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Huge carrier vessel high and dry on Pohnpei reef

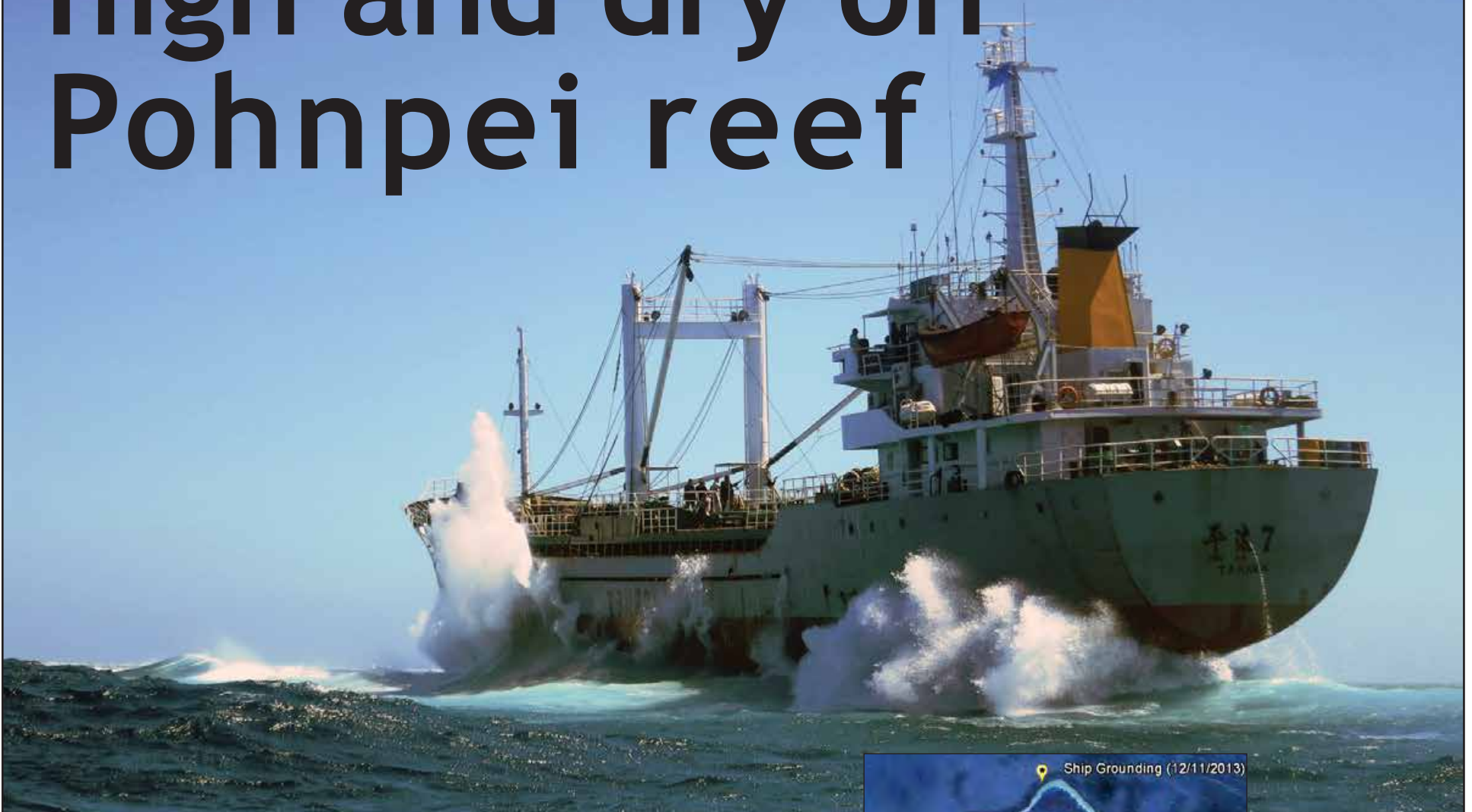


Photo by the Conservation Society of Pohnpei

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 11, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—At press time little was known about what caused the massive fisheries support vessel, the Ping Da 7 to veer onto Pohnpei’s barrier reef between 5:30 and 6:00 this morning. The fact remains that it did slam head on into the shallows and stuck hard on the reef where at last information, it currently remains.



The Ping Da 7 is a vessel flagged in Kiribati. It is a huge transport “reefer” (refrigerated) vessel that takes the catches of a fleet of fishing vessels and transports them to market. The vessel was inward bound when it hit the reef and was not loaded with fish.

The vessel slammed into the outside of the reef. The accident did not occur while the vessel was entering a

Continued on page 4

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What's INSIDE

New grocery store opens in Pohnpei
Page 2

Emperor's Birthday celebration
Page 3

A new home for Pohnpei Women's Council
Page 5

Congress 2nd special session activity
Page 10



A-One Mart opens doors for business

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 12, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—This morning a small crowd gathered for a hastily arranged grand opening and blessing ceremony of the new A-One Mart grocery store in Kolonia. The new store is located at the former Wall Mart location near the Spanish Wall.

Deacon Berley Aracely performed the blessing ceremony.

Brian Etscheit said that only on

Tuesday of this week did they finally get a power hookup from Pohnpei Utilities Corporation and were able to stock their freezers and refrigerators. The A-One crew had to move quickly in order to organize the grand opening and the blessing celebration.

Feliciano Perman and Acting Governor Marcelo Peterson were the speakers during the ceremony and spoke of the virtues of Pohnpei business development. The Sadawan Youth Choir provided melodic and harmonious entertainment.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, Deacon Aracely walked through the fully stocked grocery store to perform the blessing ceremony.

As Deacon Aracely completed his rounds of the store, the front doors were opened and crowds of people filled the well stocked aisles. On our quick walk through the beautifully redecorated store we found the prices to be competitive on the few items we had the opportunity to see. Produce

was in abundance and there was a large selection of meat cuts, frozen foods, and ice cream presented in well stocked refrigerators and freezers.

When the Etscheit's bought the facility for their new store, they also bought the building that housed Sokehs Shopping Center. They are still making plans for that facility, and are currently using it as a storage warehouse, but the new A-One Mart is currently open for business.



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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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Japan Embassy hosts Emperor's birthday celebration



Embassy of Japan

December 6, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—The Embassy of Japan celebrated His Majesty, the Emperor Akihito's birthday on December 6, 2013 at Ambassador Eiichi Suzuki's official residence. This significant occasion was attended by officials from the FSM National Government, Pohnpei State Government as well as the diplomatic corps, private sector, international community, and non-governmental organizations.

A short program opened the event and remarks were presented first by Ambassador Eiichi Suzuki in which he mentioned memorable occasions that were important milestones for the Government of Japan through government to government and people to people exchanges. He highlighted several occasions such as the chartered flight from Kochi that brought tourists to the FSM, official visits between the Governments namely President Mori's recent visit to Tokyo to attend the 25th Anniversary celebration of diplomatic relations between Japan and the FSM where he also held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The Deputy Secretary of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Samson Pretrick represented the FSM Government. In his remarks, he touched on the various assistances that the Government of Japan has provided for the FSM Government through technical assistances such as Grassroots Human Security Projects, grant aid, scholarships, and other development assistance. The newest assistance is the achievement of FSM being among several countries recently selected for the Non-Project Grant Aid for Provision of Industrial Products.

On the whole, the event was a great success and the guests enjoyed the delicious yakitori, or Japanese-style chicken barbeque on bamboo sticks, and buffet of various types of food prepared by Ambassador Suzuki's Japanese chef.

Emperor Akihito is the 125th Emperor of Japan and acceded the throne on January 7th, 1989 upon the demise of Emperor Hirohito. Emperor will turn 80 on December 23rd, 2013 and to this day is very active in his official duties.



Senator Figir and Senior Officer Tung Lam Dang participated in GLOBE Adaptation Conference in Beijing in July 2013

Micronesian Congress pass Climate Change Law

Congress PIO

On 27 November 2013, following Micronesia's participation in the GLOBE Climate Legislation Initiative, the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) passed a Climate Change Law.

Micronesia thus becomes the latest nation to pass an economy-wide climate change law.



The law mandates a range of government departments to develop and implement policies and measures to deliver the goals set out in Micronesia's National Climate Change Policy, recently developed and approved by Congress. At

the same time, the new law requires that the President delivers an annual progress report to Congress about the actions the government has taken to implement the policy and any recommendations for supplementary legislation.

U.S. Embassy Consular Services to close for the Holidays

From December 19 to January 7, the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia will be closed due to staffing shortages. During this time it will not be possible to receive routine consular services, such as passport renewals or visa interviews. The U.S. Embassy asks all to please plan accordingly.

...Ping Da 7

Continued from front page

pass into Pohnpei's lagoon. Because the accident happened outside the reef, Pius Roby of the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) says that the Port has no jurisdiction in the matter. He also said that PPA has been told that no oil is currently leaking from the vessel.

The National Police harbor vessel, the FSS Unity transported representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), representatives of the FSM's Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure, and immigration and customs officers. The immigration and customs officers went to the vessel so that they could clear the Chinese crew members so that they could be removed from the vessel while salvage operations got underway.

"I was there just an hour ago and the crew was freaking out asking me to get a big ship or tug boat to pull them out," wrote Alloys Malfitani

on his Facebook page at 9:15 on Wednesday morning after returning from the site on his jet ski. "I hit the bottom of the ski trying to get next to it. That reef is dry on a low tide," he later wrote.

No time is a good time for a ship to be grounded on the outside of Pohnpei's reef but the situation could be much worse if it is not off of the reef before a large tidal swell gets to Pohnpei. That swell is predicted to arrive here next week and surfers are all atwitter about great surfing conditions. It's bad for salvage operations on the Ping Da 7. A large swell could drive the vessel, which is already being hammered by surf, farther onto the reef.

"This particular grounding occurs at a very bad tim(e) because the ocean is rough out there during this season," a spokesperson for the Conservation Society of Pohnpei wrote. "So it's very dangerous jumping into the water with transects and quadrants to do surveys. We are planning on going out there with our underwater cams tomorrow."

"Reef damage done for sure," Marco Kamber of Caroline Fisheries Corporation, the ship's agent wrote from his cell phone.

Shipping agents serve only to meet the ship's needs while in Pohnpei. They have no other ties with the operator of a vessel other than that perfunctory, commercial duty. Kamber confirmed that the ship is taking on water but that as far as he knew, the ships pumps had been able to keep ahead of the leak.

While Pohnpei's Environmental Protection Agency seems to have primary responsibility for Pohnpei environmental response to ship grounding on the reef in Pohnpei, Director Albert Roby didn't have much information to share when we were finally able to contact him on Thursday afternoon. He said that

his staff was in the process of doing an assessment and that he had not seen any outcomes from the assessment yet.

For now, the priority is to get the monster ship off of the reef without ripping it apart and causing a bigger environmental disaster than has already occurred with the scarring of the reef.

On Wednesday morning, a tugboat belonging to the Adams Brothers Corporation bunkered fuel and headed to the site in the afternoon.

At press time, Larry Adams had not returned our email and we could not contact him by phone. Second hand reports say that the Adams' tugboat was not successful at removing the ship from the reef last evening but that it had gone back to work today.

Just before noon on Thursday, Marco Kamber wrote that one of his employees had told him that the tug had been pulling for an hour before there was any sign of movement. "Another carrier company is being contacted to see if one of the mother ships at anchorage can go assist", he wrote.

This morning, Acting Governor Marcelo Peterson said that he had contacted Acting FSM President Alik Alik, asking for him to make a formal request to the U.S. Coast Guard for assistance in pulling the carrier off the reef.

However, according to an official document of the U.S. Coast Guard they cannot assist in commercial salvage operations.

After spending all of Thursday on the site, Jorg Anson of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei said that, though the tug had pulled all afternoon, the vessel did not appear to have moved much, if at all. CSP could not do its planned evaluation of reef damage because of the ongoing salvage operation.

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**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:
Tuesday, December 24th

Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas
from
The Kaselehlie Press





Pohnpei Women's Council has a new home



Pohnpei Women's Council

November 30, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—On Saturday, November 30, the Pohnpei Women's Council celebrated the completion of its "Center for Research and Advocacy (CRA)," a newly renovated building located next to the Calvary Christian Academy in Kolonia.

The building will be used as an office and meeting space for the Council's work on gender empowerment issues as well as for its efforts to collaborate with local partners to advocate for improvements on other social issues affecting Pohnpeian families.

of the Marshall Islands have passed relevant family violence laws, the Pohnpei Legislature has not, though it has had legislation in front of it since 2008.

After several changes, in 2012 the bill (now 22-12) was referred to committee. A year ago, the Pohnpei Women's Council appeared before that committee to submit the group's further recommended changes to the bill.

"We were promised immediate response but still nothing," said Marstella Jack of the Pohnpei Women's Council.

At press time, the only response from legislature on the delay has been that, "it is still with the Committee."

Despite official invitations, none of the male legislators made an appearance at the opening of the Center for Research and Advocacy. Senator Magdalena Walter was attended. Senator Cindy Lekka was ill on that day and sent her regrets at her inability to attend.

The dignitaries who did choose to attend were treated to a very unique Sakau Ceremony where only women pounded sakau on six different peitehls (stones).

In attendance were Governor Ehsa; U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen, Australian Embassy Second Secretary Nikola Pejic; Likend Pah Uh and current Chief Justice of Uh Antonia Amor; Postmaster General Ginger Mida; UN Joint Presence Office Representative Okean Ehmes; SPC North Pacific Office Director Gerald Zackios, IOM Director Ashley Carl, and Red Cross Director Susie Yoma.

The indomitable spirit of the occasion was more relentless than the heavy downpour and the women danced under the rain into the late hours of the evening.

For more information on CRA's work, call Lululeen Santos at Pohnpei State Office of Social Affairs.



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For 10 years the Pohnpei Women's Council had petitioned the government for space with no response before Governor Ehsa signed an agreement in August of 2012 to lease the government property to the Council. He was the first to have positively and concretely responded to the pleas of the women's group.

At the time of the execution of the lease, the building was nearly unusable due to neglect, but because of the generous assistance of the Australian Embassy, the Council was able to secure the services of a local contractor who completely renovated the building.

Before the opening day, the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Program out of New Zealand donated a brand new computer. Congressman David Panuelo donated a new computer desk.

Volunteers have already offered their help with counseling services for victims of family violence or other forms of gender based violence.

Still, there is much work to be done in order to secure funds so that the Council can hire personnel to run programs.

Though the opening was festive and celebratory, one serious matter stood like the proverbial unacknowledged "elephant in the room". Despite the fact that both the Republic of Palau and the Republic



Christmas Message 2013

Speaker Dohsis Halbert
Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

Vice Speaker Paliknoa K. Welly, Floor Leader Florencio (Singkoro) Harper, Members of the 18th Congress and our families join me in extending to you the people of, and in, the Federated States of Micronesia our wishes for a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year to each and everyone of you.

May this Christmas Season be a special time for us to reflect on the past year and prepare for the upcoming new year:

"Let it be a time that lights the eyes of our children and puts laughter on their lips,"

"Let it be a time for lifting the lives of those who live in loneliness and in less fortunate conditions,"

"Let it be a time for calling our families together, for strengthening of family ties with everyone present and most especially those absent."

"Let it be a time of prayers for peace, for the preservation of free principles, and for the protection of those who are near and far from us,"

"Let it be a time of forgetting self and finding time for others,"

"Let it be a time of discarding the meaningless and making room for the true values of life,"

"Let it be a time of peace, for through His teachings we have found peace," and most of all

"Let it be a time to remember the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ so that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men."

But above all, fellow citizens, Christmas is that special time when the spirit of love is magnified many folds when our thoughts and deeds manifest the presence of God. So let the spirit of Christmas fill your homes and your lives this holiday season, and may it linger long after the Christmas activities have ceased and remain with you throughout the year.

*Wishing you and your family
a Christmas Holiday
filled with love and joy
and
a New Year
rich with blessings of the same*



Opinion Editorial

Spain and multi-lateralism: What can we contribute to the United Nations Security Council

Way too often in international relations the same people criticizing power politics are the same that dismiss the United Nations as an ineffective forum to solve controversies and reach consensus on the most urgent challenges affecting us all. Their critiques aim especially at the UN Security Council (UNSC), deeming it out-of-date or inaptly reflecting the world of today. These critics, for the most part coming from academe or big media outlets, tend to overlook the strengths and successes of the UN system -notwithstanding faults and inefficiencies- and forget that the best prescription against realpolitik is precisely the sacred principle of "one country, one vote", as opposed to, a mere substitution of some old big players for new ones in the UNSC.

.True to its view on the role of nations in contemporary international relations, Spain, whenever a member of the UNSC, has always stood for clear values and course of action. When it comes to international fora, size or population don't matter as much as prestige based on credibility and commitment with the system as a whole, trying to be not a big, but a reliable team player aiming to help find consensus where necessary. That's the only way to confront efficiently the biggest challenges ahead, be it international

peace and security, sustainable development and promotion of human rights or, last but not the least, climate change.

My country is now running for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the period 2015-2016. All the goals I just mentioned are on top of our agenda, in the case Spain gets elected. Now, you must be wondering fairly enough what tools do we have at our disposal to help reach these goals. I will try to summarize it for you in two words: soft power. And a great deal of it has been exercised through international solidarity and dialogue as core values.

For one, Spain is the sixth biggest donor to the UN system. A clear demonstration has been the implementation of breakthrough initiatives like the Spain-UNDP MDG Achievement Fund, where over USD 900 million were granted through 130 projects in more than 50 countries to over 20 million people. Furthermore, Spain has also been the major contributor to the Fund for Gender Equality since its inception in 2009, with a contribution of USD 65 million granted to 93 projects in 69 countries, directly benefiting 8.5



million women in every single continent. And, in particular over the last decade, Spain has made a hallmark of fighting poverty and achieving sustainable human development. Thus, Spain is among the top ten donors worldwide in supporting food production, industrial and export crops, and agricultural, livestock and fishing development. And, in relation to this, Spain has launched the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, with more than one billion US dollars provided by the Spanish Development Agency.

The Federated States of Micronesia and Spain share not only a common past, but also common concerns about the future and the challenges that it will entail. Both countries, although in different levels, are struggling to temper the effects of climate change which affect us in more ways than one. These effects do not limit to climate instability and exposure to big storms, typhoons and rising sea water levels, or desertification (which is the case of Spain), but also include collateral damages in terms of livelihood, agriculture and fisheries.

That is why, despite the present budgetary constraints due to the economic crisis that is affecting Europe, Spain has actively participated with important financial contributions to the International Fund for

Agricultural Development (IFAD), to the co-financing Fund on Climate Change and Rural Development, to the Adaptation Fund of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The same applies to the response to humanitarian crisis, where we have substantially increased funds targeting relief efforts as well as the disaster risk reduction activities.

I would like to end by stressing that, bearing in mind the long lived historical links and friendship between our countries, and our international priorities in multilateral fora, you can rest assured that our initiatives in the UNSC during the biennium 2015-2016, if we are elected, will take full account of the interests of small island states like the Federated States of Micronesia. This will be the case on issues like climate change and security, the right to water, the displacement of populations and also, the need to take full account of the legitimate aspiration of states like the Pacific Islands in the reform of the UN main bodies, in particular, the Security Council, in order to favour their best possible representation.

Jorge Domecq
Ambassador of Spain to the Federated States of Micronesia

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New Year*

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NB. All of the selection criteria need to be addressed within the written application to be considered for interview. An example of how to address the selection criteria is included in the application pack as a guide.

Send Supporting Statement to the Selection Criteria and Resume/CV to:

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Email nikola.pejic@dfat.gov.au
Application closing date COB Friday 10 January 2014.

Special session passes Climate Change Act, works on Telecom Bill

December 13, 2013

Palikir, Pohnpei. – The Second Special Session of the Eighteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia adjourned with a Climate Change Act, a Policy on Overseas Development Assistance, assistance towards Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts, and grant resolutions for various federal programs in the Nation.

Convened on November 25, the 2nd Special Session began its work foremost by passing Congressional Act (CA) 18-24 to establish a Climate Change Act for the Nation. The legislation mandates certain departments and agencies of the National Government to develop and implement measures to meet the Nation's Climate Change Policy with their progress reported to Congress annually by the President.

On the heels of the Climate Change Act was CA 18-25 to appropriate \$225,000 towards humanitarian relief efforts for victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan with \$100,000 towards the Philippines; \$50,000 to the Republic of Palau; \$50,000 to the State of Yap; and \$25,000 to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Congress also passed CA 18-30 to clarify that the new division formula for Compact Funds as set by Public Law 18-12, is applicable to all Compact funds, with the exception of the Supplemental Educational Grants under Section 105 of the amended Compact which will adhere to the existing terms.

The President's supplemental budget request of \$1,856,752 was also passed during the 2nd Special Session as CA 18-32. Along with the supplemental budget, Congress passed CA 18-34, to appropriate \$4,900,000 to fund public project and social programs in the four states. The remaining Congressional Acts were amendments to previous projects and social programs in the various states: CA's 18-26 – 20, 31, 33 and 35.

One of the major legislations addressed during the 2nd Special Session was Congressional Bill (CB) 18-77 to liberalize telecommunications in the nation. The Committee of Transportation and Communications had held various hearings with the relevant parties and is expected to continue during the Third Regular Session. It is the Committee's goal to allow time for all related and relevant parties to voice their views on the issue. However, a member had introduced CB 18-110 as an alternative to the 100+ pages telecom Bill.

Congress meanwhile, for time sensitive reasons, adopted Congressional Resolution (CR) 18-37 for a \$500,000 grant from the World Bank application to fund the strengthening of legal, regulatory, and institutional framework of telecommunication services in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Along with the world bank resolution, Congress adopted 25 resolutions during the 2nd Special Session, and they included:

CR 18-20, to establish a policy for Overseas Development Assistance to set guidelines to manage the nation's development assistance to maximize benefits;

CR 18-39, to request the President to organize a nationwide Youth Summit during Summer 2014, to educate the Nation's youth on current issues and encourage their involvement in the planning and development of their Nation's future;

CR 18-45, to confirm the nomination of Redley Killion as the Private Sector representative on the FSM Petro Corp Board; and Peter Garamfel (CR 18-51) as the other Private Sector representative on the same Board;

CR 18-72, to approve the nation's membership on the International Renewable Energy Agency or IRENA;

CR 18-87, to confirm the nomination of Simpson Abraham as Kosrae's representative on the Board of National Oceanic Resources Management Agency or NORMA;

CR 18-97, to set the ceiling of available funds at \$65,218,904 of which \$61,706,746 would be from the domestic revenue with the remaining \$3,512,158 to be from funds available under the amended Compact; and CR 18-98, to extend the Second Special Session of the 18th FSM Congress until December 05, 2013, an extra day.

The remaining 15 Resolutions adopted by Congress were grants addressing various development needs of the nation and some grants to enable payroll for certain federal employees at the state level funded under Sector grants of the amended Compact and they included the following:

Congressional Resolution 18-48, to accept a \$648,948 grant from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to assist the FSM in the successful implementation of national adaptation activities under the Global Climate Change Alliance of the Pacific Small Island States program;

CR 18-50, to accept a \$60,000 grant from the United Environment Programme to fund Phase IV of the Institutional Strengthening under the mandates of the Montreal Protocol;

CR 18-62, to accept a \$44,930 grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to fund the Preventive Health Services Project in the FSM;

CR 18-63, to accept a \$282,250 grant from the Japanese Government, for the Goods and Services Program for the fiscal year 2013;

CR 18-82, to approve the submission of a \$300,000 grant proposal to the US Department of Health and Human Services Human Resources and Services Administration, to fund the Universal Newborn Hearing, Screening and Intervention Program in the Federated States of Micronesia,.

CR 18-85, to accept a \$3,327,595 grant from the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs to fund and support the FSM Department of Education's effort to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities;

CR 18-88, to accept a \$486,950 grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration to fund Maternal and Child Health Services in the FSM;

CR 18-89, to accept a \$12,300 grant from the World Health Organization to fund training for food handlers in the FSM and related activities;

CR 18-90, to approve the submission of a \$40,000 grant proposal by the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to fund the National Public Health Improvement initiative;

CR 18-92, to accept a \$27,132 grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to fund the implementation of the FSM Tracking, Surveillance, and Integrated Project;

CR 18-93, to accept a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration designated towards the improvement of data capacity in the FSM;

CR 18-95, to approve the submission of a \$751,391 grant application to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency to fund the FSM Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program and FSM Community Mental Health Services grant for years 2013 and 2014. Of the requested amount, \$598,861 would fund the FSM Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program and the remaining \$152,530 to fund FSM Community Mental Health Services;

CR 18-100, to accept a \$500,000 grant from the US Office of Insular Affairs to be utilized in 2014, to fund a single audit for FY 2013, as required by the Single Audit Act;

CR 18-101, to accept a \$220,000 grant from the Global Environment Facility which is critical to prepare national biodiversity, revise national biodiversity strategies and undertake clearing house mechanism activities in the FSM per its obligations as a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and finally

CR 18-102, to accept a \$45,523 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administrator, to fund data capacity improvement in the FSM for the Department of Health and Social Affairs, by maintaining the four MCH data clerks in each of the four States to continue collecting data for document relevant information concerning pregnant mothers, children and adolescents, including those with special health care needs, and to develop systems to support data collection and reporting for the MCH program.

Following the necessary procedures by the Legislative Branch, the pieces of legislations have been transmitted to the Office of the President for appropriate actions by the President and the Executive Branch.

The Second Special Session of the 18th FSM Congress adjourned sine die on December 05, 2013. Congress will convene for the Third Regular Session of the 18th FSM Congress on January 10, 2014 for a duration of 20 days, unless shortened or extended.

Sessions of Congress, as always, are open to the interested public.

All Congressional Bills and Resolutions and corresponding Reports, if any, can be accessed through the Congress website at: www.fsmcongress.fm.

New JICA Advisor to the President of FSM

JICA

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) dispatched an Advisor to National Financial Affairs for President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Ambassador Masashi Namekawa. Before being dispatched to FSM, Ambassador Namekawa previously worked as Deputy Director-General for Economic Cooperation Bureau of Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001 and as an Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands and Pacific Island Countries from 2005 to 2008.

During the courtesy visit on November 26, 2013, President Mori welcomed Ambassador Namekawa to the Federated States of Micronesia, and mentioned his main thought when considering for a Japanese expert is to strengthen investment in FSM and the economy of FSM. Ambassador Namekawa will work closely with the President, SBOC Director, and members of the 2023 Planning Committee in finding solutions for national financial affairs.



JICA Resident Representative Mr. Iwasaki, Ambassador Namekawa, H.E. President Mori, Ambassador Suzuki

Chuuk Advisory Group on education reform

November 8, 2013

Weno, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia—The Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform focused on the issue of improving education infrastructure in Chuuk during its Fourth Quarterly Meeting in Weno, Chuuk, during the week of November 4, 2013.

The Advisory Group is assisting the Chuuk State Board of Education and the Department of Education to follow through on reform commitments that were made at the High Level Meeting on Education Reform held in November of 2012, with representatives from the FSM National Government, the U.S. Government and the Chuuk State Government.

Thomas Bussanich, the Director of the Division of Budget and Grants Management in the Office of Insular Affairs within the United States Department of the Interior and Patrick Tellei, the President of Palau Community College attended the meeting. Francis X. Hezel, a Jesuit Priest and the founder of the Micronesian Seminar was unable to attend this particular meeting.

While the Advisory Group discussed a broad range of issues with Chuuk Leaders and educators, the focus of this visit was on breaking through barriers and accelerating the improvement of education infrastructure in Chuuk. Since the beginning of the Amended Compact in 2004, only one high school has been constructed in Chuuk despite the availability of significant available funding for infrastructure. An estimated \$140 million remains available for Chuuk State to improve infrastructure over the next ten years, and all parties agreed education must be a priority going forward.

To assist in moving forward on the construction of school buildings, a one day meeting was held on Thursday, November 7th between Chuuk State Leadership

and the Advisory Group, along with the Infrastructure Grants Manager for the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, Steve Savage and the head of the FSM national government's project management unit, Mr. Bruce Howell, PE. The meeting fully achieved its expected outcomes of: (i) a clear understanding of the challenges and obstacles that have stalled action on education infrastructure in Chuuk to date, together with a clear articulation of workable solutions; (ii) a clear and workable "model" for project preparation, modular school design, and construction management that meets Chuuk's specific needs; (iii) a clear and specific list of projects/school sites that will be used for initial site assessments; and (iv) a clear understanding of timeline and tasks to be completed, as soon as practicable, to move forward on major renovations and new construction at school sites.

During the meeting, a revised list of 25 prioritized public school sites in all five regions of the state were agreed upon to move forward with professional engineering work and other necessary assessments to determine their appropriateness for major renovation and/or new

construction. It was agreed by all parties that this process will require outside engineering contractors and at least one full time project manager.

Through this close partnership and planning effort by Chuuk State, the National Government through the Project Management Unit and the Office of Insular Affairs, with the assistance of the Advisory Group, it is hoped to begin project construction on a shortened list of schools prior to the next school year.

According to Tom Bussanich, "we feel that with this high level meeting, we have moved significantly forward in our efforts to overcome a variety of obstacles

to building and improving schools here in Chuuk. It is our hope that these efforts will result in the construction of numerous schools next school year to the benefit of students, teachers and the broader community."

The Advisory Group also continued to discuss a broad variety of other issues directed at improving educational performance in Chuuk's primary and secondary schools. The Board of Education and the Advisory Group agreed on a revised list of school consolidations that will be completed by December 31, 2013. The Board of Education also agreed that they would finalize comprehensive plans, with the assistance of consultants, for teacher and professional educator contracts, school attendance monitoring, Board Training, a Primary School Pilot Project, WorldTeach volunteer utilization, basic school standards, and procurement, distribution and warehousing of supplies.

During its one week of meetings in Chuuk, the Advisory Group once again held separate and joint meetings with the Chuuk State Governor, the Legislature, the Board of Education and Department of Education to discuss the on-going progress of ten High Level commitments made at the High Level event as well as additional recommendations made by the Advisory Group during its first three quarterly meetings. The AG and the Board have developed a productive working relationship as they partner to ensure implementation of needed reforms.

The Advisory Group will return to Chuuk for its next quarterly meeting on or about the last week of February 2014.

For additional information on background documents, meeting proceedings, correspondence and Advisory Group reports, visit <http://www.pitiviti.org/chuuk>.

Invitation for Bids

The FSM Program Management Unit (PMU) invites interested Contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the "Completion of Weno Road, Drainage and Utilities Upgrade, Phase I" at Weno, Chuuk State, FSM.

The plans, specifications, and the Solicitation, Offer and Award, contract documents and the bid documents of the original project scope for familiarization can be viewed and downloaded via the following instructions:

1. Go to <ftp://www.pmu.fm/>
2. Click the directory entitled, "Completion of Weno Road, Drainage and Utilities Upgrade, Phase I".
3. Download the Solicitation, Offer and Award and other contract documents as needed.

An addendum, clearly identifying the remaining scope of work to be completed, will be the basis for bids and will be issued shortly.

Printed copies of the bid documents are not available for distribution.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, in the SSJV conference room, 2nd Floor, Truk Trading Company Building, Weno, Chuuk State, FSM. A site visit is scheduled on December 19, 2013 with PMU and SSJV Representatives for view of the remaining works. Failure to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and site visit will be grounds for disqualification of bid.

**Bid closing date
is Friday, January
24, 2014 at 4:00PM
Pohnpei time, in
Palikir, Pohnpei FSM.**

Questions and request for clarification will be accepted in writing through January 10, 2014, at 4:00PM, to the attention of: Mr. Bruce E. Howell, P.E., PMU Contracting Officer via email howellbruce@yahoo.com or via US mail at Bruce E. Howell, P.E., Program Management Unit, P.O. Box PS-4, Palikir, Pohnpei FSM 96941.



US provides \$8.7 million in Compact Grant assistance payments in November

*Embassy of the
United States of America, Kolonia*

In November, the FSM Department of Finance received Compact Grant Assistance payments from the United States Government totaling \$8.8 Million. These payments were for Compact Sector Grants:

Education	\$3,770,000
Health	\$3,200,000
Infrastructure	\$ 613,587
Public Sector Capacity Building	\$ 509,000
Private Sector Development	\$ 322,000
Environment	\$ 258,000
Enhanced Reporting and Accountability	\$ 204,000
Total Amount	\$8,876,587

This amount is provided to the States of the FSM as follows:

Chuuk	\$ 3,617,000
Kosrae	\$ 1,196,028
Pohnpei	\$ 2,350,475
Yap	\$ 1,713,084

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Grant to Pohnpei Public Auditor's Office: The Pohnpei Public Auditor's Office received a DOI Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Grant of \$78,600 for the development of a Compliance Investigation Unit. Sophia Pretrick, who provided the same service to the Yap Public Auditor's Office through a prior OIA technical assistance grant, has returned to Pohnpei and will take the lead in establishing the Pohnpei Unit. She will train staff to become compliance investigators and to provide fraud awareness education to the general public, and also to establish collaborative working relationships with other State agencies.



Human trafficking awareness training

The International Organization for Migration

December 6th, 2013

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Migrant Resource Center (MRC) provided training on human trafficking for 40 representatives of the Pohnpei State Police, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Police, the FSM Trans-National Crime Unit, the FSM Immigration and Labor department, local-municipal police officers and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The training took place on December 6th at the Governor's Conference Room in Pohnpei and focused on providing attendees with a comprehensive working knowledge of the illegal international activity, including how to recognize

signs of human trafficking, how to report suspected human trafficking cases, how to protect the victims of human trafficking, and an overview of best practices in the prevention and prosecution of this heinous crime.

The Migrant Resource Center is working in partnership with the FSM Department of Justice and Department of Education to conduct additional human trafficking awareness training on the state and national level. Over 3,175 high school students in Pohnpei and Kosrae have received this training, which is currently ongoing in Chuuk and Yap.

For further information on these trainings or on human trafficking, please contact the IOM MRC at (691) 320-8898.



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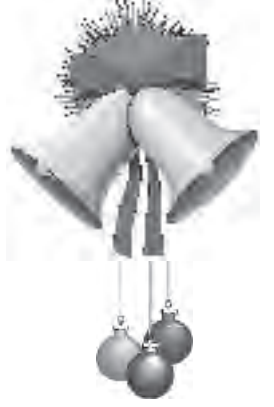
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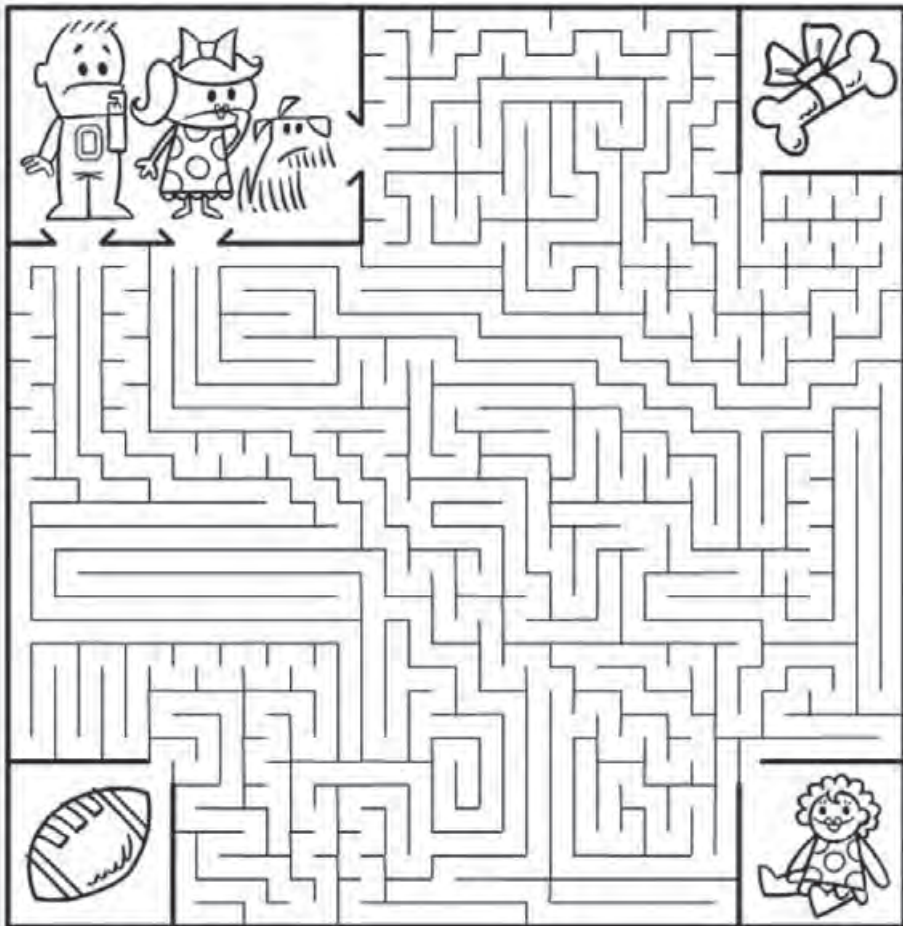
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Christmas For Kids



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Christmas Word Search

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 A T V H P L O D U R N I
 R T I N R A P C A N D Y
 E E X Y E B R E H S A D
 E M E E S N A M W O N S
 D O N N E R N Q H S C W
 I C S M N K C A S A E R
 P B L I T Z E N S N R E
 U E E H F F R O S T Y A
 C L D C I J P P H A O T
 E L F U G N R B C W T H

BELL
 BLITZEN
 CANDY
 CHIMNEY
 COMET
 CUPID
 DANCER
 DASHER

DEER
 DONNER
 ELF
 FROSTY
 GIFT
 PRANCER
 PRESENT
 RUDOLPH
 SACK

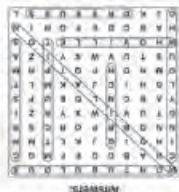
SANTA
 SLED
 SNOWMAN
 STAR
 TOY
 TREE
 VIXEN
 WREATH

Whoville's Holiday Whobilation Word Hunt

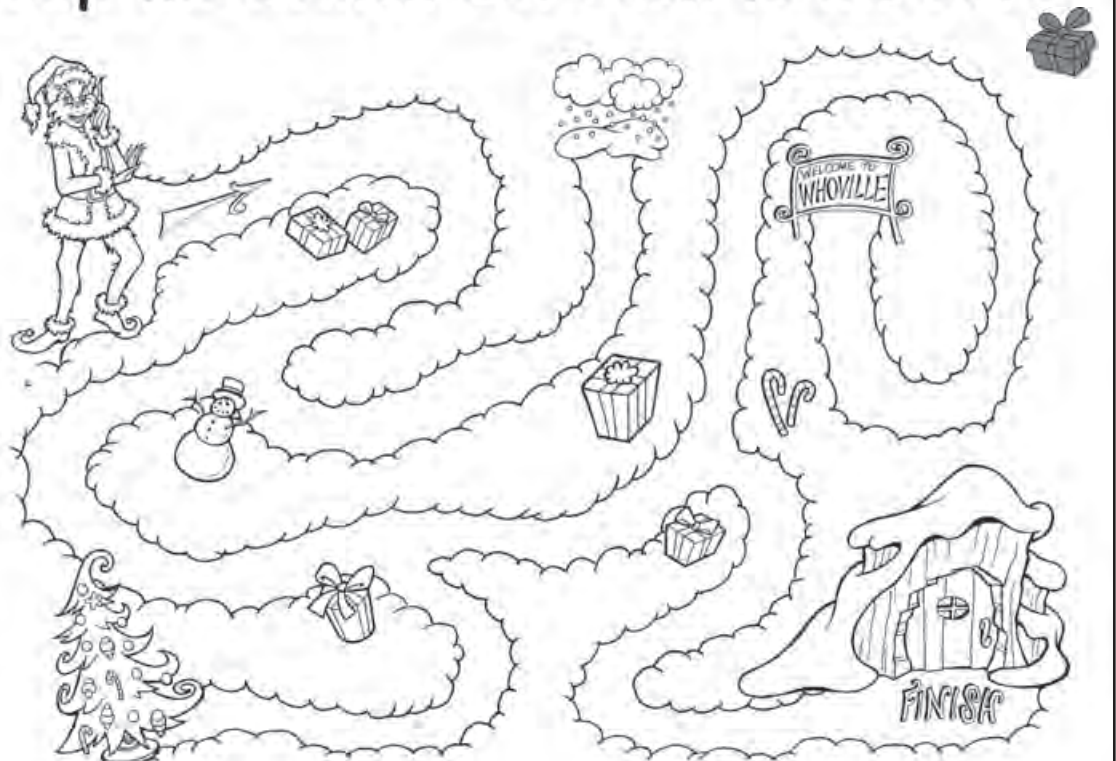
How many wontubulous words can you find?

- CHRISTMAS
- CINDY LOU WHO
- DR SEUSS
- GRINCH
- MT CRUMPIT
- WHOBILATION
- WHOVILLE
- WONTUBULOUS

W	O	N	T	U	B	U	L	O	U	S
C	H	A	B	C	D	E	F	M	G	C
I	H	O	I	G	J	K	L	T	M	H
N	N	O	B	R	P	Q	R	C	S	R
D	T	U	V	I	W	X	Y	R	Z	I
Y	A	B	C	N	L	D	E	U	F	S
L	G	H	I	C	J	A	K	M	L	T
O	M	N	O	H	P	Q	T	P	R	M
U	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	I	Z	A
W	H	O	V	I	L	L	E	T	O	S
H	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	N
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 Ref. 14506 PRICE: \$2,420 MAZDA DEMIO Year 1998 MT 1,320cc PETROL Mileage 18,000km Color Silver	 Ref. 13554 PRICE: \$2,290 SUZUKI SWIFT (IGNIS) Year 2003 MT 1,320cc PETROL Mileage 67,000km Color Silver	 Ref. 13040 PRICE: \$5,210 FORD ESCAPE XLT Year 2004 AT 3,000cc PETROL Mileage 77,000km Color Silver
 Ref. 12776 PRICE: \$5,380 FORD EXPLORER XLT Year 2002 AT 4,000cc PETROL Mileage 84,000km Color White	 Ref. 13678 PRICE: \$6,190 HONDA CR-V PERFORMA IG Year 2002 AT 1,990cc PETROL Mileage 81,000km Color Pearl	 Ref. 14487 PRICE: \$3,880 HONDA CR-V SMART SCAPE Year 1997 AT 2,000cc PETROL Mileage 56,000km Color Silver
 Ref. 14184 PRICE: \$3,790 MAZDA BONGO VAN DX Year 2001 AT 1,780cc PETROL Mileage 87,000km Color White	 Ref. 13868 PRICE: \$3,290 MAZDA BONGO TRUCK 0.85 ton Year 1996 MT 1,780cc PETROL Mileage 43,000km Color White	 Ref. 14157 PRICE: \$3,990 MAZDA BONGO TRUCK 0.8 ton Year 1998 AT 1,780cc PETROL Mileage 134,000km Color White

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Wayne L. Harden
General Manager

RFP for Code Update Project

The Congress of the FSM is requesting proposals for a
FSM Code Update Project.

The scope of the project comprises:

1. The update of the 1997 version of the FSM Code to incorporate all FSM public laws up to and including the 17th Congress.
2. Case law annotations of the Code referencing only national FSM Supreme Court cases (trial and appellate).
3. An electronic printer-ready version of the revised code
4. 60 hard-copy bound volumes of the revised code.
5. Optionally a website displaying the revised Code with appropriate links to each section.

Proposals should be submitted in accordance with the FSM public procurement regulations and submitted by the person submitting the proposal which shall provide the following information:

Bidder's name and address
Telephone number and Email Address

The proposal for item 4 should be listed separately. Proposals should be submitted to: **December 31, 2013**

Suda S. Rayel
Director of Administration
Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia
PO Box PS3
Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941

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Make Christmas special by Going Local

By *April Turner*

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Have a local Christmas with these ideas and support our farming and handicraft community at the same time!

Go Local Christmas Presents

Homemade presents are a wonderful gift for someone you care about.

Homemade jars of jam, sauce, pickles, chutney (savory chunky sauce)

Woven baskets, handbags, jewelry and hair pieces

Carvings of toys and kitchen items

Homemade preserved foods - fruit leather, toasted coconut flakes, dried fruit, banana coconut candy

Use local leaves for wrapping paper, gift baskets and "stockings"

Go Local Christmas Table Centerpiece

Make an extraordinary "Christmas tree" decoration for the table using only local fruits and leaves.

Set a round circle of husked coconuts for the base layer - a shallow box or tray covered in a red, green or white cloth can be used to stabilize the decoration.

Follow with a layer of pineapples (without leaves) resting on, or inside, the circle of coconuts.

A layer of papayas or sei (soursop) can follow as the "tree" becomes narrower towards the top.

Lastly a star apple will take the position at the top of the cone shaped decoration.

Local leaves, apel and red, green and yellow bananas can be placed decoratively on the centerpiece to add color and "tinsel".

Go Local and say NO to disposable plates this Christmas

Styrofoam (Polystyrene) is extremely detrimental to not only our environment but also to human health.

Why not have your Christmas celebrations on local alternatives to disposable styrofoam and plastic plates? It doesn't cost anything and after the party you can just throw into the garden and spend the rest of the day relaxing in clean surroundings.

Plates & Platters: banana, taro, keleu and pele leaves, banana trunks, woven baskets

Bowls & Cups: coconut shells

Christmas Gift Box 1

In a small box made from woven banana leaves, decoratively place 3 rolled fruit leathers tied with a coconut leaf bow, 2 Christmas shaped banana cookies, a leaf wrapped banana candy and a handful of toasted coconut flakes.

Christmas Gift Box 2

Decorate a jar of homemade jam, sauce and chutney with banana leaves cut in a circle 2 inches bigger than the jar and tied around the lid with coconut leaf. Place the 3 jars in a small handbag made locally from pandanus leaves. A great gift for a mother, sister, grandmother or aunt.

Christmas Cookies

Ingredients

3 large cooking bananas, ripe

2 tablespoons peanut butter

2 tablespoons coconut molasses

2 tablespoons coconut oil

½-1 cup dried grated coconut

Method

Blend all ingredients, except grated coconut, together until smooth. Stir in coconut.

On baking paper lined baking tray shape the mixture carefully into Christmas shapes (stars, stockings, trees, canes) and bake for 10-15 minutes or until golden at 350 degrees F (cookies will be firm but still soft, not crunchy)

Banana Candy

Ingredients

20-30 ripe bananas (Menihle, Daiwang, Pisi, Akadahn, or cooking bananas)

3 cups coconut cream

1 cup sugar

Method

Peel bananas and chop. Mash very well with coconut cream (or use a blender/food processor).

Cook on a low temperature with sugar until the mixture is dry and sticky, approximately 1.5-3 hours.

Let it cool slightly, then wrap in dry banana leaves. Can be stored for a long time in cool place.

* Recipe courtesy of Wanpen Ordonez

Eggplant Chutney

2 tablespoons coconut oil

1 large onion, finely chopped

1 tablespoon ginger, grated

3 cloves garlic, grated

8-10 eggplants, washed and cut in cubes

2 cups tomatoes, chopped

1 teaspoon red chili, chopped

2 cups vinegar

1.5 cups brown sugar

2 teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon Pohnpei pepper, crushed

2 tablespoons coriander, chopped

Method

Heat oil in a saucepan and cook onion, ginger and garlic for a few minutes. Add eggplant and cook a few minutes. Stir in remaining ingredients, except coriander, and bring to the boil.

Lower heat to a simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, until the chutney is thick.

Meanwhile, sterilize the jars by washing in hot, soapy water, rinsing and then boiling for 5 minutes

Stir in coriander and allow to cool slightly. Pour chutney while still warm into warm jars, seal and turn upside down. Store away from sunlight and refrigerate when opened.

* Recipe adapted from South Seas Cuisine by Sue Carruthers

Fruit Leather (Roll-ups)

Ingredients

Ripe fruit such as banana, papaya, mango, pineapple or durian (use just one or a combination)

1 tablespoon coconut cream or oil

Method

Wash fruit in clean water. Peel and blend until smooth. Heat coconut cream or oil in pan and add puree. Bring to the boil and turn off the heat.

Spread in a thin layer (5mm) on banana leaves and dry in the sun until a dry sheet of fruit leather is formed. Roll and store in a cool, dry place in an airtight container.

* Recipe courtesy of Wanpen Ordonez

EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA – POHNPEI



Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to apply for the position of Executive Assistant to Ambassador.

In this challenging position, the successful applicant will undertake a range of administrative duties, from organising events, official travel and programs to drafting correspondence for the Ambassador.

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- Ability to communicate with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and at all levels
- Ability to communicate clearly in English both orally and in writing
- Strong organisation and administrative skills
- Ability to organise functions and manage workloads
- Ability to work to deadlines
- Ability to use initiative, take responsibility and work with little supervision
- Ability to work as part of a small team

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This is a 2-year contract, the extension of which will be assessed by the Embassy on the basis of need and performance.

Salary:

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Application Process:

Interested applicants need to address the selection criteria and provide a resume / CV. The Application Pack, including Selection Criteria and duty statement can be obtained by contacting nikola.pejic@dfat.gov.au or downloaded from <http://www.fsm.embassy.gov.au>.

NB. All of the selection criteria need to be addressed within the written application to be considered for interview. An example of how to address the selection criteria is included in the application pack as a guide.

Send Supporting Statement to the Selection Criteria and Resume/CV to:

A/g First Secretary
Australian Embassy
P O Box S
Kolonja, Pohnpei, FSM
Fax 691-320.5449
Email nikola.pejic@dfat.gov.au

Application closing date is COB Friday 10 January 2014



Caring about people with disabilities

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 3, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Tuesday, December 3 was the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Parents and friends of people with disabilities joined together in the Pohnpei government conference room to celebrate the special day under the theme, “Break Barriers, Open Doors

for an Inclusive Society for all.”

Governor Ehsa issued a proclamation for the day and was one of the speakers. He called for the people in the room as well as all residents of Pohnpei to care about the needs of people with disabilities.

“A major focus of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is to include disabilities in all aspects of development, as well as to further the participation of persons with disabilities in social life and development on the basis of equality,” the program for the event said. “To make the most of the day, activities may highlight progress and obstacles in implementing disability-sensitive policies, as well as promote public

awareness to break barriers and open doors to realize and inclusive community for all.”

The host for the event was the Pohnpei Consumer Organization as a joint effort with the State Department of Social Affairs, State Department of Education Special Education section, Pohnpei State Public Health, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Lien Pohnpei, the United Nations agencies.



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