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PUC—A struggle for power

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

August 12, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—“Unprecedented action,” is what the Pohnpei State Legislature said was needed in order to deal with what they called Pohnpei’s power crisis. Those words appeared in what became State Law 8L-09-12, the law on Pohnpei Utilities Corporation. Taking those words as encouragement to proceed, on September 3, 2012, Governor John Ehsa issued an Emergency Executive Order regarding Pohnpei Utilities Corporation.

Governor fires PUC Board and General Manager and suspends bidding rules...

The emergency order, which was drafted by the Office of the Attorney General, directed that the current membership of the Board of PUC be immediately dissolved. It removed PUC’s General Manager. It suspended bidding rules for procurement of services, and gave the powers of the PUC Board and Management to the Governor and a Task Force to be appointed by the Governor.

Governor appointed task force selects power contractor superseding bid process already in progress...

Over the course of the following week, the task force met and selected the bid of EIG (Energy

Infrastructure Global, Inc.) to completely rework and operate Pohnpei’s power supply system including the installation of alternative energy systems.

EIG is an International privately held operating company, specializing in the development of Renewable Energy Infrastructure and Alternative Energy Power Solutions. Their press release about the signing has appeared in international news and their engineers arrived on island on Monday, September 10.

EIG’s bid was selected from amongst six bids received by the cutoff date of August 31, at 2:00 in the afternoon. Vital Energy, Micronesia Petroleum Corporation was one of the bidders.

The bids had been opened at the proper time and PUC officials told the bidders that each of the members of an internal committee would evaluate the merits of the top three bids and would meet to present each of the member’s findings before making a final decision on which bid would be selected. But on the following Monday Governor Ehsa issued his Emergency Executive Order and the process was handed to a task force appointed by the Governor as mandated in his order.

Governor appoints an Acting General Manager...

Governor Ehsa then appointed Mohner Esiel to be the acting General Manager. Esiel is the Chief of the FSM Division of Immigration and had asked for a thirty day, unpaid leave-of- absence from that position in order to help PUC. The National Government denied that request. He served for just a few days.



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Pohnpei’s 33rd Liberation Day 2012



On September 11, 2012, Pohnpeians gathered at the Pohnpei Central Islands School track to celebrate the 33rd Liberation Day. The theme of this year’s celebration is “Gender and Sport, Healthy Future.” Games surrounding the liberation day festivities will continue through the month of September. They began in the month of August. **MORE PHOTOS on page 16**



Pohnpei cash flow back on track after DOI

reimbursement

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 13, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—“No Pohnpei State checks accepted.” The signs began springing up in stores in Pohnpei within the last few weeks after government checks began to bounce. One vendor reported to The Kaselehlie Press that two of the government’s checks, each for less than \$100 had bounced. Others told similar stories.

State employees complained that their allotments had not been deposited either.

“No salaries have been missed, only allotments,” Governor Ehsa said during an interview on Monday, and then explained the concept of an allotment for those of us who are not Government employees.

Allotments, he said, are direct deposits taken from an employee’s net salary and deposited either into an employee’s own bank account or into the account of a vendor to whom the employee owes money based on an employee’s request to do so.

“It’s discretionary; up to the government to allow,” the Governor explained. “We help businesses with a lot of (government) employees depending on their businesses so they (the employees) don’t have to get their check and go pay. We try to do all the payments on behalf of the employees. It’s really not required of the government to do it but we choose to help.”

“The allotments are kind of a problem, right now. (It) is kind of elevated because a lot of the employees they allot to the bank only to follow and withdraw next week. So when those allotments were not there...so I said, ‘simple, don’t allot!’ Don’t allot to the bank if you’re going to pull it out next week,” he concluded.

According to Thomas Pablo, Director of

Treasury and Administration, early this week the Department received \$900,000 from Compact funds that it was expecting. He said that the State is now in the process of taking care of all of the missed allotments and catching up on the checks that bounced. He said that the State is not broke and that it will be fine through the end of the fiscal year and into the beginning of the next one. It was always just a matter of timing of payments.

Pablo said that the new fiscal year that begins on October 1, 2012 might be difficult because the JEMCO (Joint Economic Management Committee, the committee that oversees the U.S. Compact) meeting that was to have been held in August was delayed until the 18th of September. JEMCO delayed the meeting because several of the reports it needed from throughout the FSM were not completed in a timely manner and meeting without those reports would have been a complete waste of time.

Pablo speculated that because the meeting is so late, Compact payments might be delayed beyond the beginning of the Fiscal Year which could potentially create some future cash flow problems.

Governor Ehsa said that the problem was never that there was no money. The problem was that there was no cash. “This is a DOI (U.S. Department of the Interior) problem,” he said. “So it’s not that we’re broke it’s just that the flow of cash is not coming soon enough.”

He explained that Pohnpei State has had a long standing arrangement with the Bank of Guam that was strained last year due to the activities of one government employee. He said that during his campaign for re-election one employee purposely bounced checks in an apparent effort to make the administration look bad. He offered to share a copy of the letter of reprimand but we declined. The Governor said that another part of the employee’s file is a formal letter of apology admitting to the deeds. The employee is still

working at the Government.

The Governor said that Pohnpei State wrote and issued checks based on the promised arrival of a reimbursement of funds under the Compact. He said that the Government told the bank that the money would be deposited ‘on the next day’. When it didn’t arrive they told the bank that it had been delayed and would be there ‘on the next day’. But when the money didn’t arrive on subsequent days, no one at the government called the bank to keep communication going and in the absence of communication the bank returned the checks due to insufficient funds.

Governor Ehsa explained that some of the funds that the State receives under the Compact are on a matching basis, so Pohnpei State has been using its own funds to do work and then applying for a reimbursement. He said that the reimbursement hadn’t come. He also said that Supplemental Education Grant money had not come and that they had not been reimbursed for Infrastructure Maintenance Funds that the State put out.

He said that currently, money from the U.S.

Compact of Free Association supplies 60 percent of Pohnpei’s budget.

When asked why DOI had not made reimbursement, Governor Ehsa replied, “No one knows and we’re working with them but that’s why our own general fund has been exhausted. It’s not that we don’t have money. We have money on the books. It’s just that the cash hasn’t come.”

Stephen Savage of the US Office of Insular Affairs that deals with Compact allocations said by email, “Pohnpei State misreported last year’s SEG expenditures by close to \$1 million. Then, after the grant had been closed out they provided revised numbers. They have now been reimbursed the full amount of what they had expended. The reporting error was only recently pointed out to the USG (U.S. Government).”

As to SEG draw down funds, Savage wrote, “Pohnpei State has drawn the cash for the entire amount of this year’s SEG. Last week they tried to draw down an additional \$200,000+ and I had to deny the request as the account had already been depleted. There was nothing left to draw down.”

For now, the State’s cash flow is back on track.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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DPS statistics report on prisoners in Pohnpei

By Media Liaisons Officer Bronson Martin

September 4, 2012 - The Department of Public Safety is pleased to update the general public on numbers of inmates that are sentenced for imprisonment. The total number of inmates imprisoned by three levels of the Governments, the National, State and Local Governments are sixteen individuals and legal residence of the Federated States of Micronesia. Included in these sixteen inmates is one female individual.

According to policies and procedures, name of these individual are not to be released to the general public until permitted by law but all other information may be released.

A 28 years old male individual from Sokehs, Pohnpei was sentenced for 10 years imprisonment committed on June 18, 2009 by the Pohnpei Supreme Court for Murder;

A 40 years old male individual from U, Pohnpei was sentenced for 5 years imprisonment committed on February 18, 2008 by the Pohnpei State Supreme Court for Theft;

A 22 years old male individual from Nett, Pohnpei was sentenced for 12 years imprisonment committed on May 6, 2011 by the Pohnpei Supreme Court for Burglary, Assault & Battery and Sexual Assault.

A 37 years old male individual from Kitti, Pohnpei was sentenced for 12 years

imprisonment committed on November 23, 2010 by the Pohnpei Supreme Court for Murder.

A 26 years old male individual from Nett, Pohnpei was sentenced for 5 years imprisonment committed on July 13, 2010 by the Pohnpei Supreme Court for Manslaughter;

A 41 years old male individual from Kitti, Pohnpei was sentenced for 2 years imprisonment committed on August 19, 2011 by the FSM Supreme Court for Possession of Controlled Substance;

A 38 years old male individual from Madolenihmw, Pohnpei was sentenced 10 years imprisonment committed on April 20, 2009 by the Pohnpei Supreme Court for Murder;

A 23 years old male individual from Kolonia Town, Pohnpei was sentenced 8 years imprisonment committed on August 27, 2010 by the Pohnpei Supreme Court for Burglary;

A 17 years old male individual from Kitti, Pohnpei was sentenced for 7 ½ years imprisonment committed on February 22, 2012 for Sexual Assault;

A 33 years old male individual from Kolonia, Town, Pohnpei was sentenced for 56 years imprisonment committed on January 7, 2012 by the Pohnpei State Supreme Court for

Malicious Mischief and Murder;

A 35 years old female individual from Nett, Pohnpei was sentenced for 20 years imprisonment committed on May 2, 2012 by order of the Pohnpei Supreme Court.

A 35 years old male individual from Kolonia Town, Pohnpei was sentenced for 2 ½ years imprisonment committed on June 11, 2012 by the Pohnpei Supreme Court for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon;

A 27 years old male individual from Sokehs, Pohnpei was sentenced for 4 years imprisonment committed on March 28, 2012 by the Pohnpei Supreme Court for Burglary;

A 34 years old male individual from U, Pohnpei was sentenced for 2 years imprisonment committed on July 6, 2012 by the Pohnpei State Supreme Court for Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault;

A 30 years old male individual from Kolonia Town, Pohnpei was sentenced and committed by the Pohnpei Supreme Court April 22, 2012 for Assault & battery with a Dangerous Weapon;

And another individual from Nett, Pohnpei was sentenced for 2 weeks and committed on August 22, 2012 by the Nett District Court for Violation of Court Order.

Rehabilitation programs are provided to the inmates (prisoners) on a daily basis by respectful members of the Churches on Pohnpei;

Members of the Protestant Church are scheduled on every Mondays of the week at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of the Baptist Church are scheduled on every Tuesdays of the week at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of the Catholic Church are scheduled on every Wednesdays of the week at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of the Protestant Church are scheduled on every Tuesdays of the week at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of the Christ for all Church are scheduled on every Thursdays of the week at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) are scheduled on every Fridays of the week at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of the Protestant Church are scheduled on every Tuesdays of the week at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of the Congregation from Guam are scheduled on every Saturdays of the week at 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Visiting hours for the prisoners are available to the general public on every Sundays of the week.

For more information about the Division of Corrections & Rehabilitation please call telephone number 320-2621 or the Department of Public Safety Media Liaisons Officer & Professional Standards Officer Bronson Martin at 320-2409 or email to bromartin27@gmail.com, office is located across Kolonia Town Government at the Traffic Section building in Kolonia, available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

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GEAR UP Students explore their potential



By Amber Ham
Acting Director, GEAR UP

GEAR UP was back in action during the months of June and July with its annual GEAR UP Summer Camp experience at Kolonia Elementary School. Approximately 360 students completed the 10-day summer camp whose theme was "Exploring My Potential," which entailed a variety of academic, career, counseling, and community service projects. Approximately 20 educators collaborated to deliver innovative lessons that addressed the goals of GEAR UP Pohnpei:

1. Increase the academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education
2. Increase the rate of high-school graduation and participation in post-secondary education
3. Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation and financing

This year's GEAR UP summer camp focused on students learning specific skills to gain a stronger understanding of the importance of taking responsibility for their future, setting goals, and making the most of every moment. This awareness created opportunities for the scholars to focus better in school and to have a clearer understanding of their future goals and ambitions. The skills campers learned will help them manage stress, build study skills, improve grades, and increase test scores. They now have the power and self-efficacy to address difficult situations, successfully tackle problems and resolve conflicts.

Increase the academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education

Students completed a variety of math classes including math recovery, pre-algebra, and for the first time- algebra I. In psychology class, they completed a career inventory test and discovered the type of learner that they are and how to

be a stronger scholar. During computer class, students learned a new graphic design software program in which they create a collage of their future goals and aspirations. More importantly, they took a seven day career class where they discovered various types of careers, colleges that prepare students for a specific area interest, and how to prepare now for their college future.

Not only did the students learn a variety of information but also the GEAR UP teachers. Local teachers delivered the entire curriculum successfully but only after collaborating with one another. GU believes that collaboration is the key to the success of the program and the advancement of knowledge among the students. The teachers now have the skills to assist the students in their career exploration and act as counselors. Two local teachers directed the summer camp and as a result, have knowledge and understanding of academic programming and coordination.

Increase the rate of high-school graduation and participation in post-secondary education

Students and teachers also participated in a series of field trips and listened to a variety of guest speakers who spoke about issues ranging from HIV/AIDS prevention, to careers in health, to dropping out avoidance. Moreover, for the first time in GEAR UP history, mentors served the GU population. By working with Upward Bound (UBP) Director and students, the GU Education Specialist trained 23 College and University-bound students in proper mentoring techniques and skills. During the GU summer camp, the mentors met with the GU students daily to target areas such as: self-esteem, stress management, conflict resolution, goal-setting, and diversity. Toward the end of camp, the mentors led the students in developing a skit, song, or dance that highlighted "What GEAR UP means

to me". Altogether these experiences advanced the knowledge of local careers, job opportunities, and provided the attendees with exceptional coping mechanisms and strategies.

Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation and financing

The GEAR UP Counselor met daily with at-risk students to discuss and determine strategies to become stronger scholars.

Students met in small groups to discuss their future goals, generate ideas to overcome common obstacles, and develop goals for the upcoming school year.

Approximately 100 parents and guardians attended parental workshops to address common problems associated with students' success in school. Parents participated in two skits, one highlighted negative parental participation that involved parents who fail to focus on their child's education and the other addressed positive parental engagement including setting time aside each evening for homework, focusing on a routine that includes a balanced dinner and breakfast, and encouraging an early bedtime.

Final Celebration of Students' Successes

At the end of the camp, scholars, teachers, Upward Bound mentors, and camp directors were presented with a variety of awards and certificates for their past school-year and summer achievements. Awards ranged from movie tickets to school supply gift certificates to restaurant vouchers. At the conclusion of the camp, a variety of students stood before their peers, parents, and community members to discuss the importance of GEAR UP and why they are determined to remain a GU student. More importantly, they told their fellow GU peers to stay in school because they too are important. The culminating activity entailed a variety of dances, songs, and skits that were organized by both the GU students and the UB mentors.

GEAR UP would like to thank the following for their support and dedication to the GEAR UP summer camp: Pohnpei Department of Education, District 3, FSM Petro Corps, Coco Marina, Club Cupids Bar and Restaurant, The Village, Joy Restaurant and Hotel, Nett Ramen, Riverside Restaurant, China Star, Sei Restaurant, Kaselehlie Diner, Etscheit Enterprise, COM-FSM Health/Nursing Program, MedPharm, Upward Bound Program, Pohnpei State Mental Health Services, Genesis Hospital, STOP HIV, Pohnpei Youth for Action, Pohnpei Youth Action Theater, Pohnpei State Health Services, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, and all the GEAR UP teachers and staff.



FSM Vice President Alik expresses condolences and solidarity at U.S. Embassy

FSM Information Services

September 14, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—The FSM Vice President Alik L. Alik and Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Lorin S. Robert, went to the United States Embassy in Pohnpei this morning as part of on-going expression of condolences and solidarity in the wake of the tragic death of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and other officials as a result of deadly attack at the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya on September 12.

Vice President Alik signed the condolence book at the Embassy in the presence of Ambassador Dorteia-Maria Rosen, Secretary Robert, and staff members from the National Government and the Embassy and shared a few moments with the Ambassador at the conference room.

A Diplomatic Note has also been sent

to the Embassy from the Department of Foreign Affairs expressing sympathies from the Government and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia to the families and friends of the victims and the Government of the United States, condemning the “senseless” act and wishing that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

The Ambassador thanked Vice President Alik and spoke very briefly about the expressions of support coming her way even from ordinary FSM citizens who are hurt upon hearing of what has happened to the Ambassador and the officials.

The victims in addition to Ambassador Stevens are identified as security officers Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods, and computer expert Sean Smith.

Also accompanying Vice President Alik was Ms. Evelyn Adolph, director of the Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management.



STAP Awards scholarships to COM-FSM students

College of Micronesia FSM

September 7, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Samahang Tagalog Atbp. sa Ponape (STAP) awarded scholarships to seven COM-FSM students at the National Campus on September 6, 2012.

The scholarship recipients were Leola Primo, Laura Fujimoto, Cory Kustin, Gracelyn Shirai, Andrea Ratloilug, Mary Joyce Pulmano, Tiffany Sanchez and COM-FSM Alumni and fourth year University of Hawaii at Hilo student LaShauna Wilson. STAP has been awarding scholarships to COM-FSM students for the past 12 years.

On behalf of the college, President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. thanked the STAP officers and its members for their generosity.

After hearing about the students' future dreams, President Daisy said that he was inspired.

“It makes me want to work hard for the college and for all of you. You're talking about giving back, and that's so important. And that's what these generous people are working for to raise funds for you. They work hard to raise those funds. So someday, it will be your chance to give back, maybe the same way, or maybe in other ways,” he said.

The Samahang Tagalog Atbp. sa Ponape is a regional association of Filipinos in Pohnpei. The primary purpose of the STAP scholarship assistance is to encourage Micronesian citizens to pursue a post-high school education by providing scholarship assistance to eligible applicants.

The STAP officers present during the awarding ceremony were President Jojo Maglaqui, Vice President Jean Maglaqui, and members Ray Musada, Nelchor Permitez, Lyn Faustino, Rhea Joy Guiriba, and Rafael Pulmano.



FSM Ambassadors and OEEM Director mark Ozone Day 2012

FSM Office of Environment
FSM Ambassador to the United Nations

September 16 is International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer in a year that marks the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Given the Protocol's success in achieving reductions that will protect the atmosphere for generations to come, we have a lot to celebrate.

The Montreal Protocol is not only the most successful environmental treaty, it is also the most successful climate change treaty, since it phases out chemicals that not only harm the ozone layer, but also contribute to global warming. But the Montreal Protocol's work is not done. Hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, are unfortunately being used as substitutes for ozone depleting substances. HFCs do not destroy the ozone layer but they are super greenhouse gases.

“After a quarter century of successes, it is time for the Montreal Protocol to meet its next challenge: replacing HFCs with climate-safe alternatives,” said Andrew Yatilman, Director of FSM's Office of Environment and Emergency Management. “When we thought HFCs were the only option, many Parties started using them, but now we know there are safer alternatives. We need to stop HFC production and use before they become serious problems for global climate—and FSM has a detailed plan to accomplish this.”

HFCs are synthetic products manufactured for use in refrigerators, air conditioners, fire suppressants, and insulating foams. Currently the Kyoto Protocol regulates emissions of HFCs, but not their production and use, leaving a significant regulatory gap.

FSM has been a leading proponent of using the Montreal Protocol to regulate HFC production, beginning in 2009 with a proposed amendment to enable such regulation. Later, the United States, Canada, and Mexico introduced a similar proposal.

Since then, 108 Parties have supported declarations to use the Protocol to address HFCs.

However, a few powerful Parties have repeatedly blocked formation of a contact group to review these proposals. Therefore, the plan to expand HFC production not only remains unchanged, but the Parties have been unable to even discuss better options. HFC production is already ramping up, and it is projected to contribute significantly to global warming in the next few decades as air conditioning usage skyrockets in emerging economies.

Recognizing that HFCs are poised to cause adverse effects on the environment, world leaders at the Rio+20 Earth Summit agreed that they “support a gradual phase-down in the consumption and production of HFCs,” as reflected in The Future We Want outcome statement. The Montreal Protocol is the only mechanism available for such a phase-down.

“The challenges facing small island nations and other vulnerable countries are only growing greater, and despite the diligent efforts of many Parties, a comprehensive climate change agreement will not take effect until 2020 at the earliest,” observed Jane Chigiyal, FSM Ambassador to the United Nations. “Any climate mitigation that can be achieved through other channels should be a welcome complement to the UNFCCC process and might even bolster climate negotiations or inspire cooperation on climate solutions in other industrial sectors.”

Added FSM Ambassador to the United States Asterio Takesy: “To honor the anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, we need to revive the spirit of cooperation that has marked Protocol's progress over the last 25 years and rise to the challenge of phasing down HFCs. This starts with formal discussions of the Micronesian and North American proposals at the Meeting of the Parties in Geneva in November.”

The 24th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will be held in Geneva, Switzerland November 12-16, 2012. A copy of Micronesia's proposal is available here: <http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/owg/owg-32/presession/PreSession%20Documents/OEWG-32-5E.pdf>.

President Daisy invites students to give more at first COM-FSM Convocation

College of Micronesia-FSM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (September 14, 2012) – The College of Micronesia-FSM held its first academic convocation ceremony today, to remind itself as a learning community of its responsibility to educate those under its care.

At the ceremony, attended by the college students, staff, administrators, regents and faculty, President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. reminded the college community especially the faculty of its responsibility to fulfill the college's mission.

"Each of us, regardless of our position and geographic location has an important role in fulfilling the promise we make to our students in the college's mission statement, yet none is as central to our mission as our faculty. The faculty of this institution is at

its core, and fundamental to its purpose," said Dr. Daisy.

On behalf of the rest of the college community, the president said he offered his gratitude and thanks in recognition of the faculty's contribution to the education of the students of COM-FSM and to the future of the FSM.

President Daisy noted that at convocations, the college welcomes its entering and returning students while it wishes graduates well and bids them farewell at commencement exercises.

"This is your life. Make every moment count. Make every person count. Leave a legacy. Leave this place better than you found it.

"Give more in service to your fellow students. Give more in service to your college. Give more in service to your community. Give more in service to your country," said President Daisy.

A copy of President Daisy's remarks is available online.



Pohnpei Catholic School receives grant from Japan

The Embassy of Japan

On 30th August, the Ambassador of Japan to FSM, His Excellency Mr. Eiichi Suzuki signed a grant contract agreement with Mr. Staylor Elidok, Principal of Pohnpei Catholic School, under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects for "The Project for Pohnpei Catholic School Construction of Three-Classrooms Building" in the amount of \$115,116 USD.

The aim of the grant is to enable the school to construct three new classrooms and provide 93 sets of desks and chairs to those classrooms. The new buildings will belong to the middle school students, from 6th to 8th grade. Pohnpei Catholic School plans to add one more class for each of the lower grades from Kindergarten to 2nd grade.

Ambassador Suzuki remarked that he "hopes these new classrooms will be places of learning and growing for all the potential students of the Pohnpei Catholic School." Mr. Staylor Elidok, Principal of Pohnpei Catholic School emphasized his heartfelt and warm welcome to the Ambassador and his staff as he expressed his gratitude towards the Japanese Government for their generous support to their school. "This day truly is an important day in the history of PCS." He mentioned how it is not often that they receive foreign dignitaries on their campus, so the visit was an honor for the Pohnpei Catholic School.

The ceremony commenced with a heartwarming dance by students, and ended with a beautiful song by the faculty and staff of PCS. Opening and closing prayer was done by the religion teacher, Sister Sophie.



NEWS RELEASE

Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia and Visa Launch First Domestic Visa Debit Card

Micronesia Marks Milestones with Bank's First ATMs and Introduction of the BFSM Visa Debit Card

Pohnpei, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, 12 September 2012 – The Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia and Visa have launched the island nation's first domestic Visa Debit card and the bank's first ATMs across the archipelago.

For Micronesians, the BFSM Visa Debit card offers them access to the financial mainstream and a safer way to carry money and manage their personal finances without the inconvenience of visiting a bank to access funds. Micronesian cardholders will now benefit from global card acceptance as their new debit cards can be used in Micronesia and anywhere worldwide that accepts Visa - at any of the 1.9 million ATMs and 30 million merchant locations in 200 countries and territories.

Also, for inbound tourists today's launch of the bank's first four ATMs reduces their need to carry large amounts of cash when traveling to the islands, offering international visitors a more convenient and secure way to access money while visiting Micronesia.

"We are very pleased to bring the BFSM Visa Debit card to Micronesia, giving our customers worldwide access to their accounts. For the first time in the bank's history, our customers will be able to access their accounts not only within the FSM States but through ATMs overseas. Also, tourists visiting Micronesia can access their funds directly and at any time through the bank's domestic ATMs," said Ruth Iriarte, SVP/Head of Branch Banking & Alternate CEO, Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia.

"The BFSM Visa Debit Card offers true convenience as cardholders no longer have to rush to the bank to access their funds. We believe that Micronesians will benefit from the ease of accessing your money whenever you need it – for purchases at home or abroad," said Anna Mendiola, Bank of the Federated State of Micronesia board member and President/CEO of the Federated States of Micronesia Development Bank.

Iain Jamieson, Visa Country Manager, Philippines and Guam, said: "Today marks an important milestone for Micronesia as we welcome the next era of electronic payments to the islands. We are also honored to welcome the Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia into the Visa network as we collaborate to build upon their history of leadership Micronesia. For tourists visiting these beautiful islands, they no longer have to worry about carrying large sums of cash as more ATMs offer enhanced convenience and security when withdrawing cash in Micronesia. Also, for Micronesians, the BFSM Visa Debit card is both truly local and completely international, giving the cardholder the ability to shop anywhere in the world, both when travelling overseas and also online."

About Visa

Visa is a global payments technology company that connects consumers, businesses, financial institutions and governments in more than 200 countries and territories to fast, secure and reliable digital currency. Underpinning digital currency is one of the world's most advanced processing networks—VisaNet—that is capable of handling more than 20,000 transaction messages a second, with fraud protection for consumers and guaranteed payment for merchants. Visa is not a bank and does not issue cards, extend credit or set rates and fees for consumers. Visa's

innovations, however, enable its financial institution customers to offer consumers more choices: pay now with debit, ahead of time with prepaid or later with credit products.

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Committee to Wait on the President sits down with the Executive Branch

FSM Information Services

September 11, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—This morning, the Committee to Wait on the President, as tasked by Speaker Isaac V. Figir yesterday, consulted with Vice President Alik L. Alik in the presence of Cabinet Members at the President's Conference Room, discussing priorities for the 5th Regular Session of the 17th FSM Congress, and other concerns.

Chairing the special committee was Senator David W. Panuelo with membership by Senator Yosiwo P. George, Senator Wesley W. Simina and Senator Joseph J. Urusemal.

Vice President Alik welcomed the committee and informed the Senators of President Mori's visit to the People's Republic of China with the expected return date of September 17.

The Vice President and Senators shared the understanding that the session should focus primarily on finalizing work on the fiscal year 2013 proposed budget, aiming for approval before October 1.

With input from FSM's Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) members, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Lorin Robert and SBOC Director Ms. Evelyn Adolph, the leaders reviewed

possible complications in the review of the compact-based budgets for State and National Governments given the delay of JEMCO meeting, especially if JEMCO would require additional inputs from any of the governments.

JEMCO will meet in Honolulu on September 19, giving the governments less than ten days to review and accept (or refuse?) the JEMCO-determined budgets, aside from other internally based processes.

On a more positive note, Vice President Alik raised the fact that the projected revenue of \$41 million dollars for the current fiscal year has been reached a few days back, giving the administration confidence in its revenue projection performance and assured that a transmittal will be sent to Congress by the end of the week with a few necessary requests for consideration.

The Senators requested that a complete run-down on all pending foreign grants requiring Congressional action accompany the transmittal that the Vice President alluded to.

In closing, a few pending bills and resolutions were also highlighted including the Unified Revenue Administration related legislations, the National Trust Fund proposed bill, other treaties requiring ratifications, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, and remaining nominations for Cabinet posts and memberships on overseeing boards.

The leaders expressed mutual interest to collaborate further with the possibility of a lunch meeting on the 19th or 20th in lieu of a number of events in the very near future, not the least of which is the State and National Leadership Conference slated for the month of November at the margin of the FSM Donor Partners Meeting in Pohnpei State.

Palau shortlisted for the 2012 Future Policy Award

World Future Council

4 September 2012

Hamburg/Montreal/Washington D.C./Rome—Six policies from five countries have now been shortlisted for the 2012 Future Policy Award, an international award that celebrates effective and exemplary policies. Palau is shortlisted for its Areas Network Act, initiated in 2003 and its Shark Haven Act, 2009. California, Namibia, the Philippines, and South Africa are also still in the running. This year the topic of the award is the protection of oceans and coasts. Thirty-one different policies from 22 countries were nominated, ranging from integrated ocean and coastal policies, marine protected area programmes to laws regulating fisheries, trade in marine products, marine litter and land-sea interactions.

The Future Policy Award is granted by the World Future Council, an international policy research organisation that provides decision makers with effective policy solutions. The winning policy will be announced at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2012. Winners will be celebrated at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad, India, in October. For this year's theme the World Future Council is partnering with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with support from the Okeanos Foundation.

Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.
Encourage me, and I will not forget you.
-William Arthur Ward, college administrator, writer (1921-1994)

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US art envoy teaches advanced carpentry skills

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

A three-week advanced woodworking training ended in August, graduating twelve trainees, including one woman. The trainees learned advanced carpentry skills for building tables and chairs from local wood using techniques that did not require the use of nails or screws.

The U.S. Embassy sponsored the workshop held at COM-Pohnpei's vocational building in Kolonia. The workshop was the result of a grant designed to draw on the artistic skills of local artisans to provide training for improving their skills to produce economically viable products.

Planning for the workshop began in May when USDA's Natural Resources and Conservation Service harvested and prepared a fallen mangrove tree for use in the workshop. The wood was allowed to dry and was the sole source of material used for the tables and benches built during the project.

The instructor, Bill Hewitt, from Boston, Massachusetts, worked with the students for three weeks. The students represented a range of communities around Pohnpei, including Nukuoro, Mokil and Kapingamarangi. At the completion of the program, the students produced five tables and two chairs. The finished products will

be distributed to locations around the island to highlight the potential for locally made products to create an economic benefit to local individuals.

The participants were encouraged upon completion of the course to return to their communities and use their newly acquired skills to produce wood products to earn an income. Instructors at Pohnpei

Campus have made plans to incorporate the techniques acquired through the training into the existing cabinetmaking curriculum.



Bank of FSM partners with Visa in step toward modern banking

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

September 12, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—The Bank of the FSM has joined the 16,251 other institutions worldwide that offer Visa debit services. In addition to the placement of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) at each of the FSM's four Bank of FSM branches which will allow 24 hour access to banking services to customers who opt for the services, the Visa debit services means that for the first time Bank of FSM customers can access money in their account from anywhere in the world that honors Visa payments.

The Visa debit card can also be used for online Internet purchases.

Iain Jamieson, Visa Country Manager for the Philippines and Guam called the new BFSM services a step forward for tourism. He said that tourists want diversity and novelty when they travel. He added that FSM certainly has that. He told of spending that morning before breakfast diving at Manta Row and watching the Manta Rays as they came into the pass. He called it 'a diver's dream'. In addition to diversity and novelty, he said, tourists also want access to their funds conveniently and securely. The Visa services offered in the FSM will give the access tourists want when they travel.

Bank Board Member Iso Nahnken en U, Ihlen Joseph said that because the bank has a low number of account holders compared to other worldwide banks, the motivation for the new service was not necessarily for profit but "because we care." He said that similarly, BFSM has submitted an application to Visa to allow the bank to offer Visa credit card services and urged Mr. Jamieson to help expedite that process. To BFSM customers, Mr. Joseph said "We welcome you to a new world of 365 day, 24 hour, seven day a week banking access."

FSM Vice President Alik Alik also addressed the small crowd gathered in the parking lot of BFSM corporate headquarters in Pohnpei and praised the new services on

behalf of all FSM residents.

College of Micronesia President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D and FSM Acting Secretary of Finance, Rose Nakanaga cut the ribbon at the new ATM machine.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, BFSM Senior Vice President/Chief Lending Office Malveen Majoraj, and Vice President/Chief Financial Officer Yoko Keller demonstrated the use of the teller machine.

ATM account applications were available to be filled out after the ceremony.



Criminals be warned—FSM has a powerful new crime stopping tool Fingerprint lab means suspects can be identified quickly and inexpensively

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 11, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—FSM law enforcement officials have a powerful new tool in their crime fighting arsenal; a brand spanking new fingerprint laboratory. This afternoon, officials of the FSM and Australian governments gathered at the National police for an official opening ceremony of the new laboratory.

The state of the art equipment, provided to the FSM National Police by the Australian Government is the same equipment that Australian law enforcement officers use to preserve and record fingerprint evidence and to discover the owners of fingerprints that show up on crime scene evidence.

The new equipment can be used to gather fingerprint evidence from porous materials such as paper, and from non-porous materials, such as knives or firearms.

Certainly the technology is not new. International law enforcement officials have had access to Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems and fingerprint preservation technology for many years but it is the first time that the FSM has had access to such a system.

They intend to use it to good effect. Each of the State police departments has agreed that they will send and assign officers to the lab on a rotating basis so that each State has personnel trained to use the system.

National Police Chief Takasy Reim said that two Pohnpei State Police officers, Kasner Aldens and Olivia David have been certified to work in the Lab to search and identify fingerprints

Several years ago the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety, with outside grant assistance, also from Australia, set up a fingerprinting and fingerprint identification system. Pohnpei State has been building up its fingerprint file since that time, collecting fingerprints from everyone who has been arrested in the State for several years. But that system was then, and is still a manual system.

Phil Herd, of the Pacific Police Development Program coordinated the construction and installation of the new laboratory. He said that the PAFIS (Pacific Automated Fingerprint Identification System) will cut down the search for fingerprint matches to just a few hours rather than the weeks it might take a fingerprint expert to search through files manually. He said that the manual method also often relies on a suspect being nominated by the investigator which sometimes cannot be done. PAFIS will allow for a search of fingerprints in a large database even when no suspect has yet been nominated.

He said that all of the fingerprints from Pohnpei's fingerprint files have been entered into PAFIS where they are filed by number and location and not by name. Fingerprints from throughout the Pacific Island region are in the PAFIS database but by agreement no names are recorded there. He said that if a search brings up a fingerprint match from outside of the FSM, officers would then have to call the law enforcement jurisdiction where the prints are on file to find out the name of the owner of the fingerprint that is on file.

Even after the PAFIS system identifies a fingerprint "match" the proposed match still must be evaluated by a fingerprint expert to eliminate the possibility of a false match. The software requires a manual point by point verification system. Even still the process is practically light years fast and much easier than an entirely manual system.

Each search of PAFIS incurs a small fee. Herd said that he didn't know off hand how much that fee would be in Pohnpei. He said that in Australia the searches cost seven or eight dollars each and he imagined that the cost would be similar in the FSM. The low cost of the searches means that fingerprints could be processed for all levels of crime in the FSM from simple theft to much more serious crimes.

Herd, while giving a tour of the three room laboratory demonstrated the process and reminded the officials that the existence of a fingerprint on crime scene evidence is just a law enforcement tool. It does not automatically mean that the owner of the fingerprint was involved in the crime under investigation. The existence of a fingerprint on a piece of evidence merely identifies a person of interest and gives investigators an additional tool in preparing the evidence for a case.



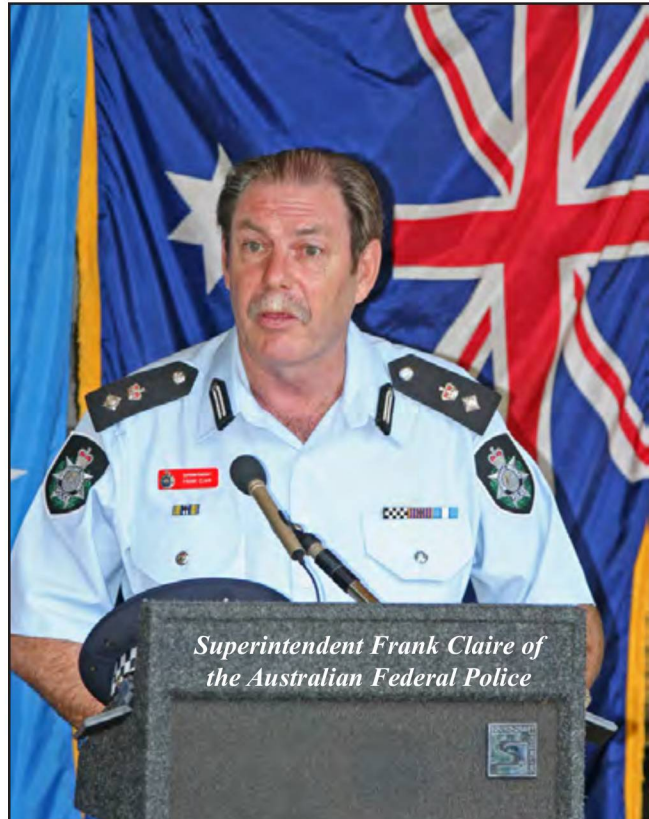
High level FSM participants during the tour of the laboratory



Phil Herd of the Pacific Policing Development Program gives a briefing on the new laboratory



FSM National Police Chief Takasy Reim



Superintendent Frank Claire of the Australian Federal Police

Superintendent Frank Claire, the Project Coordinator from the Australian Federal Police said that the decision to house the lab within the National Police building was made to make it a truly National asset, available to all of the States. "This is the first time that FSM will have the ability to chemically treat exhibits in a safe and secure environment," he said.

"This is a significant improvement in our law enforcement," said National Police Chief Takasy Reim. "Ever since the establishment of our Police Force here in the FSM, we have not been able to examine fingerprints. With the help of our Australian friends, not only will we now have the capability to chemically treat exhibits in a safe and secure environment but we are proud to be the first among the Micronesia FAS to have this capability."

"For this, I would like to thank the Australian Federal Police, the Pacific Police Development Program, Australian Aid, E-Cad Construction, and everyone else that has put forth much effort to make this day possible," Chief Reim said.

He said that the new laboratory and all of the equipment and supplies cost approximately \$238,000.

...PUC

Continued from front page

Legislature holds rare Sunday afternoon session and overturns emergency order...

On the afternoon of Saturday, September 8, Pohnpei's Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations met to decide on what recommendations they would make on any actions the Pohnpei State Legislature should take on the emergency order. The committee report said that the action of the Governor to declare a state of emergency regarding PUC was unconstitutional and recommended that the full body of the PSL pass a resolution rescinding the order. During a rare Sunday afternoon meeting, the PSL did precisely that. They rescinded the order retroactively, in effect putting things back to the way they were before the emergency was declared.

AG issues opinion that the Governor can act as the Board...

On the following day, during an interview with The Kaselehlie Press, Governor Ehsa received the Attorney General's opinion that the PUC Board did not have a quorum because two of the members of the Board had arrears at PUC and therefore were not legally qualified to sit on the board. The opinion said that because of that, the Governor then had the power to act as the board, which he then proceeded to do.

On the next day, Tuesday, September 12, the Governor suspended Feliciano Perman who had returned to work as PUC's General Manager. The Governor appointed Robert Hadley as the Acting General Manager and instructed him to once again sign the PUC memorandum of understanding with EIG.

That is where things stand as of today.

Governor's motives questioned...

Within moments of the Governor's Emergency Executive Order on September 3, naysayers were saying "nay" as loudly as they could in any venue where their voice could be heard.

"I guess a lot of people disapproved of my actions. They thought I was promoting a private interest, which is, I mean, time and time again, how many times do they want to be wrong?" he asked and shook his head.

"You know, even I heard over the weekend that some PUC employees said, 'Oy, I feel sorry for the Governor. His wish didn't come true.' You know, getting Scooby's to win the bid. Cause they thought that's why I did this emergency is to make sure that I have money from here under the emergency and to pull all that money together and take to Scooby's," he said.

Criticism of power generation bid process...

But EIG won the bid and critics' attention immediately turned to that decision. Many people are now wondering about the propriety and legality of the processes that led to that decision. Not least among them is Micronesia Petroleum Corporation, commonly referred to as Petrocorp or as they are branding themselves, "Vital Energy."

Vital Energy also bid on the project.

An employee who works for Vital Energy who did not claim to be a spokesperson for the corporation and wished to remain anonymous claimed that the bid selection process had not been transparent. "I'd like to see any report by the review panel/task force that clearly outlines the reasons and justifications why EIG was selected over a local company - Vital Energy - who submitted a bid with what is likely a better deal to PUC and Pohnpeians as a whole," the Vital source complained.

Vital Energy had, at the Governor's request, served as a member of the Governor's power task force. Employees of the public corporation, including engineers, spent countless hours analyzing the power needs of Pohnpei and produced a report outlining those needs which included alternative energy sources. The source at Vital said that just a few weeks after it issued its report to the Governor's task force, EIG came up with a proposal that met each of those needs and that in nearly every aspect, mirrored Vital Energy's own proposal which it had developed from its report to the task force, "Except that Vital isn't requiring any money from PUC to do the job—nothing!"

Suspended GM says \$75,000 EIG payment excessive...

The Vital employee was speaking of a \$75,000 payment to EIG that Feliciano Perman, the suspended GM of PUC said that the MOU with EIG requires.

"I think the purpose of the MOU is to help defray the cost of four engineers that will come," he said and admitted that he had not read the proposal nor the Kaselehlie Press article about the proposal that said that the \$75,000 would be returned to PUC with interest after Phase I of the project is completed.

"They cannot give us free money," Perman insisted, "cause if they refund PUC from their own money, not from the money they will get from PUC, then, you know, that's free money."

When we used the analogy of "earnest money" to secure a proposed future business transaction to try to describe the payment and its return, he said, "You know that's what businesses will say but actually they will include that," and left the sentence hanging.

Bid process superseded...

Perman said that before the bids were opened on August 31, PUC had established an evaluation and selection committee consisting of seven members. Beginning on Monday, September 3, the committee "will start meeting, but each member will do his or her evaluation independently, then they will get together at a certain time that's designated and then each one will present why he (or she) believes 'this one' will be the winning bid."

"Under the declaration of Emergency, Governor created a task force, three members from the Executive and three from PUC," Perman said. "I really don't know whether it's that task force that made the decision or

not," he said.

Earlier in our interview Perman said, "I guess the Governor required Robert Hadley to submit his findings." We verified twice that Perman meant "only" Robert Hadley. Perman said that Hadley ranked the top three bidders and that he ranked EIG number one.

He said that the task force made its selection from Hadley's ranking of the top three bidders.

Governor Ehsa said that Vital Energy was in the top three. He could not remember the third bidder.

"You know, I had originally worked with FSM Petro" Governor Ehsa said referring to Vital Energy, "because FSM Petro is also interested in this. They were really interested...and it would have been really good for them. But when I met with the National Leadership, 'what about Chuuk?' they asked. I told President, I said 'President, let's defer to the experts. If they think this is a viable business opportunity for FSM Petro, let them!' He said that FSM National leaders still resisted the idea of the National Corporation generating power for Pohnpei State.

Our anonymous source at Vital Energy knew nothing about the National Government's objections and it is difficult to say for certain whether those objections played into the selection of an American company with a local office over a local company or whether National leadership ever discussed their concerns with Vital Energy.

Governor says several factors influenced his actions:

Unfulfilled PUC promises...

As to the timing of his Emergency declaration Governor Ehsa said, "...The timing of this is really based on two things. One, testimony by PUC to legislature and therefore me on the committee report that the two CFC generators would fire up, would be on line by August. On August 31 there was nothing," he said.

Burned cables left PUC without backup generators...

The second reason he gave for his action was that, "Before August 31 the other generator burned, parts burned."

He was speaking of the cables that burned at the Nanpohnmal power plant very early one Sunday morning in mid August. That fire plunged the island into darkness for over five hours in the middle of the night. The fire left the PUC power generation system with no backup generators to activate during peak power demand hours.

Perman said that a PUC power worker reported that he showed up early for his shift that night and that he was sleeping close to the generators waiting for his shift to start when he heard a large "bang" and then the wires burned.

Perman said that the Caterpillar generators that were connected to those cables are still operable but the generators cannot be connected to the "substation" because the

cables burned up. He said that PUC has already made contact with a company that can potentially rework the burned cables.

Pohnpei State Legislature...

The Governor said that he was additionally emboldened to issue his emergency declaration because of the law that the legislature passed. "The law PSL passed specified, 'unprecedented action must be taken' and to me that's unprecedented action."

The bid selection process...

"So those two (or more) plus the fact that the RFP proposals were submitted by 2:00 on August 31st. I said, 'this is a very good opportune time to take action!'", Ehsa claimed. "Knowing that the Board and GM has always not cooperated with me that I needed to do something drastic."

He said that he could have declared a power emergency much earlier but "we declare an emergency and then what? That's why as soon as I declared emergency...I instructed them, 'Give me recommendation by 5:00 tomorrow.' So, and they did, and they recommended EIG, FSM Petro and somebody else," he said

Perman says he just wants to keep things legal...

"I have nothing against the Governor. Whatever he does that is good for Pohnpei I always support. But when I see it's not going to be in the best interest of Pohnpei I will not support," he said. "When I say 'good' I mean legal," he clarified and added that the Governor's actions must also be affordable for the people of Pohnpei.

Perman said that the wheels fell off of his relationship between the Governor when Perman refused to sign an MOU that would have allowed a Chinese contractor to pick up the turbine at the Nanpil hydro electric plant, refurbish it, return it, operate it, and then sell the power it generated to PUC.

Perman first said that he wouldn't sign the MOU because it would circumvent the law because it bypassed the legal bidding process.

No questions asked...

Moments later he said, "The RFP (request for proposal) that PUC issued for that was \$1.6 million but the Chinese came up with \$2.9 million and no questions asked. You know, 'Why you increase this by \$1.3 million?' No questions asked," he exclaimed.

Perman says that when he heard that the Governor had asked Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) and Caroline Fisheries Corporation (CFC) for \$1.5 million each to help with the purchase of generators for Pohnpei's power grid, Perman approached the board. They told him to look into it.

He said that he went to PPA on that day but the chairman and the manager were off island so he 'ended up with CFC'. They asked Perman what PUC needed and how much they could pay. Perman told them that they needed a 2 megawatt generator and that PUC could maybe pay \$170,000. CFC told

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Perman that if PUC could pay \$170,000 CFC would put up the balance.

PUC previously waived bid requirements...
Governor Ehsa said in an earlier interview that if PUC made an agreement to pay CFC then it was outside of the procurement process.

Perman says that the Board agreed to waive the bidding process for those generators but admitted that CFC had already bought the generators before the Board agreed to waive any relevant bidding requirement. He said that PUC has not paid out the money Perman agreed to pay to CFC and that the Governor and the Speaker told him not to pay.

"I told them, at that time we already made an agreement with them and I told them, 'okay, just write me a letter saying not to pay.' But they never did," Perman said.

The generators are on island but after their purchase it was discovered that they would need a step up transformer and switching gear. Perman says those are set to arrive within this month at CFC expense.

"Take them to the dump!"...
Governor Ehsa said that on Tuesday he met with PUC management and middle managers and asked if the CFC generators had become PUC assets. They told him that they had not yet. "Well, what are they doing then? Take them to the dump as far as I'm concerned!"

Governor Ehsa said that during that meeting

he told them "You have no choice but to cooperate with me. You think you have a choice? The door is your choice, get out!"

He reminded them that the 2010 audit report said that PUC employees owe the utility over \$100,000. He told them that he would give them until September 30 to start dealing with those things and that any employee who didn't at least have a payment plan in place by then should leave.

"Who gave you the right to cut off other people's power when you are owing?" he asked them.

What is the result of the Legislature's nullification of emergency?...

"What happens after the nullification? It has no effect at all. It's just that basically now Pohnpei looks at the Legislature as saying now there is no Pohnpei power crisis," he said.

But Feliciano Perman, the suspended General Manager of PUC disagrees, "In my opinion, the Governor should honor and respect what the Pohnpei Legislature had done and allow PUC to proceed with the bid selection process in accordance with applicable Pohnpei laws instead of coercion," Perman said.

Perman said that he has discussed his legal options with an attorney. Word on the street is that at least one Board member has also consulted an attorney.

"You know my interest. It's not me that's important, it's the people of Pohnpei that I'm doing this, because like I said, we really need

power but we have to be affordable. I think that's the most important thing," Perman said.

Governor Ehsa said that he was aware that the whole matter would likely end up in court proceedings but hope that significant progress could be made before then.

He said that he expects that by December the crisis period of Pohnpei's power generation will be over. He said that after that time, Pohnpei can "move on to the improvement of power generation (and) implementation of alternative energy to therefore reduce overall cost of power...I'm hoping in the next two or three years power (price) will go down."

"You know, the thing is, Pohnpei will become the model. I told you this four years ago, I wanted to maximize alternative energy," the Governor said.

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**TARIFF CHANGES
ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Board of Directors and Management of the FSM Telecommunications Corporation would like to inform the general public that Phase II of its tariff change schedule will begin October 1st, 2012. New rates that will take effect are as follows:

- Landline Residential. \$12 per month**
- Landline Business. \$24 per month**
- Calling 411 from Landline. \$0.25 per call**
- Calling 411 from Mobile. \$0.25 per minute**
- Local Cell Calls Voice. \$0.15 per minute**
- Cell SMS (Text). \$0.10 per message**

All Value Added Services (VAS) features (caller ID, call waiting, call forwarding, speed dialing, etc) will be available to customers free, as part of the basic landline service.

ALL VALUE ADDED SERVICES WILL BE FREE!

CALLER ID AND ALL OTHER VALUE ADDED SERVICE (CALL WAITING, CALL FORWARDING, SPEED DIALING, 3-WAY CALLING) WILL BE PART OF THE BASIC SERVICE.
Note: We do not provide or sell Caller ID units.

Customers can block their landline phones from calling 411 for a service connection fee of \$6.00 and monthly charge of \$2.00 for 411 block. Cell block charges are separate.

Should there be any questions or comments regarding this public announcement, please do not hesitate to contact any of your local FSMTc offices. Thank you for your support and continued business.



EIG and The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation signed a MOU to Upgrade Power Grid

PR Newswire

HAMILTON TWP., N.J., Sept. 10, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Energy Infrastructure Global, Inc., a design build Renewable Energy Infrastructure Firm, has announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation for the Island of Pohnpei State in The Federated States of Micronesia for the renovation of the Island's power grid with the implementation of Renewable Energy.

Jeffrey Voacolo, Managing Director for EIG stated... "EIG is honored that the PUC has selected our firm under this MOU to develop a PPA structure to renovate the Island's antiquated diesel grid by supplying new efficient generators as well as providing alternative forms of Renewable Energy. The Island of Pohnpei State, under Governor John Ehsa's leadership, is truly committed to showing the world how an Island Nation can lower their dependence on fossil fuels by implementing state of the art renewable energy technologies and thereby lowering the cost of energy for the entire community of Pohnpei."

EIG's design concept consists of the replacement of the entire existing diesel generating power plant by installing 4 MW of temporary generation, 7.5 MW of new

highly efficient diesel generating power plant, the implementation of 3 MW of solar photovoltaic, 2 MW of battery storage and 750KW of hydro power.

EIG's Micronesia office is located in the Country's capital Kolonia, Pohnpei. General Manager of EIG Micronesia, Jose Sannicolas stated..."I am proud to be a part of this prestigious project for my community of Pohnpei. This project will be built using mostly Pohnpeians. EIG is a company that believes in improving the community as a whole by the projects that we build. We will, also, implement a training center to teach our workers the installation skills needed for this project. In addition, we will have an interactive training facility on the Island for the High School and College students to learn about the benefits of clean renewable energy power. To build a sustainable future we must teach our children the benefits of Renewable Energy."

About Energy Infrastructure Global:

Energy Infrastructure Global is an International privately held operating company, specializing in the development of Renewable Energy Infrastructure and Alternative Energy Power Solutions. EIG enables our clients the advantage of reducing their carbon footprint, as well as, lowering their facilities' overall energy

costs. This is accomplished by EIG's complete turnkey approach to delivering a project. EIG specializes in surpassing our clients' expectations, through our team's proven track record and solid reputation of executing projects on time and within budget.

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International Organization for Migration Launches IOM - Micronesia Website

IOM

The International Organization Migration (IOM) has launched www.micronesia.iom.int - A user-friendly website designed to allow people to easily gain an understanding of the work of IOM in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

The website includes pages explaining IOM's global mission, its local mandates, organizational structure and specific information on two ongoing projects: the USAID-funded Disaster, Mitigation, Relief and Reconstruction Program (DMRRP) and the AusAID-funded Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Education Program (CADRE). It also includes the latest news regarding IOM regional activities, as well as, publications produced by IOM Micronesia.

Members of the public wishing to view photographs of IOM activities, vacancy notices or factsheets can find all this, and more, on the IOM website. Moreover, members of the community can download IOM's publications or access the links to IOM's social media, such as Facebook and Twitter through the website. In addition, the site includes hyperlinks to: donor websites, the global IOM website, and the websites of partners of the Disaster Risk Management Network, based in Pohnpei.

So for the latest news on IOM in the region, visit IOM online at: www.micronesia.iom.int

General Court Order
No. 2012-02

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Order Amending and Holding GCO 2012-01 in Abeyance for 90 days Allowing for Public Comment and Consideration of Any Public Comment Prior to the Promulgation and Enforcement of the Amendments to the Rules for Admission to Practice Before the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in Article XI, Section 9 of the Constitution and Section 117 of Title 4 of the Judiciary Act of the FSM Code, the promulgation and enforcement of GCO 2012-01 is hereby amended and held in abeyance for a period of 90 days from the date of this order to allow public comment to be submitted and considered. The Supreme Court shall be required to immediately publish this order in a newspaper of general circulation and send a copy of it through the postal service to the last known address of every attorney licensed to practice before this Court. The period for public comment shall commence on the date of this order and shall be allowed for a period of 60 days. At the end of this period the comments shall be gathered and considered. If no further action is taken rescinding or amending GCO 2012-01 it shall become a rule of this Court 90 days after this order is signed.

The language of the proposed changes to the FSM Rules for Admission to Practice before the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia is found below. All public comment shall be directed through written communication to the FSM Supreme Court in Palikir Pohnpei or at the following address:

**FSM Supreme Court
PO Box J
Palikir Station
Pohnpei FM 96941**

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Admission to Practice Before the Supreme Court.

Section II(A) shall be amended by the addition of subsection 5. Subsection II(A) is amended to reflect the inclusion of a new subsection applicable only to FSM Citizens. The inclusion of additional language is underlined.

Section II(A) Experience or Education Requirement

Each non-citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia seeking the opportunity to take the FSM Written Examination must demonstrate compliance with standard 1 below. Applicants who are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia may demonstrate compliance with any of the five following standards.

Section II(A)(5) State Court Judge

The applicant shall submit to the Court proof of appointment and confirmation as a judge of a State Court of the FSM and of current good standing in that position.

Section II(D) is amended to replace in its entirety the first paragraph of the rule.

Section II(D) The Written Examination

All applications for written examination or reexamination shall be filed, with supporting documents and a non-refundable application fee of twenty five (\$25.00) dollars, in the offices of the FSM Supreme Court in Pohnpei at least 60 days prior the date scheduled for the written examination. Upon showing of good cause the Court may permit filing of applications up to 21 days prior to the date of the written examination. After the 21-day deadline no further applications will be received or considered.

The Rules for admission have been amended to include a Section X.

Section X Updated Contact and Service of Process Information.

All persons authorized to practice before the FSM National Courts shall be required to provide the FSM Supreme Court in Palikir, Pohnpei, with an active mailing address and contact information annually, prior to December 01 each year. This information shall also identify two additional persons and their contact information, upon whom service of process may be rendered for the person authorized to practice before the FSM National Courts. Absent a showing of excusable neglect, persons who fail to comply with this rule shall be removed from the list of active members and shall no longer be authorized to practice before the FSM Supreme Court.

Martin G. Yinug
Chief Justice

Crossword

ACROSS

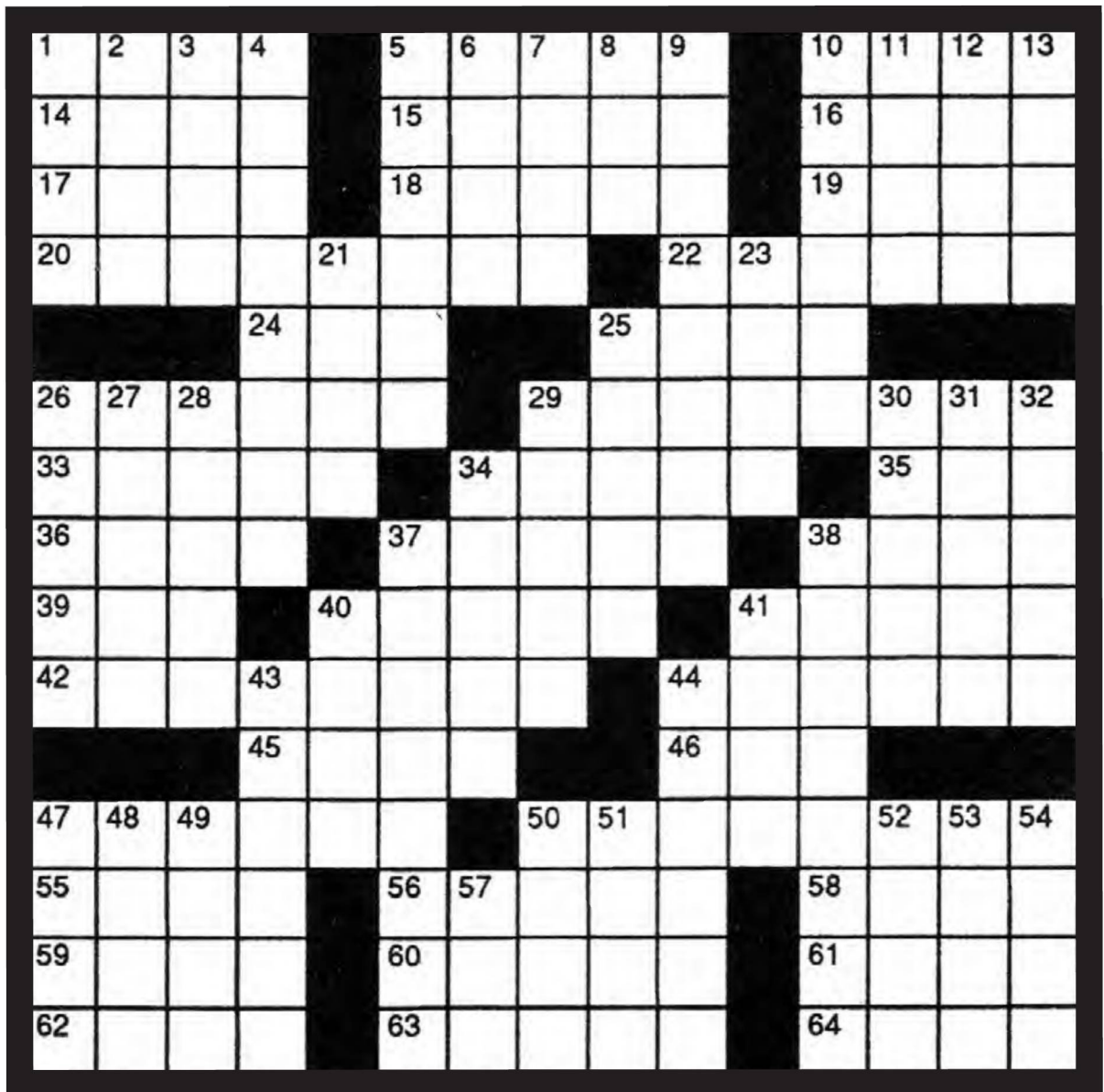
1. Dull
5. Board game
10. Breton or Highland Scot
14. Underdone
15. Wading bird
16. Notion
17. Grows old
18. Rub out
19. Tidy
20. Exposes to atmosphere
22. Revises
24. Rowing device
25. Remove from liquid's top
26. Makes a monarch
29. Moved up and down
33. Pits
34. Equals
35. ___ carte (2 wds.)
36. Among
37. Assigns position to
38. Mix with spoon
39. Increase motor speed (colloq.)
40. ___ for oneself; manages alone
41. Stockholm native
42. Small spaces for climbing
44. Steeples
45. Operatic solo
46. Fedora or derby
47. Moving masses
50. Burned surface
55. Back
56. Loathed
58. Healthy
59. Sea eagle
60. Oxlike antelope
61. Wicked
62. College head
63. Short simple song
64. Close completely

DOWN

8. Distress signal
9. Tennis shoes
10. The movies (British)
11. Paradise
12. Heavy metal
13. Makes lace
21. ___ Christian Andersen
23. Fail to hit
25. Looks for
26. Map
27. "___ and Juliet"
28. ___ drab; camouflage color
29. Causes to go
30. Essential drink
31. Leave out
32. Challenges
34. Chinese bearlike animal
37. Enjoyed
38. Sticks for whipping
40. Shape
41. Box in exhibition
43. Become firm
44. Poorly done
47. Storage building
48. Telegram
49. "___ Karenina"
50. Law (abbr.)
51. Penny
52. Possess
53. Writer-director Kazan
54. Small valley
57. Actress MacGraw

DOWN

1. A tie
2. Furious anger
3. Tract
4. Gave as gift
5. Shouts hurrah
6. Mr. (Ger.)
7. Historical



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WHAT'D YOU SAY?

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ACTION | MAKEUP |
| ARMS | MASK |
| AUDIENCE | MOVEMENT |
| CLOWN | MUSIC |
| CONVEY | PANTALOON |
| COSTUME | PERFORM |
| DANCE | PLAY |
| DRAMA | PROP |
| EMOTION | ROLE |
| ENJOY | SHOW |
| ENTERTAINING | SKILL |
| EXPRESSION | SPEECHLESS |
| FUNNY | STAGE |
| GESTURE | STORY |
| GRIN | THEATER |
| HANDS | THOUGHTS |
| IMITATE | TRAGEDY |
| LAUGH | WATCH |



Micronesian legislative conference urges adherence to timelines on national issues

FSM Congress

TOFOL, KOSRAE. September 14, 2012 – The Micronesian Legislative Conference of (MLC) of 2012 in the State of Kosrae concluded with all legislative bodies urged to adhere to timelines established to address national issues noted in the 16 resolutions and the Joint Communiqué adopted on September 6, 2012.

The three day conference started on September 4th with each of the nation's five legislative bodies reporting its progress on the issues prioritized on the agenda of the 2011 MLC in Palikir.

Priority among the issues of the conference was the Federated States of Micronesia Tax Reform plan. The national Tax Reform plan is a proposal which has spanned over six years and resulted in a set of comprehensive legislations which included among others, the Unified Revenue Authority (URA), Revenue Administration Act (RAA), the Net Profits Tax (NPT), Standardized Import Duty (SID) and Excise Tax and Salary Tax.

While most of the legislative bodies reported progress in their enabling legislations, it was the consensus of the lawmakers that much remains to be done by the national and state governments before the governments can move forward with their medium and long term economic planning.

The lawmakers adopted MLC Resolution 12-1, which urged the legislative bodies to set and adhere to firm deadlines for action on their remaining enabling legislation of the FSM Tax Reform Plan. In addition, the resolution encouraged the national and state governments to coordinate their efforts to complete FSM tax reform plan.

Human Trafficking was also prioritized by the conference as a global issue

affecting developed and developing countries alike. The lawmakers agreed that by a nation defining the activities that contribute to human trafficking as crimes and according appropriate punishments, it raises awareness of human trafficking and eventually reduces the vulnerability of its citizens.

The conference recognized current efforts by the national and state governments to address the issue and encouraged additional legislations to prevent the issue from spreading. The lawmakers applauded the National Trafficking Act of 2012 and greed that it will be most effective if complementing components of legislation are also passed at state levels. Accordingly they adopted MLC Resolution 12-2, to urge the legislative bodies to expedite appropriate legislations to further address the issue of Human Trafficking.

New to the Micronesian Legislative Conference of 2012 was the need to establish a committee to identify all viable strategies to provide for the economic and financial stability of the FSM at the national, state and local levels from 2023 onward. Through MLC Resolution 12-3, the lawmakers called for the establishment of a planning committee to be identified by the five governments from a broad cross-section of the public to begin the long-term planning process.

Other resolutions adopted by the MLC of 2012 included:

MLC Resolution 12-8, requested the legislative bodies to take action to gradually decrease the reliance on fossil fuels and promote the establishment of a coconut biomass and bio-fuels industry. The resolution further called for the promotion and support of renewal energy projects throughout the FSM;

MLC Resolution 12-6, called on the FSM Congress to again enact legislation

to enable dual citizenship and MLC Resolution 12-7, requested for updates on the solvency status for the FSM Social Security program.

The remaining resolutions expressed appreciation to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for providing financial and technical support to the MLC 2012 and to all the presenters at the conference.

Of special note is MLC Resolution 12-4, which expressed the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the Micronesian Legislative Conference of 2012 to the State of Kosrae for graciously and professionally hosting the Conference at the Kosrae State Legislature.

Hosted at the Kosrae States Legislature, the MLC of 2012 elected host Speaker

Lyndon P. Abraham to preside over the three day conference as its Chairman. Participants of the conference included representatives from each of the state legislatures and from the Congress of the FSM.

The MLC was established to strengthen the rapport between the legislative branches of the five governments and at the same time provide a platform for the legislative bodies to discuss and define solutions for issues of mutual concern. The Congress of the FSM, as the national legislative body, serves as the Secretariat for the conference.

The five legislative bodies agreed that the next Micronesian Legislative Conference will be hosted by the Chuuk State Legislature in 2013.

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• Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome.

• Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Kia's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.

• The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.

• Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-4015.

• Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.

• Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

• The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.

• St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.

• FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

• The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com

• Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too! Call: 320-2496

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Healthy Local Food Bento: Collaboration of Rainbownesia project and IFCP

By *Chizuru Seki (JICA)*

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

For the first time ever, two Japanese University students came to Pohnpei for a week on a mission to create a healthy bento, a packed box lunch, with Micronesian local food as a part of the Rainbownesia project.

Aiming at making the FSM more prosperous, the Rainbownesia hopes to make a healthier lunch available to local people and also future Japanese tourists who are eager to taste local food.

For a total of three days, Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), as well as COM-FSM PNI Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) students and other volunteers, supported two Japanese University students to develop a healthy local food bento.

On the first day, all participants gathered at IFCP training center to learn the work of IFCP. Mrs. Emihner Johnson, IFCP Acting Director, explained a recent dietary shift from local food to unhealthy imported food and its negative effect on health (one in three adults in the FSM has diabetes and etc). She emphasized that IFCP is promoting local food with its "Go Local" slogan to gain CHEEF benefits of local food (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food Security). Participants also learned how nutritious local food is.

Local way of cooking local food was demonstrated by IFCP staff and local women. For those students from Japan, everything they saw and did was an entirely new experience. Students kneaded fermented breadfruit to make Mahr. They husked a coconut locally, grated coconut using a local grater and squeezed coconut cream from grated coconut. These things can never be experienced in Japan. Taste of local food was also very new to them.

In the afternoon of the first day, participants visited Simon's market to see what was actually sold at the market. With food items available at the local market, students and volunteers tried to come up with as many as dishes for Bento.

First thing on the second day, participants went shopping for Bento ingredients at local markets. After the shopping, intensive four hours cooking started at Blue Plate Café, COM-FSM PNI Campus. Cooking dishes with unfamiliar food items required a lot of effort and skill. Japanese students had never cleaned and filleted a fish before this day. At the end of the day, a total of 20 dishes were created. All of them were prepared in healthier cooking methods: boiling, baking and frying with little oil. Of all the dishes they created, they chose seven dishes to serve at the presentation party on the last day.

The presentation party was held on Friday, 7 September 2012 at Blue Plate Café, COM-FSM PNI Campus. Samples of seven dishes were prepared for the guests to taste. Each guest was asked to select his/her favorite dish and vote. All participants gave positive responses to every single dish. Among seven dishes, top three dishes were selected for Bento.

Recipes of all 20 dishes created by Japanese students, COM-FSM PNI HTM students and other volunteers will be given to COM-FSM PNI HTM to serve at Blue Plate Café in October 2012.

IFCP would like to offer a special thanks to

the Rainbownesia project for coordinating this tour.

IFCP would also like to express gratitude to Mrs. Yumiko Lebehn, Mrs. Aida Lebehn, Anja Brunken, Mrs. Hideko Ishikawa, Mrs. Yoko Nakazono and COM-FSM PNI Hospitality and Tourism Management for their support.

Acknowledgments are given to Pohnpei State Government Subsidy, the US Embassy, UNESCO, Division of Public Health of Pohnpei Department of Health Services, Children's Healthy Living Program (University of Hawaii) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their funding support.



Rainbownesia Project Bento Tour at IFCP

"Let's Go Local" occupied the weekend on Pingelap

By *Emihner Johnson*

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

The Climate Frontiers Climate Change Pandanus Project funded by UNESCO targeting the communities of Mwoakilloa and Pingelap atolls is now being implemented on both islands.

This project is aiming to enhance food security, provide income, empower women and promote resilience to climate change by planting pandanus along the shorelines of these two low-lying atolls of Pohnpei.

The Mayor of Pingelap, Mr. Makir Keller approved this project when Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) Acting Executive Director, Mrs. Emihner L. Johnson introduced the project during the 1st week of August 2012.

On August 24, 2012, Mrs. Johnson left Pohnpei Island on Caroline Island Air plane for Pingelap Pandanus Project. Since the project is mainly targeting women, Pingelap community divided women into four groups, according to their perspective sections in Pingelap, to lead up to a competition in the maintenance and survival of their plants. Upon Mrs. Johnson's arrival on Pingelap, leaders of four groups gathered at the airport to receive the summary of this project and were ready to start the project.



Climate Change Pandanus Planting Project on Pingelap: Pingelap Women Group project was facing.

Since IFCP staff was scheduled to come back to Pohnpei Island on Monday morning flight and with a busy scheduled weekend (Saturday and Sunday School Children's anniversary (Pohnial) and no work on Sunday), the women got to work right after the short meeting discussing the circumstances the

There were more than 1000 pandanus cuttings of ten varieties, including, Uhnmahng, Siwaipwehpw, Mwisamwis, Aspwehrik, Nehnkehsak, Esira, Ehiseseul, Sohnmeneia, Mwahsal, Soapwoahdin, and Esies. The project site is from the airport to south part of Pingelap. There were seventy nine (79) women involved in the planting of these pandanus cuttings. It took them a whole Friday afternoon and Saturday morning to complete the project. Though the project is targeting women, Mrs. Johnson was very happy to see the involvement of men and children and positive responses from the whole community.

IFCP would like to thank the four leaders, namely, Senior Pastor Ked, Serlina Charley, Kedparon Masina Solomon, Kedparon, Oinike Yens and Kedparon Elpiri Pernas who represented their sections and committed to make this project a success. This is only the beginning of the sustainable livelihood project. It requires on-going maintenance and dedication to the survival of these pandanus plants which takes about a year from planting date.

The final inspection and photo

taking of this project was conducted in the early morning of Monday starting at 6 am. IFCP would like to thank Ms. Aida Ernet, owner of the only hotel on Pingelap, for her time and her effort in accompanying Mrs. Johnson from the starting point of the project site to the end. Along the way, there were a lot of coconut trees, pandanus, and other trees up-rooted and fallen. There is still need for more pandanus plantings to help with the threat of the shorelines as well as trees on Pingelap.

While inspecting, the women leaders were already gathered at the airport. Mrs. Serlina Charley, chairperson, in her remark, expressed how the people of Pingelap appreciated and were thankful for such project: sustaining well being of the people; sharing and sustaining the tradition knowledge of planting pandanus which was passed on to the young women; the prompt procurement; and distribution of planting materials in this project by IFCP. Mrs. Masina Solomon also urged and encouraged the women to take the lead in caring and maintaining the pandanus plants to survive.

Special acknowledgements are extended to Pohnpei State Government Subsidy, the US Embassy, UNESCO, Division of Public Health of Pohnpei Department of Health Services, Children's Healthy Living Program (University of Hawaii) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their funding support.

Chinese Vice Premier meets Micronesian President for closer ties

YINCHUAN, China (Xinhua/People's Daily Online) — Vice Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday met with President of Micronesia Emanuel Mori to boost ties between the two countries.

Li conveyed President Hu Jintao's warm greetings and good wishes to Mori during their meeting in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region.

Li said China treats its relationship with Micronesia from a strategic point of view and regards Micronesia as a good friend and partner in the Pacific island region since the two countries established diplomatic ties.

He said China is willing to work with Micronesia to strengthen cooperation in all fields, maintain high-level exchanges, enhance political mutual trust, provide support on issues of

core interests and major concerns, and enhance coordination on international and regional issues.

Noting that China and Micronesia are developing countries, Li said the two countries should make use of their respective advantages to expand pragmatic cooperation, speed up joint program and people-to-people communication, and increase personnel exchanges so as to bring benefits to the two peoples.

Mori expressed condolences to the Chinese government and its people for the earthquake in Yiliang county in southwest China's Yunnan province.

He thanked China's support to Micronesia over the years and said Micronesia will work with China to further promote bilateral relations.

New U.S. Embassy representatives introduced to FSM

On the evening of September 7, 2012, the U.S. Embassy to the FSM held a reception at Cliff Rainbow to introduce three new team members at the Embassy including newly arrived United States Ambassador, Dorthea "Doria" Rosen. Migeul Ordonez is the new Deputy Chief of Mission, and Charles Thomas is the new Economic and Consular Officer.



Pohnpei's 33rd Liberation Day 2012

