tournament was to have been two round trip tickets to Port Moresby on Air Niugini for the largest marlin caught, but no marlin were caught. Rather than letting the prize roll over until next year, Air Niugini decided instead to award the tickets to Jeannie Hawley who won the big fish prize for her 56.9 pound yellowfin tuna. Hawley also won an 18,000 BTU split type air conditioner from Pohnpei True Value.

Konrad Englberger was the second prize winner with a 30.4 pound barracuda in the biggest fish category. He was awarded a 7.1 cubic foot freezer provided by Jonquil. Englberger also caught the third biggest fish—a 27.1 pound barracuda. Pohnpei

True Value awarded him with a Barbecue Grill for that catch.

Gift certificates were awarded for the biggest fish of each species, Junior Angler, and Lady Angler.

The anglers who won the “biggest species” prizes were each awarded a \$150 gift certificate.

Izaa Teo won for the biggest yellowfin tuna. Denise Etscheit won for her 17.4 pound wahoo. Welber David caught the largest Skipjack at 16.8 pounds. Konrad Englberger caught a 21.2 pound Giant Trevally. Feleti Teo caught the largest barracuda under this prize category at 15.9 pounds.

Junior Anglers were awarded \$100 for their landed fish. Junior Olpet won first place for his 12.8 pound Wahoo. Kekoa Pernet won second place for a 11.2 pound wahoo.

The top lady angler for the tournament was Berno Hedson. She won a \$100 gift certificate for her 17 pound Giant Trevally.



Sponsors provided hot dogs and hamburgers for all of the participants, and every boat that entered the tournament received two cases of beer and a large Red Horse cooler.

Many thanks to everyone who helped, including Bill Pendergraft, Tina Albert, and all of the Pohnpei True Value staff members.

Pohnpei Fishing Club’s last tournament of the year will be the Budweiser tournament on November 18. Mark it down on your calendars.

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## ...UN Day

*Continued from front page*

and, particularly to the 2030 Global Agenda (the SDGs).

“In September 2015, we joined other countries and leaders at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York, where we discussed the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and agreed upon the future we want for our nations and peoples. Finally, On 25 September 2015, the 194 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Global Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These 17 Sustainable Goals focus on achieving development for all nations around the world in a sustainable way, that is, in a way in which we can, as people, fulfill our needs and expand our capacities without compromising the needs and capacities of future generations.

“The Federated States of Micronesia has begun its process and commitment to the 2030 Global Agenda, early on, and today, through this event we wish to involve you all in this process. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in FSM depends on all of our combined efforts and commitment, alluding to Goal 17, ‘Partnerships for the Goals’, it is paramount that we pool efforts through key partnerships, not only among our federated governments, but, also, within each of our communities, municipalities and States. For that purpose, the FSM Department of Resources and Development, as Chair of the SDG Working Group and with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), has reached out to our Youth, for they symbolize the future of FSM, and it is with and through them that we can move forward towards the change we want to see on our islands.

“The ‘FSM Youth for SDGs’ initiative, with its SDG Youth Ambassadors, has the main goal of activating youth for the Global



*See “UN Day (2)” on next page*

# Trust Fund Chairman assures that illegally withdrawn funds are fully restored

## Fund security strengthened, custodian replaced, investigation continues

*Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands*



WASHINGTON (October 26, 2017) – Chairman Nik Pula of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (the Trust Fund) confirmed this week that funds compromised by cyber-attacks at State Street Financial Services Company (State Street) have been fully restored and diligence stepped up after the discovery of fraudulent withdrawals of more than \$600,000.

“Trust Fund staff first detected irregularities in early July 2017 and alerted custodian State Street leading to the discovery of fraudulent activity in the Trust Fund.” said Chairman Pula. “All Trust Fund members and staff have been collaborating closely with State Street in monitoring and resolving the situation with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Attorney General, RMI Auditor, and other officials from the Marshall Islands, Taiwan, and U.S. governments,” continued Pula. “Together we will continue to protect and maintain the integrity of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.”

**KNOWN FACTS:**

- In late June and the first half of July 2017, a series of 8 fraudulent wire transfers occurred in the Trust Fund totaling \$685,595.08.
- The irregular activity violated proper protocol, processes, and procedures established to protect the Trust Fund.
- All illegally withdrawn funds from the Trust Fund have been returned by State Street; no funds are missing.
- State Street is in the process of reimbursing all funds fraudulently transferred out of a separate account which is managed and administered solely by the RMI Government.
- In late July 2017, the Trust Fund initiated transfer of custody from State Street to Vanguard. The transfer was planned prior to the fraudulent activity and based on a previous RFP process. The Trust Fund will finalize closure of its account with State Street once the accounts are fully reconciled.
- Trust Fund staff continues to maintain rigorous monitoring and reporting activities on a daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly basis to protect the integrity of the account.
- An investigation by the State Street Cyber-Security team is on-going and the FBI has also been called upon to investigate.

The Trust Fund Chair and Members continue to be fully apprised of the situation and will continue to be diligent in protecting the Trust Fund.

The value of the Fund as of September 30, 2017, preliminary and unaudited for fiscal year 2017, was \$354,656,481.

As provided for under the Compact of Free Association agreement, as amended (U.S. Public Law 108-188), the Trust Fund was established to contribute to the economic advancement and long-term budgetary self-reliance of the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands when annual grant assistance under the Compact expires after fiscal year 2023.

# ...UN Day (2)

*Continued from previous page*

Goals, and, our Youth Ambassadors have the key task of, in turn, activating all other sectors of our societies - and what an important task it is! Today we pledge our allegiance and support to them, who through their mandate, will raise advocacy and awareness for the Sustainable Development Goals in FSM. I ask you all today to open your minds and hearts to our SDG Youth Ambassadors. For it is through the ‘FSM Youth for the SDGs’ initiative that civil society will be enhanced towards working for a better future for you and your communities,’ Vice President George concluded.

As an example of SDG number three, “Good Health and Well Being”, the Kolonia Town Zumba Group performed several exercise dance numbers.

Jupwiki Parano, a Mwoakillese traditional dance group demonstrated their culture through their challenging dance style.

Youth 4 Change punctuated the festivities with beautiful vocal harmonies.

The United Nations sponsored an essay contest from Pohnpei schools. The winning essayists read their winning essays as the last item on the program.

The 2030 Global agenda includes 17 sustainable development goals. They are:

- 1 – No poverty
- 2 – Zero Hunger
- 3 – Good Health and Well-Being
- 4 – Quality Education
- 5 – Gender Equality
- 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation
- 7 – Affordable Clean Energy
- 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13 – Climate Action
- 14 – Life Below Water
- 15 – Life on Land
- 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

After the ceremony was complete, participants were urged to visit any of the several booths explaining the SDGs.



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## FSM TC&I says that agreements proceeding for World Bank funding of FSM fiber optic project

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

November 1, 2017

**FSM**—World Bank funding is not yet secured for the FSM fiber-optic cable project, but according to a memo from the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure (TC&I) and FSM Senator Esmond Moses, at least some of the World Bank funding could be in place by the end of the year. The FSM stills needs to cover several details but Moses says all parties are working together and most of those details should be in place by then.

The fiber optic cables have already landed in Chuuk, and Yap. Since then rumors have circulated that the company that handled the laying of the cable was suing the FSM for payment for its services and product since the funding is not yet in place. Senator Moses says that is not true. He said that in fact, the representatives of the company were surprised and thrilled during President Christian's recent State Visit to Japan when the FSM made an \$8.5 million payment on the bill from locally held funds. He says those funds will be reimbursed when World Bank disbursement conditions have been met.

The memo from TC&I said that department "with generous support from the Department of Justice, the Department of Finance and Administration, FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC), and the FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (FSMTCC) can report significant progress

towards meeting the project disbursement conditions since its last briefing to Congress during the September Special Session."

It says that TC&I has identified the two most critical actions necessary for meeting those conditions. One of the tasks is hiring the Open Access Entity (OAE also known as FSMTCC) CEO so that the CEO can take necessary actions to "operationalize" the OAE. Also remaining to be done is the completion of arrangements between FSMTC and the OAE for transit, facilities sharing, and related matters either by passage of legislation or by agreement.

TC&I wrote that two potential options were presented to and approved by World Bank. One was the "HANTRUI Transfer" bill, which would have transferred that line from FSMTC ownership to ownership by the OAE (FSMTCC). Congress rejected that offer. The other option was the "IRU Deed" (Indefeasible Rights of Use).

TC&I says that in late September, FSMTC provided its proposed revisions to the "IRU Deed". "Subject to completing some technical requirements and obtaining further World Bank approval, it appears that the IRU deed may be agreed in principle between the OAE and FSMTC," the memo said.

Because that option has been selected the memo says that significant additional work is required to implement it, including the development of a new business plan for the FSM Open Access

Entity "to address and mitigate the greater financial and operational risks inherent in this approach..."

The memo says that TC&I projects that the OAE CEO will be able to obtain approval for the final OAE operational budget and the IRU Deed by the second or third week of November. "Due to the operational and market risks posed by the IRU Deed, the budget estimates may need to be adjusted upward from the \$1 million already appropriated," it says.

Agreements need to be put in place between the OAE and TC&I and the World Bank to take over implementation responsibilities for the cable projects. The OAE also needs to be "fully operationalized", meaning that it will need hire its key staff, obtain office space, set up bank accounts, set up a financial management system, develop maintenance and operations agreements, and other tasks to set up its operations.

In May of 2017, the OAE board selected Adolfo Montenegro as CEO. Last week, the Department of Justice approved a contract for the new CEO. The OAE, TC&I, and DoFA are now seeking to negotiate a final contract and resolve all outstanding issues for Mr. Montenegro to begin work under the contract. "The first deliverable under the new contract will be the completion of the OAE budget, business and marketing plan, which (are) required for project fund disbursement," the memo says.

It says that project agreements can be entered into as soon as the OAE CEO

and the World Bank set a schedule. The actions for operationalizing the OAE will take additional time. The memo says that if the government is making good progress and is able to secure the additional funding requirements according to an approved OAE budget, World Bank may consider a partial lifting of the project disbursements conditions. The target date for government to make that request is by the end of November.

"Assuming the IRU Deed will be finalized, no substantive legislation will be required for project disbursement," the memo says.

Senator Moses says that he doesn't anticipate any difficulty with the three items Congress will need to act on.

The memo provided a list of projected dates for completion of individual tasks. A partial lifting of World Bank disbursement conditions is projected for some time in late December with ownership and implementation of cable infrastructure investments being transferred to the OAE by January 1. After that date additional actions will be required to operationalize OAE and obtain full lifting of project disbursement conditions.

Moses says that the fiber optic connection of Kosrae through Kiribati is not part of the arrangements that are currently being made but that it will not be nearly as complicated as the establishment of the OAE and the IRU has been.

To make a very long and complicated story short, fiber optic connectivity of all FSM States is progressing nicely and all parties are working together to come to final agreements.

## FSM Surveillance & Fisheries Satellite Monitoring Training



On October 9, 2017, staff from the FSM Department of Justice (DOJ) Maritime Surveillance Wing and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) gathered at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries

Commission Annex Building for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) training. The week-long training, conducted by experts from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) based in Honiara, Solomon Islands,

allowed FSM's maritime enforcement officers and fisheries compliance staff to upgrade their skills on use of the Regional Satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The VMS is one of the key MCS tools utilized by FFA members to monitor fishing vessels in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

The training was officially opened by NORMA Executive Director, Mr. Eugene Pangelinan, who noted that continual upgrading of systems and skills are essential to an effective fisheries management regime. Mr. Pangelinan highlighted the significant work in fisheries management that has been accomplished over the past decade as a result of the VMS and encouraged participants to absorb as much knowledge as they could from the regional FFA experts as well as

FSM's own in-country experts, VMS Officers Mr. Justino Helgen from NORMA and Mr. Whylik Alfons from DOJ. The training was part of a series of MCS exercises that the FSM requested as part of its Country Service Agreement with FFA and an in-country roll-out of the recently upgraded VMS. Training participants expressed their appreciation for the timeliness and relevance of the training to the FSM, which would aid in carrying out daily MCS tasks, providing policy advice and planning maritime operational activities. The VMS training focused on teaching officers the functionality of various modules on the new VMS Trackwell System and how to operate it to combat, prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in FSM's multi-million dollar generating EEZ.

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## Taiwan vessel nabbed in Pacific fisheries surveillance operation Kurukuru

Friday 27 October, 2017:

**FFA HQ, Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS**—Maritime police and fisheries authorities in the Federated States of Micronesia have apprehended and seized a Taiwan purse seining vessel suspected of IUU fishing. The vessel was boarded and inspected by one of FSM's three Patrol boats during Operation Kurukuru 2017, a ten-day Pacific-wide fisheries surveillance operation which ended on Friday, 13 October.

"FSM welcomes the much needed resource and intel sharing of regional surveillance operations such as Kurukuru. These activities add an important layer of support to our national maritime HQ and as we have seen, we want those vessels given the right to fish in our EEZs to take their license conditions seriously, or face prosecution," says Eugene Pangelinan, Executive Director for FSM's National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (NORMA)

"It is effective national action to actually investigate, seize and prosecute or fine violators that justifies regional operations such as Operation Kurukuru and rewards the hard work and effort of coordinated regional support from the Honiara-based Fisheries Surveillance Centre," says FFA Director General James Movick.

DG Movick noted that the incidence of unlicensed illegal boats is now considered only a small part of the regional IUU problem, and more effort is being put into addressing the lack of full and verifiable reporting and compliance by legally licensed boats, which is the biggest part of IUU fishing in the PIC oceanic fishery. "Our message must be consistent: break the rules on our oceans, and you will face the consequences because we have the capability to see and seize you," he says.

Expressing appreciation to all members and partners involved in the annual regional surveillance sweep, FFA Director General James Movick noted the full participation of all 17 FFA members, as well as the added support of defence assets from Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States.

"A noteworthy first for us this year was the use of Australian Air Forces' King Air B350 aircraft which are smaller but more agile aircraft than we normally see deployed in these operations. Flying daily from Honiara, with the crews visiting the RFSC each day and planning their flights at the FFA, we noted the success of their work and welcome their return in future operations. We are very interested to see a long term role for these type of aircraft in regional surveillance in the future," says DG Movick.

Kurukuru operations have been running annually for more than ten years, and since 2009 have been led out of the Regional Fisheries Surveillance centre of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, FFA. It is the largest annual sweep of tuna fishing vessels in the Pacific region.

Operation Kurukuru 2017 involved more than 500 officials across the Pacific, covered more than 21.2million square kilometres of Ocean over a total of 120 at-sea days and 200 hours of flight-hours logged from assets including 12 patrol boats, 15 national maritime headquarters



*Working with 15 nations and defence assets from Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States – Honiara based Operation Kurukuru 2017 participants from Pacific, outside the FFA RFSC. (Photo: FFALibrary)*

with added aerial and surface support from Australia, France, New Zealand and the US. A total of 480 vessels were detected by optical sensors, 144 vessels were interrogated closely at sea, with a total of 111 boardings at sea and in port.

DG Movick commended Vessel Monitoring Official Manasa Nasilivata of Fiji for his performance as the Chief Of Staff for Operation Kurukuru 2017. The role was created to build capacity for Pacific officers keen to take on the leadership and oversight of regional surveillance operations.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to be amongst the mix of Pacific watch-keepers monitoring tuna fishing activity from the regional angle. We shared the roles of vigilance and sharing information, intelligence gathering and analysis for almost two weeks. The commitment, diligence and professionalism of watch keepers, planners and operational was evident from the moment the operation began until the final day. For me, this was a leading contributor to the success of these regional surveillance actions."

## First 2018 Microgames sponsor announced

**Colonia, Yap** - Liyon Sulog, CEO of the 2018 MicroGames, has announced that Diving Seagull, Inc., has signed on to be the first sponsor of the quadrennial sporting event at the Silver Level with a contribution valued between \$50,000 and \$74,999.

"We are grateful to the board and management of Diving Seagull for their partnership and generous commitment to provide fresh fish for the athletes, as well as cash to support the many other needs required to host the Games," said Sulog. Yap will host of the next Games from July 15 to 27, 2018.

"It is an honor to be associated with this event," said John Waayan, Chairman, Diving Seagull. "We strongly support the goal of the MicroGames to insure the physical health and mental well-being of our youth through lifelong participation in active sport and healthy eating and look forward to cheering the athletes on as they engage in friendly competition."

The Diving Seagull, Inc., a component unit of the State of Yap, pursues fishing

and other fishing related activities by operating fishing vessels, marketing and selling fish, and developing cold storage and transshipment facilities.

The MicroGames are a quadrennial international multi-sport event within the Micronesian Region. Men and women athletes come from the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and the Northern Mariana Islands to compete. The purpose

of the MicroGames is to promote a unique, friendly, world-class sporting event and to develop sport for the benefit of the people, the nations and the territories of the Micronesian community.

To inquire about sponsorship and advertising opportunities, call 691-350-2440 or email 2018microgames@gmail.com.





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Regent Pelma Johnson Mingii

## COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW REGENT

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) welcomes a new member to its Board of Regents, the governing body for the general management and control of the college. The board consists of five members, one representative from each of the four states and the national government.

On September 28, 2017, Congress confirmed Mrs. Pelma Johnson Mingii as a new regent of the college. She currently is the comptroller at Pohnpei Port Authority. Prior to joining the Port Authority, she worked at COM-FSM as the business office manager from June 1994 to December 2012. Her background also includes working as an accountant for the Kosrae State Government, financial aid counselor at Palau Community College and works-

study coordinator at the Community College of Micronesia (CCM). Regent Mingii is an alumnus of the CCM receiving her AS in business. She continued on to the University of Guam where she earned a BBA in finance/economics. She also has a M.Ed in education leadership from San Diego State University. Regent Mingii is the national government representative; replacing Mr. Kasio Mida who completed two terms on the board.

The next board meeting will be held in Pohnpei on December 13, 2017, at the National Campus. The college is happy to welcome Mrs. Mingii to the college in her new capacity as a regent of the college and looks forward to her participation in the December board meeting.



## Fall 2017 66th Commencement Exercises

Friday, December 15, 2017 at 9:00AM

Main Gym, FSM-China Friendship Sports Center

COM-FSM Alumni are invited to join the processional. Reserved seats will be made available for alumni. Please confirm your seat by emailing [rsvp@comfsm.fm](mailto:rsvp@comfsm.fm) or by calling 320-8766. Only 60 available seats. Commencement rehearsals will be on December 15, 2017 at 9:00AM.



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# Launching the Coconut For Life (C4L) Project

Vital Communications Office

**Chuuk High School, Weno, Chuuk State, FSM** - On Wednesday, October 18th, 2017, Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC) officially launched the Coconut For Life (C4L) Project. The ceremony took place on the site of the future Integrated Coconut Processing Facility (ICPF) and an Independent Power Plant (IPP) on the lagoon island of Tonoas, Chuuk. Representatives from the national government as well as delegations from all four of the Federated States of Micronesia made the early morning trip to the island, and were greeted with maramar, fresh young coconuts and singing and dancing by the Etten Youth Group.

C4L Project Ambassador Mr. Resty Shotaro welcomed guests at Ichimanton Dock and shared an introduction to the island's history including its significance during WWII as headquarters for the Imperial Japanese Army. After a brief rain shower, Shotaro then led the procession of over three hundred guests and spectators to the ICPF and IPP sites. In addition to the two, fifteen-foot tall billboards offering a clear picture of the future facilities, the Chairman and CEO of Balance Services Group Mr. Rod Hayes spoke briefly of the ICPF's initial capacity before introducing the concept and design behind the power plant his company has been commissioned to design and construct.

The Honorable Vice President Mr. Yosiwo George was invited to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony, and was joined by Chuuk State Governor Mr. Johnson Elimo, Yap State Governor Mr. Tony Ganngiyan, Pohnpei State Lt. Governor Mr. Reed Oliver, Kosrae State Lt. Governor Mr. Carson Sigrah, Tonoas Mayor Mr. Douglas Reselap, and FSMPC Chairman of the Board Mr. Faustino Yangmog. Chairman Yangmog concluded the Groundbreaking event by proposing a toast in honor of the distinguished guests and the Coconut For Life Project. A special lunch was hosted by Mayor Reselap and the people of Tonoas for all visitors.

Vital-FSM Petroleum Corporation's Chief Strategy & Investment Officer Mr. Mathias Lawrence had earlier in the week presented the Coconut For Life Project termed "C4L" to the 11th State and National Leadership Conference at the Chuuk High School. Lawrence emphasized the Project's intended purpose of increasing economic benefits throughout the FSM by boosting its agriculture sector, generating new avenues for clean water and clean energy, working with formalized producer groups - called Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) - that will comprise over 25,000 registered coconut farmers. The project is expected to increase FSM's Gross Domestic Product

by at least 5%. Lawrence also touched on recent progress made in the Company, mentioning its first export of over 80 metric tonnes of coconut crude oil in July 2017, and announcing a second export of over 60 metric tonnes of coconut crude oil scheduled for late October 2017.

In 2014, FSMPC was mandated with the task of revitalizing the nation's coconut industry when the FSM National Congress passed Public Law 18-68, also known as "The Coconut Tree Act," which dissolved what was then known as the Coconut Development Authority (CDA). FSMPC has since been taking strides towards increasing the trade in coconut tree products, as well as the processing, manufacturing, distribution and export of high value coconut products. Further information on the C4L initiative, this can be found on [www.vitalenergy.fm/coconut\\_for\\_life/](http://www.vitalenergy.fm/coconut_for_life/).

PGS awareness meetings and workshops are currently being scheduled across the entire FSM.



Community groups and individuals that are interested in forming a PGS, registering as a participating farmer with the C4L initiative can contact Shotaro for more information at (691) 330-4200, or send an email to [info@fsmc.com](mailto:info@fsmc.com).



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# Developing Regional Policy to Drive Change for the People of the Blue Pacific

By Meg Taylor DBE

The case for Pacific Regionalism is as strong today as it has ever been.

The well-established fact is that our countries have achieved great things by facing some of our biggest challenges together, rather than individually.

This was recognised by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders when they introduced The Framework for Pacific Regionalism in 2014. The Framework sees coordinated, collective action as a pathway towards a “region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.”

During their meeting in September 2017 in Samoa, Forum Leaders deepened this commitment by endorsing The Blue Pacific as a new narrative for joint political action that calls for working together as one Blue Continent. The Blue Pacific aims to harness our shared ocean identity, geography and resources to develop policies that will drive positive change in our socio-cultural, political and economic development.

An aspect of the Blue Pacific that I particularly like, is its focus on “Pacific peoples, comprising our ocean of islands, who recognise their needs and potential, who plan and own their development agenda, and who can act collectively for the good of all, rather than a few.”

Success for regionalism and the Blue Pacific means ensuring that we are the architects of our own futures.

The Pacific Islands Forum is committed to a regional policy agenda that is inclusive, transparent, and owned by its constituents.

Earlier this week the Forum Chair and Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, launched the 2017 Regional Policy Consultations and called on the “people, communities, and organisations of the region to come forward and share their insights and ideas.”

I would like to echo that sentiment and encourage everyone to become involved. The Forum Secretariat will be facilitating policy dialogues across the region over the coming months and, as we have done in the past, it is also possible to submit your ideas via letter, email, or our website.

So what are we looking for? Over the last few years the Secretariat has worked hard to facilitate dialogue with the Pacific that considers game changing regional initiatives across all aspects of our development.

To give you some examples, we have looked at options for bulk procurement of HPV vaccines to prevent cervical cancer, joint proposals for climate change related finance, and partnerships to increase the economic, environmental and social benefits for our pelagic and coastal fisheries.

In some instances, these issues may not have been part of the regional policy debate if they had not first been raised during our consultations. For this reason, we keep an open mind and an open agenda. We are interested in hearing your thoughts.

For those who wish to become more engaged in the regional policy discussions I would recommend taking a look at the recent State of Pacific Regionalism Report 2017 published by the Secretariat. The report is intended to provoke discussion around the potential for regional approaches to our many shared challenges.



This year we are also seeking input on a few important initiatives that Forum Leaders have asked us to explore. These relate to security, foreign policy, and sustainable development.

Forum Leaders agree on the value of collective action for regional security due to emerging threats to the region. They see the Biketawa Declaration and other Forum security related declarations as a strong foundation for strategic regional responses in future. They recognise the importance of an expanded concept of security, one that is inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritising environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change. Therefore, the Secretariat will be consulting on the development of a comprehensive ‘Biketawa Plus’ Declaration that considers these issues.

The Blue Pacific recognises our region as a political resource, an economic resource, and a cultural resource. In considering a Forum Foreign Policy and strategy we are asking ourselves what the priority issues for securing the Blue Pacific might be, and how can Forum Foreign Ministers ensure the solidarity, security, sustainability and prosperity of the Blue Pacific? This is a complex piece of work and again one which we seek a variety of viewpoints on.

All the submissions and input we receive during the consultations will be consolidated by the Forum Secretariat in consultation with Forum members, relevant technical agencies from the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), and where need be, with other partners of the Forum.

The key issues and themes that emerge will be used to inform regional policy development.

The Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR) will support the prioritisation of regional policy priorities, specifically using a set of tests for Regional Action set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. The Sub-Committee will then table a report on regional policy priorities at relevant regional meetings for discussion. The report will also be made available for public comment via the Forum Secretariat’s website.

Comments will be incorporated into the report by the Forum Secretariat before it is circulated to Forum Leaders for discussion and endorsement at their 2018 Meeting in Nauru.

The Pacific region is unique in offering this opportunity. A chance for all people to contribute to the development of regional policies that will help shape our future. Once again, I encourage you to be involved.

More information is available from the Forum Secretariat website: [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)

## Congress to convene special session called by the President

Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

October 27, 2017

**PALIKIR, POHNPEI** - In accordance with Presidential authorities under the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, President Peter M. Christian has called for a five-day special session of the Congress in Palikir to begin on October 30, 2017.

The President’s stated reason for the Call was for a “few important matters [that] were not able to be addressed at the last session...” and among his listed matters were the fiber-optic cable project, the 2018 Micro Games and a new consulate office in the United States. Also listed for consideration were nominations and emergent funding needs of the national government.

Speaker Wesley W. Simina and members will convene therefore on Monday at 10am for the Second Special Session of the 20th Congress to address the President’s listed matters.

As usual, the sessions of the Congress are open to interested members of the general public.



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## ENGAGEMENT ADVISER - CSO

### About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum was founded in August 1971 and currently comprises 18 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific. Forum Leaders meet annually to develop collective responses to regional issues. The Forum's administrative arm is the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva, Fiji. It acts as the Secretariat for Forum-related events, implements decisions by the Leaders, facilitates the delivery of development assistance to member states, and undertakes the political and legal mandates of Forum meetings. The Forum Secretariat is also mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages women, minorities and individuals with disabilities to apply.

### About the Opportunity

There is a vacancy for an Engagement Adviser - CSO to join the Secretariat. This job exists to guide and manage PIFS engagement with civil society organisations to ensure their meaningful participation and contribution to regional policy development and implementation. Responsibilities will include (but are not limited to):

- Coordinating PIFS civil society engagement processes in line with the PIFS CSO Engagement Strategy;
- Organizing meetings and events including preparation of meeting and workshop papers and materials; and
- Supporting the institutional strengthening of NSAs to participate in regional policy dialogue.

Applicants should have an advanced University degree in public policy, politics, development or a related discipline with demonstrated relevant work experience dealing with policy advice and stakeholder coordination in the Pacific Island Countries or in a similar environment. Candidates with experience in advancing social policy within government or intergovernmental environments would be desirable. In addition applicants should also have a sound understanding of the Civil Society Organisation context in the Pacific Region.

### About the Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR 34,537 to SDR38,854 per annum. At the 1 October 2017 exchange rate this

## PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM 40th Anniversary 1971-2011

salary range was equivalent to FJD99,358 to FJD111,78. To be eligible for these positions, the applicant must be a national of one of the following Forum member countries\*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org) where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

**Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 24 November 2017.**

\* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



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Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2018, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2017.

**Pohnpeian:**

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2018. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasawada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2017 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.

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## Health Corner

### Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs): Cardiovascular Disease

Continuing with the review of the big umbrella under NCDs, now we'll focus on Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs). This is an extensive chapter, not only because of all the affected areas in the body but also for all the impact on quality of life of the sick person, their family and the community.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are disorders of the heart and blood vessels such as: coronary heart disease (heart attack), cerebrovascular disease (stroke), rheumatic heart diseases, congenital heart diseases and heart failure.

The heart is located in the chest and together with the blood vessels (arteries and veins) work to distribute the blood supply to the whole body. This cardiovascular system, in charge of the circulation, is influenced by other parts of the body like the lungs, the kidneys, the brain as well as other factors of our lives, such as infections, stress, overweight, physical activity, food.

- CVDs are the number 1 cause of death globally: more people die annually from CVDs than from any other cause.
- Most cardiovascular diseases can be prevented by addressing behavioral risk factors.
- An estimated 17.7 million people died from CVDs in 2015, representing 31% of all global deaths. Of these deaths, an estimated 7.4 million were due to coronary heart disease and 6.7 million were due to stroke.
- >75% of CVD deaths occur in low-income and middle-income countries.
- Out of the 17 million premature deaths (under the age of 70) due to noncommunicable diseases in 2015, 82% are in low- and middle-income countries, and 37% are caused by CVDs.
- 80% of all CVD deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes or four out of five CVD deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes.
- People with cardiovascular disease need early detection and management using counseling and medicines.

Some of the risks for CVDs are: hypertension (raised blood pressure), diabetes (high blood sugar), elevated blood lipids (cholesterol or triglycerides), overweight and obesity, tobacco use, an unhealthy eating, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol.

Let's think that the heart is a pump and the blood vessels are hoses. The effort

that the pump has to use to bring blood to all the hoses depends on the "resistance" of the hoses. When our food is too salty, the portion is too big or with many sugars (carbs) or fats and/or we do not exercise enough; our "hoses" or blood vessels increase the "resistance", making the heart to work harder. The body can adjust and make changes to manage this extra effort for awhile, but eventually the compensation is not possible anymore and we get sick. This increase of "resistance" is the hypertension, or our hoses are blocked with all the cholesterol (plaque) interrupting the blood circulation to the heart, giving us a heart attack or to the brain, resulting in a stroke or providing that pump is not strong enough to keep pumping, heart failure or insufficiency.

Integrative Medicine is a practice based on the consciousness, in the recognition of the balance and harmony as well as the imbalance and disharmony we are facing as a disease. We promote giving the patient all the information, tools and support to make the click, to acknowledge responsibility on their own health, to integrate all the available diagnostic and therapeutic resources to heal. We can do more than just give medicines as that is just one little portion of the management.

What can you do to prevent or help your family prevent having a CVD or dying for it? First step is being informed, being aware, knowing the disease and the risks. Once you know, you need to be screened to know if you have it. For diagnosis, counseling, and management, you can visit the Public Health facilities, the Community Clinic, the Hospital, and the Dispensaries.

The most important thing is working on your risk factors:

- Engage in physical activity:  
- At least 30 minutes every day.
- Start a long term healthy eating:  
- Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day,  
- Limit your salt intake to less than one teaspoon a day.
- Cease tobacco or join a tobacco cessation program.
- Reduce or avoid alcohol consumption.

If we work together as a team to recover the lost balance in our bodies, in our society, if we start the healthy habits that we had before facing this NCD crisis, we can beat NCDs.

*Mabel Loján, MD*  
*Integrative Medicine*

## Electronic Monitoring Data Review Training

The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) conducted an Electronic Monitoring (EM) Data Review Training for its fisheries observers on October 9 to 13, 2017 at the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) Conference Room. The EM training was spearheaded by Mrs. Oihane Erdaide Goienetxe from Digital Observer Services (DOS) based in Spain. A total of 11 fisheries observers and 1 fisheries port sampler received the EM training. EM currently used in context of FSM fisheries to a continuous recording system which allows an efficient monitoring of all the fishing activities carried out onboard, thus, adding transparency to the data collection process.

The goal of the EM Data Review Training is to increase the number of data reviewers especially NORMAs fisheries observers who are well versed and experienced on fishing vessels. NORMA continues to invest in fisheries training's for its National Observer Program to use the latest cutting edge-fisheries technology tools for data monitoring and verification. The next phase of this EM project is to place fisheries observers on the camera equipped longline vessels for comparative data review.

For more information on the Electronic Monitoring Project can be found on the NORMA webpage <http://www.norma.fm/electronic-monitoring-project/>

Special thanks to: Oihane Erdaide Goienetxe of DOS, The Nature Conservancy, Luen Thai Fishing Venture and Pohnpei Port Authority.



## Safety enhanced for FSM Fisheries Observers

FSM NORMA recently received its much anticipated shipment of the latest marine safety equipment procured under the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Programme (PROP) Project which includes life jackets, personal locator beacons, and global satellite communicators. A life raft is also part of the shipment as the raft will be utilized in sea safety trainings, which is a key safety equipment on the commercial fishing vessels on which the fisheries observers work.

“These equipment’s will give us assurance of safety of our fisheries observers while they are engaged in their work on the fishing vessels”, says Naiten Bradley Phillip Jr, who oversees the National Observer Programme in FSM. “Recently, there has been incidences at sea where lives of observers have been at risk and these equipments are critical to ensure we know where our observers are at all times while on their assigned fishing vessels, we can communicate directly with them while they are at sea and they can survive in the unlikely event that they fall overboard.”

All FSM fisheries observers that are deployed to go out to sea will now be equipped with the latest safety devices as they diligently serve as the eyes and ears of NORMA out on the fishing vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zones of the FSM and other country members.

The PROP Project is a World Bank funded project to enhance the observer program in the FSM among other things.



*NORMA observers and debriefers display some of the Marine Safety Equipment recently received with the PROP Project Coordinator.*

## Basic Observer training in Pohnpei

A Regional Observer Training was conducted in Pohnpei at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Annex Building from the 31<sup>st</sup> of July to 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2017 with 14 trainee’s representing the following countries; Cook Islands-1, Federated States of Micronesia-10, Tuvalu-2 and Nauru-1. The training was spear head by Mr. Siosifa Fukofuka (SPC observer trainer) as the lead trainer, Ricky Narruhn (FSM observer trainer) trainer assistant, Alwyn Yeadian (PNG observer trainer) trainer assistant, Tosuo Irons Jr. (FSM observer debriefer) and Fransisco Sigrah (FSM observer debriefer) training attachment.

The training course consisted of basic first aid by Micronesia Red Cross Society, Sea Safety by the FSM Maritime Surveillance and Fire Safety by the Pohnpei Aircraft Rescue and Fire-fighting crew. The observer trainee’s then underwent a full Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) training course which covers all observer data forms for each vessel gear type, special projects (tag recovery, biological sampling), navigation, observer code of conduct, species identification for tuna, sharks, billfish and other by-catch species among a wide variety of fisheries topics.

The PIRFO standards and assessment passing mark is 75% for every PIRFO subject and the 10 FSM trainees passed the course with trainee Christopher Moore of Pohnpei topping the class. The other FSM trainee’s are; Peterson Suwei (Yap), Nene E. Nena (Kosrae ), Sapal Aron (Kosrae), Franky Kustin (Pohnpei), Johnny Boyd Joseph (Pohnpei), Merol Panuel (Pohnpei), Yasuro Solomon (Pohnpei), Jeffrey Weilbacher (Pohnpei) and Brian Rizana (Pohnpei). The non-FSM trainee’s are; Auora Jimmy Mataora (Cook Islands), Rodney Kepasi (Tuvalu), Vaitiu Talia (Tuvalu) and Cheney Detudamo (Nauru).

FSM-NORMA would like to thank SPC, FFA, PNA, WCPFC, Micronesia Red Cross Society, FSM Maritime Surveillance, Pohnpei Aircraft Rescue and Fire-fighting for their collaborative support and assistance to help train our fisheries observers to continue to be effective guardians of our marine resources in the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone and other respective fishing zones.



## Purse seine transshipment in Yap

On September 22, 2017 the Taiyo Micronesia Corporation (TMC) a FSM purse seine joint venture Company with the National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) of the FSM had one of its purse seine vessels Nippon FSM anchored in Yap port for transshipment operations to Carrier Boat Amagi. This was the first purse seine transshipment for the State of Yap since the 1990s.

TMC has contributed to the fisheries development of the FSM in creating employment opportunities in addition to provisioning services for supplies from local business vendors. This is also part of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority’s (NORMA) effort to increase economic benefits from transshipment and provision purchases. Currently, TMC with NFC is developing

a shore-side processing plant in Pohnpei as part of its foreign investment plans for the FSM tuna fisheries sector.

NORMA would like to thank Yap State Government for its generous support for making this transshipment a success and thank NFC-CEO Peter Sitan and TMC Director Hidetoshi Itou plus their support staff for bringing their purse seine

operations to the State of Yap.





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