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Moon and swells cause more grief for Marshall Islanders



Photos courtesy of Marshall Islands Journal and Steve Why, Climate Change Advisor, RMI

Above: A public works loader clears washed up rocks on the Amata Kabua International Airport runway

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Room for improvement in FSM's anti-human trafficking efforts

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 20, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—For the fifth year, the Federated States of Micronesia's anti-human trafficking efforts placed the nation on the Tier 2 Watch List or lower on the United States Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. The U.S. Department of State released the report on Wednesday, June 19, Washington D.C. time.

In 2011 the FSM scored at Tier 3, the lowest scored on the report. This year the FSM was back on the Tier 2 Watch List.

"The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking," the State Department website says (<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>) "The U.S. Government uses the TIP Report to engage foreign governments in dialogues to advance anti-trafficking reforms and to combat trafficking and to target resources on prevention, protection and prosecution programs."

What is human trafficking?

"Human trafficking can include but does not require movement," the TIP report says. "People may be considered trafficking victims regardless of whether they were born into a state of servitude, were transported to the exploitative situation, previously consented to work for a trafficker, or participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked. At the heart of this phenomenon is the traffickers' goal of exploiting and enslaving their victims and the myriad coercive and deceptive practices they use to do so."

Human trafficking includes sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor or debt bondage, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, and unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers.

What do the "Tier" levels mean?

Countries that attain Tier 1 status fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. "While Tier 1 is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no human trafficking problem," introductory materials

to the report say. "On the contrary, a Tier 1 ranking indicates that a government has acknowledged the existence of human trafficking, made efforts to address the problem, and complies with the TVPA's minimum standards."

Countries placed at Tier 2 are not fully complying with TVPA minimum standards but are making significant efforts to do so.

Countries placed at Tier 2 Watch List are essentially the same as Tier 2 except that one or more of the following applies:

- a) The absolute number of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;
- b) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increase assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials; or
- c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional steps over the next year.

Countries placed at Tier 3 do not comply with TVPA minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

None of the three Freely Associated States made Tier 1, indicating that more enforcement effort is needed in the FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The report placed RMI on the same Tier 2 watch list as the FSM, and Palau was one step higher at Tier 2.

Isn't it good enough that there are now laws against it in the FSM?

The FSM National Government and three of its States have passed stringent regulations on human trafficking violations. The National regulations prohibit all forms of trafficking and provide penalties of 15 to 30 years imprisonment, and fines not exceeding \$50,000.

Pohnpei and Chuuk regulations prohibit sexual servitude of children and involuntary servitude of adults, but not sexual servitude of adults. Those regulations provide penalties of up to 10 years' imprisonment or fines not exceeding \$10,000, or both.

Kosrae's law prohibits all forms of trafficking and protects male, female, and children victims. Trafficking is considered a category one felony and prescribes penalties of up to 10 years in prison, fines not exceeding \$10,000 or both.

According to the report, Yap had not yet passed a human trafficking law by the end of 2012 but the bill was before the Legislature at that time.

The debate on abolishing human trafficking in the FSM

During the debate on the FSM national law on trafficking on the floor of the FSM Congress, some lawmakers voiced their concern that the law might be a violation of traditional customs. "Specifically, they expressed concern that a child might be able to make spurious charges against a parent or legal guardian," The Justice and Governmental Operations committee report of the FSM Congress (17-90) said. Legal staff suggested a minor amendment to address that issue.

The FSM Secretary of Department of Justice at the time told the J&GO Committee that the bill was an important first step in meeting the nation's commitments under the Palermo protocol. He emphasized his belief that the bill was not motivated by a wish merely to comply with US standards, but believed that it nevertheless would be received favorably by the US and the international community.

Representatives from DOJ offered their opinion that the national government would have jurisdiction over crimes involving interstate commerce or the movement of persons across interstate borders, but that states would probably have jurisdiction otherwise.

Congress passed the bill after considerable debate on the floor, and President Mori signed it into law on March 16, 2012.

FSM law based on Palau's nine year old law

The bill used Palau's relatively concise legislative framework as a model, rather than the United Nations model, which ran to over one hundred pages," the J&GO report said.

Palau has had a trafficking law with harsh penalties since 2004, but by the end of 2012 it had never prosecuted any traffickers using that law. The TIP report said that instead, traffickers had been prosecuted under a less stringent law regarding labor standards. In at least one case, the accused served a total of 90 days for bringing workers into Palau and then forcing them into prostitution or otherwise enslaving people.

The report said that Palau law enforcement officials indicated at the end of 2012 that they were then in the investigation process for potential prosecutions of individuals for alleged trafficking violations but were not yet ready to make arrests. Recently Palau law enforcement officials made high profile arrests and Palau is currently prosecuting those cases as violations of their own trafficking law instead of as violations of labor standards as they have done before.

What needs to be done in the FSM?

FSM has made little to no provision to protect victims of human trafficking. "FSM officials did not provided legal alternatives to the removal of foreign trafficking victims to countries where they may face hardship or retribution," the report said/

According to the report, the FSM has made some good strides and is making an effort to educate its people on the issue of Human Trafficking. The report praises the efforts of the Department of Justice which designed training plans for State and local law enforcement officials. It also lauds the International Organization of Migration for establishing a Migrant Resource Center in Pohnpei which created educational modules on human trafficking for those who intend to migrate to the United States.

What the FSM has not done yet is to actually go after potential human traffickers even though there have been reports for several years that it is happening right here. Until they do, FSM will remain mired on the Tier 2 watch list, and traffickers will continue to prey on powerless people.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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U.S. Postal Services' Tudela calls on President Mori, conducts Postal Service security training

FSM Information Services

June 26, 2013

On June 25, President Manny Mori received Mr. Leo B. Tudela, accompanied by the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Postmaster General (PMG), Mrs. Ginger Porder Mida, at the President's Conference Room.

Originally from the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Mr. Tudela is the Director of the United States Postal Service (USPS) Asia-Pacific Relations Unit based in the State of Hawaii.

Although not his first time around, President Mori welcomed Mr. Tudela to the FSM as they exchanged greetings and harked back to shared memories.

Mr. Tudela expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet with the President. Among other observations, he commended on noticeable improvements at the FSM Postal Services (FSMPS), including the decision to change office color and build a nationally-based identity. He said he was "very impressed" at the overall up-scaling in office facility conditions and

improvement in management conduct, which he attributed mostly to PMG Mida's professional leadership.

As a suggestion, Mr. Tudela encouraged steady emphasis in FSMPS's philatelic section as a viable revenue-generating service area as already realized in other parts of Micronesia, prompting input from Mrs. Mida who confirmed her keen interest in boosting this aspect.

President Mori welcomed the comments made by Mr. Tudela and said he was aware of the noted improvements, especially at certain FSM Postal Service areas where office locations and management integrity were significant issues.

Mr. Leo B. Tudela is in Pohnpei to conduct a "joint postal inspector security investigation training" from June 25 to 27 at the FSM Post Office facility in Kolonia.



President Mori receiving a large-size rare stamp from Director Tudela



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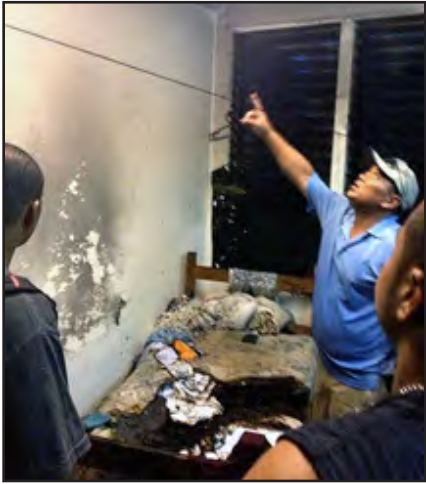
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Campus security responds swiftly to

Residence Hall fire

COM-FSM

The National Campus Security Officers led by Chief Warren Ching responded to a fire



alarm triggered at the Male Residence Hall on June 17, 2013. An alarm was triggered at exactly 6:34PM, within minutes of the alarm, Security Chief Ching and Officers Roby and Louis arrived on the scene and observed black smoke emitting from the building. Tracing the smoke it was discovered to be coming from the 1st floor of the male's Residence Hall.

Resident Hall staff Hamilton and Officer Roby made an attempt to extinguish the fire with fire extinguishers but the fire was already out of control. Hydrant hoses were laid out, hooked up and activated. The fire was fully extinguished at 6:42PM.

Police arrived on campus and conducted their own investigation. After clearing the scene it was evident that a mattress caught on fire. The cause of fire is still unknown as the police have yet to submit a copy of their findings.

No injuries or fatalities were reported during this incident.

The National Campus Security has been active in performing fire drills throughout the National Campus. Security personnel headed by Chief Warren Ching performed a fire drill on both Male and Female Residence Halls on Sunday, June 23, 2013.

President Obama signs a disaster declaration for the Republic of the Marshall Islands

*The White House
Office of the Press Secretary*

June 14, 2013

The President today declared a disaster under the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as amended, due to the ongoing severe drought in the northern half of the country.

The President's action makes federal funding available for U.S. Government emergency relief and reconstruction assistance to the Republic of the Marshall Islands in accordance with

Public Law 108-188, as amended, including Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement to the Compact of Free Association. Republic of the Marshall Islands President Loek requested a disaster declaration on June 5, 2013.

The United States Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance will coordinate U.S. Government disaster assistance efforts in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the government of the Marshall Islands.

Moon and swells cause more grief for Marshall Islanders

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 26, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—The months' long drought in the northern islands of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has made it painfully clear that Pacific Islands and their residents are vulnerable to the whims of climate. Yesterday morning's high tide in Majuro, the capital of RMI brought a further reminder.

Yesterday morning's massive tide swamped the southern region of the atoll island. It flooded an as yet uncounted number of homes, closed the airport, and spread debris across the region. Portions of a 20 mile long segment of the island that extended to Laura were closed until workers could clear the debris. The sea wall around the dump was also breached and waves scattered trash down the length of the island.

Majuro resident Provan Crump told Radio Australia that waves broke down one wall of his house in the early morning hours yesterday.

"I'm right on the ocean and it broke down my wall and we had water coming into the house at about five o'clock," Crump told Radio Australia.

"I reckon one wave put about a ton of water inside the house when it broke down the wall."

He told Radio Australia that he watched as several waves washed right across the island into the lagoon.

Bernie Grong, who is from Yap, FSM, but who is currently working in Majuro posted pictures of her journey as she headed to work at 6:00 in the morning. The photos showed high flood waters but a visually calm sea. She wrote on her Facebook page, "At first I thought I slept through a typhoon...trippy!"

Because of debris on the runway that

included garbage, coral, and bits of the sea wall, United Airlines was forced to overfly Majuro yesterday morning. Because the United mechanic was to have been picked up in Majuro, the flight also was forced to overfly Kwajalein, Pohnpei, and Chuuk. United Airlines sent a "rescue flight" with a new crew to return travelers to their destinations.

The airport was cleared by yesterday afternoon and today's scheduled flight landed without event.

Majuro's cleanup efforts began as soon as the flood waters receded, but Marshall Islanders were under no illusion that yesterday morning's high tide would be the last. The Majuro Weather Service issued an advisory saying that flooding could occur during periods of high tide through Thursday.

"Looks like similar conditions are being forecast by NOAA/NWS Tiyan Guam for the next few days," RMI's Senator Tony deBrum wrote in a widely circulated email yesterday morning. "Astronomical tides' they are being called--go figure."

But the tide that came last evening and again this morning wasn't nearly as high as yesterday morning's high tide. It didn't breach the sea walls and affected only the low lying areas of the atoll.

Neville Koop, Climatology/Meteorology Adviser at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program in Samoa described the two events that combined to make Tuesday's tide much higher than it would have been had only one of the factors been involved. He told Radio Australia in an on air interview early this morning that the first factor was the moon.

Tides are always higher during the full moon but this week's full moon was what has come to be called a "super moon". A "super moon" is a full moon that occurs at the same time as the moon is closest to the earth during its elliptical orbit. A super

moon occurs approximately once every 14 months. The next one will be in August of 2014. The gravitational effect of the moon during a super moon is about ten to twelve percent higher than most other full moon events, and for this reason the tide variation between high and low tides is greater than normal, by about the same margin.

However the "super moon" tide alone would not have been enough to cause yesterday's inundation of southern Majuro. The second factor was a train of large swell waves that travelled from the south Pacific near New Zealand northward past Fiji and Kiribati then up to the Marshall Islands. While these waves were generated by a storm a week or so ago, they only arrived in Majuro yesterday. Fiji also experienced some sea flooding over the past weekend from the same event.

Mr. Koop told Radio Australia that the surge was spawned by the southern end of the low pressure system that contributed to the extreme winter storm that hit New Zealand last week.

He explained that last evening's tide in Majuro was not as high as yesterday morning's tide because the highest level of the storm surge has moved on, and the moon's effect on tide levels is also diminishing as it continues its orbit and moves further away.

"A FEMA team is in town to help out with our drought disaster declaration for the northern Marshalls," Senator deBrum wrote in his email yesterday. "This morning (Tuesday) the high tide breached the road beginning at PII all the way down to Laura in a number of vulnerable areas. The team is running all over the place taking pictures and freaking out after learning United is cancelled for today and perhaps the next two or three flights because the airport is closed (sea wall breached ocean side). They cannot even fly to the Northern islands to assess the drought situation. Welcome to Climate Change, America," he exclaimed in his widely circulated email.

The sea level in RMI has risen over the last 60 years. During the last 20 years the data has been recorded by satellite. The data collected by the satellite suggests annual sea level rise in RMI has been .3 inches (7 mm) per year since 1993.

Climates and tides in any one particular area on the globe can vary from year to year in any specific location. Scientists call it "Climate Variability". Twenty years is not nearly enough time to determine whether or not the increase in sea level is a result of global warming but scientists are predicting an increase in the rate of sea level rise in the current high emissions environment.

"By 2030, under a high emissions scenario, this rise in sea level is projected to be in the range of 1.2-6.3 inches (3-16 cm)," says the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative report on RMI. "As there is still much to learn, particularly how large ice sheets such as Antarctica and Greenland contribute to sea-level rise, scientists warn larger rises than currently predicted could be possible."

Whether or not last weeks' storm in New Zealand was a direct or an indirect result of long term climate change, or whether it was completely unrelated to climate change, yesterday's inundation flooding in Majuro demonstrates that Pacific Islanders are vulnerable to sea level rise, and that they will only become more vulnerable as Climate Change intensifies.

Adaptation measures need to be instituted, and quickly.

According to news reports of the day, in 2010 the United Nations announced plans to begin to solicit international aid for Majuro to help them build a three mile long sea wall. Apparently that never happened. Giff Johnson said that the only sea walls of which he is aware are the sea wall at the airport's runway which was funded by the FAA, and a few small sea walls built as Climate Change adaptation measures funded by regional entities.

RMI citizens receive water, hygiene kits, and chlorine tablets from USAID

The International Organization for Migration

To date, USAID has distributed large quantities of relief materials to the northern atolls through its implementing partner the International Organization for Migration and in partnership with the government of the RMI and civil society partners. Items distributed through USAID include relief water, nearly 4,000 collapsible water jugs which are used by families to carry relief water to their homes, nearly 15,000 chlorine tablets used to purify biologically tainted water, and over 1,400 hygiene kits including shampoo, soap, and personal hygiene items. IOM staff and members of partner organization Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI) have travelled on government-sponsored boats with the relief items to the affected northern atolls in order to distribute these goods to needy community members.

Two representatives from WUTMI travelled on the Lady E boat to the atolls and islands of the Ralik chain; and an IOM staff member travelled on Ribukkae to the atolls and islands of the Ratak chain, assisting with beneficiary feedback interviews and disbursements of relief materials. The feedback interviews covered beneficiaries' experience with the distribution process, the extent to which

the relief items met their needs, and served to ensure that relief items were received by the affected families. In addition, a WUTMI representative volunteered to coordinate via radio from Majuro to ensure communities were informed about the boats' arrivals and that heads of household would be ready to collect disbursed relief items. USAID and partners are preparing to procure and deliver a second round of relief items to the northern atolls which continue to be severely affected by the impacts of the ongoing drought based on the input from the beneficiary surveys.

The beneficiary surveys found that the hygiene kits were universally well received, with beneficiaries requesting that even more personal hygiene items be included in subsequent kits. According to one beneficiary in Aerok, Maloelap, "The hygiene kit items were all needed and useful." The collapsible jerry cans were often well received although some concerns were expressed about their long term durability; in response, IOM is procuring sturdier jerry cans for subsequent distributions. Beneficiaries that had received water purification tablets universally stated that they had received instruction in proper use. Beneficiary surveys will remain a robust part of future distributions in order to ensure transparency and accountability, and ensure that items provided are culturally appropriate and truly needed.



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Japan presents equipment to FSM and Pohnpei governments

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 20, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—During a small ceremony at the Pohnpei State Central Building, Japan's Ambassador to the FSM, the Honorable Eiichi Suzuki presented two wheel fitted front end loaders, and two track fitted excavators to the governments of Pohnpei and the Federated States of Micronesia. The brand new equipment was built in areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck Japan in 2011.

The donation was part of a \$3.1 million "Non-Project Grant Aid" approved in the Japan Diet, Japan's legislative body, early last year. On February 22, 2012 the FSM government accepted the grant aid during a signing ceremony.

In addition to promoting the FSM's economic growth and social development, the grant "also served to support the progress of recovery by the people and areas most affected by the disaster." It is a win-win situation for the two countries.

Japan has already delivered similar equipment to Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap. Today's ceremony commemorates a total donation of 10 wheel fitted front end loaders, and 10 track fitted excavators at a total of \$3.3 million.

According to a press item released by Japan after the 2012 NGPA signing ceremony, Lorin Robert, FSM's Secretary of Foreign Affairs said that as an island nation, coastal problems loom large and are an on-going source of concern for the FSM.

Japan donated the heavy equipment in hopes of providing tools that could potentially help with that problem.

During this morning's ceremony, Ambassador Suzuki expressed his

government's support for the efforts made by the FSM to improve its infrastructure, and persistence in further strengthening its own economy while also protecting itself against the "daunting effects of climate change".

Secretary Robert said during his speech that he remembered well the triple disaster that struck Japan and noted that within less than 24 hours of the disaster, President Mori sent a letter of condolence. He remembered the outpouring of support by the people of the FSM who held all manner of fund raising events in an effort to in some small way relieve the suffering of the people of Japan. He said that the FSM is particularly grateful for the grant of equipment because "They are more than what they are. He said that the donations also reflect the fact that the FSM and Japan continue to solidify their bond of friendship.

Governor John Ehsa also thanked the Government of Japan for the donation, saying that Pohnpei reciprocates all of the goodwill of Japan. He said that the equipment is just what the beleaguered Pohnpei Transportation Authority needs in order to do its work. He assured the Ambassador that the equipment would be put to good use and that it would be maintained well into the future.

As the ceremony concluded, Ambassador Suzuki presented Secretary Robert with a symbolic key to the new equipment, who in turn presented the key to Governor Ehsa. Governor Ehsa presented the key to the Director of the Pohnpei Transportation Authority.

"I would like to reconfirm that my government will continue to work hand in hand with the FSM," Ambassador Suzuki said, "and I am confident that this significant event has woven yet another weave into our bonds of Kizuna, (the bonds of) friendship to continue to fortify our bilateral relations."



Lt. Governor Marcello Peterson, FSM Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert, Japan's Ambassador to the FSM, PTA Commissioner Sadorino Martin, Governor John Ehsa, and FSM Secretary for Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure Francis Itimai

President Mori gears up for Micronesian Presidential Summit in Palau



FSM Information Services

June 19, 2013

President Manny Mori gathered his Cabinet earlier today to address a number of items for the Executive Branch. With steady assistance from Vice President Alik L. Alik and Chief

of Staff Leo Falcam Jr., the meeting focused primarily on preparations for the upcoming Micronesian Presidential Summit (MPS) that is to take place in the Republic of Palau on July 10th to 12th. With direct input from Secretary Lorin Robert, Department of Foreign

See "Summit" on next page



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...Summit

Continued from previous page

Affairs, the President spoke on a short list of agenda items that he would like to take to the MPS for consideration and possible action.

Communication with the MPS host country are still on-going regarding the program and draft agenda. For this reason, specifics on the President's delegation to the MPS could not be nailed down at this meeting. Secretary Robert confirmed that an in-house

meeting with fellow cabinet members would take place later pending further cue from Palau officials on agenda and program matters.

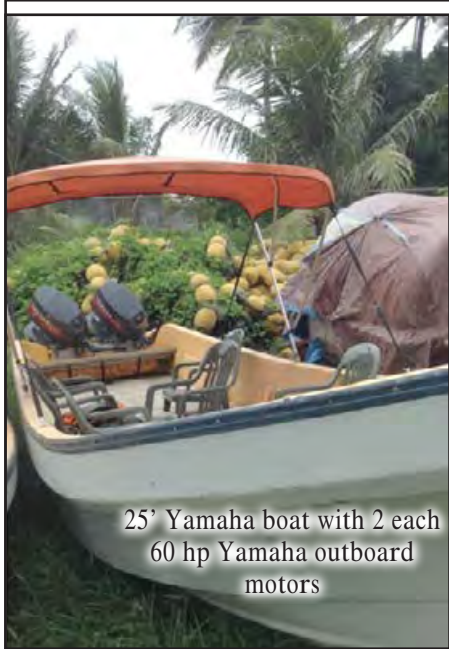
The President also shared his intention to call a special session of Congress prior to July 19, the cut-off date in the sunset clause for the Revenue Administrative Act (RAA) legislation. All five governments in the FSM (State Governments and the National Government) were asked to endorse the RAA by April 19, which date got pushed back to July 19 when Congress amended the "sunset clause".

Tremendous work and resources have been put into reforming the tax system in the FSM with assistance from other Partners since 2004 and broad engagements with stakeholders nationwide.

After the two agenda items were addressed, the departments and office heads took turns in briefing the President on most imminent undertakings at their departments and offices. For instance, the Department of Education reported that a number of standard tests were recently completed in the Mortlocks and Northwest Islands in Chuuk. Dr. Mauricio also provided previews on

concluded accreditation assessments at various schools in all four States, results of which would be shared momentarily.

After the President and the Vice President excused themselves from the meeting, the Chief of Staff proctored over other discussions amongst cabinet members on outstanding and new office level concerns and announcements. This meeting allowed for "across the table" interactions to bring concerted attention to derailed-but-not-dead issues. It also signaled incoming matters that merited everyone's cooperation, especially with regards readiness for the MPS and the upcoming special session.



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Legislature requests scrutiny of Pohnpei Visitor's Bureau

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 20, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—In terms of the following of specific policies and procedures, Pohnpei Visitor's Bureau (PVB) has received a clean bill of health from the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor.

The office conducted an "attestation engagement on agreed upon procedures" for fiscal years 2011 and 2012. The objectives of the attestation were to determine whether the money that PVB spent during those years was spent for official purposes and that they represent valid claims. They also looked into whether or not the expenditures were adequately supported with documents, and that they were properly charged to proper fund account and budget.

According to Ihlen Joseph, the Pohnpei State Auditor, an attestation engagement is performed at the request of a stakeholder in an entity to look into specific matters. In this case, the "stakeholder" was the Pohnpei State Legislature. They requested the attestation engagement.

Mr. Joseph said that, though an attestation engagement differs from a financial audit or a performance audit in that auditors are charged in attestation engagements to look into specific concerns, an attestation engagement does not keep them from reporting anything else that they might find during the course of their investigations.

He said that he was aware when his office began the Attestation Engagement, that five of the articles of impeachment in the resolution to impeach Governor Ehsa were charges that methods of financing the World Park office were illegal. He instructed his staff members to report the facts that they found.

They did precisely that. All expenditures made by PVB were for official purposes. They were properly authorized, and all expenditures were properly documented.

The auditors were able to assure the Legislature that PVB had followed policies on their first two items of engagement.

They also found that expenses were charged to proper fund accounts and budgets. Whether it was legally proper to do so or not, during fiscal year 2012

the \$9,506 Private Sector Grant of PVB was used to defray the expenses in the World Park Program. Auditors made no determination regarding the legality of that PVB expenditure.

They did say that PVB's key officials revealed during interviews that they support the World Park Program. Documentation showed that "PVB's Board of Directors were key players in the development of World Park. In addition, the PVB supports the budget for the World Park Pilot Project, World Park Specialist Contracts and materials for World Park," the executive summary says.

"During fiscal year 2011, the PVB shared in the cost of implementing the World Park Pilot Project and the former General Manager of PVB was very supportive to the extent of requesting supplemental funding for PVB to support the World Park."

PVB properly charged World Park support to the proper fund account and budget.

Auditors made four findings of management control weaknesses.

Auditors found that PVB's 2012 budget from the Compact Private Sector Grants was \$107,000. \$9,506.39 of the budget was used to defray World Park expenses. PVB did not make some of the promotional trips it had planned to take in fiscal year 2012 because the money had been used to defray World Park activities.

Auditors found that other than trade shows and conferences some of the activities in which PVB engaged, such as welcoming tourist and guests from foreign countries were not listed in the performance based budget of the public corporation.

The attestation engagement found that there were organization disagreements and conflict amongst PVB employees and between PVB and the World Park project.

Lastly, the attestation engagement found that the deteriorating condition of the PVB building and office hampered its effectiveness of a tourism office, and increases the risk of an unhealthy and unsafe working environment for its employees. Auditors attached pictures of the deplorable conditions including extensive termite damage, water damage, and even a veritable garden growing on the tin roof of the building.

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Mahatma Gandhi

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Salt intake and non-communicable diseases workshops by WHO in the FSM



Workshop participants: community based health assistants and workshop presenters

FSM Information Services

June 18, 2013

A recently published survey report by the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that 62 percent of the population of Chuuk State is at risk of developing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, etc.

To scale up the State's public health intervention on NCDs, WHO consultant, Dr. Peter Hoejskov, carried out a workshop on Salt Reduction and on WHO Package of Essential Non-Communicable Disease intervention strategies on June 3rd to 7th.

The workshop focused on strengthening the NCD Program framework of action in addressing the various NCD related burdens in Chuuk. In addition, the training aimed at creating a Salt Reduction Strategy Plan that could be pursued as part of NCD Program's efforts.

Participants viewed various effects of salt consumption with emphasis on identifying products rich with sodium and laying out facts on health damages from its over use. Salt intake reduction has been acclaimed a key element in NCD prevention and control.

The link between salt and hypertension (high blood pressure) has been established. However, a majority of the population

are not aware that high salt intake can lead to stomach cancer, kidney disease, renal stones and bone weakening due to lowering minerals. In addition, reducing salt intake has benefits for those affected by asthma.

As shown during the workshop, the daily recommended salt intake for an adult is 5 gram, or one level teaspoon. Some ways to reduce salt include eating fresh foods that are naturally low in sodium, avoiding processed products with high sodium content, and replacing salt with herbs, spices or other flavoring whenever possible when preparing a meal. Reducing salt intake has been identified as the single most cost effective measure for improving population health outcomes throughout the world. Doing so has the potential to save millions of lives each year.

Alongside the Salt Reduction Strategies presentation, the WHO Package of Essential Non-Communicable Disease (PEN) Intervention was conducted to strengthen Primary Health Care capacity by enhancing community-based health assistants' knowledge and skills in dealing with NCDs.

The PEN interventions include providing counseling on healthy diets, physical activity, and tobacco cessation in addition to recommendations on the most effective medicines and ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat NCDs and their complications.

Kaselehlie Dental Clinic

located, ground floor of the Namiki Building

FSM Health Insurance is accepted

Clinic opens Monday through Saturday
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Dr. Hnin Thida Kyu
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Dr. Than Tun Kyaw
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THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON:

July 15, 2013

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:
Wednesday, July 10

Women with the moves for a prosperous Pohnpei

By Leah Briones

June 22, 2013

Sapwalap, FSM – On June 22, 2013, Lien Lehdau (K2-LENT) group of Section 3 in Madolenihmw hosted the annual Madolenihmw women’s community event to recognize the equal participation of women in building prosperous communities in Pohnpei.

This year’s theme was the Equal Participation of Women – A Solid Foundation for Peaceful and Prosperous Communities. In her opening remarks, the host group’s Vice President, Mrs. Margarita Abraham, welcomed all event participants and attendees to the Village of Sapwalap.

The joint keynote address was given by Ms. Evelyn Adolph, Director of the FSM Office of SBOC and Dr. Elizabeth Keller of the Pohnpei Department of Health Services. Ms Adolph highlighted the three pillars that make up the foundation for a prosperous Pohnpei: quality education, health and economic opportunities. To bring home her points, Ms. Adolph quoted the old saying, ‘When you educate a man, you educate a man. When you educate a woman, you educate a generation’. Dr Keller presented on non-communicable disease issues for Pohnpei State and stressed the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle, including the consumption of healthy local food.

Likend Madolenihmw gave a special remark in which she applauded the strength and unity of the Pwih en Minimin en Lien Madolenihmw, the umbrella women’s group for all of Madolenihmw. "The success of today’s event is strong evidence of this strong unity", she said. She emphasized the important role of women and encouraged their good work to continue.

Eight women’s groups in Madolenihmw marked the day with their dance moves which ranged from the traditional as showcased by the groups of Mand and Senpehn to the more contemporary times of jeans and t-shirts as showcased by the Lien Madolenihmw in Kolonia group. To encourage traditional performances, the groups displaying traditional dances received cash prizes of \$100 each. In addition to providing great entertainment, these dances signify cultural pride, togetherness, team-work, and provide a reminder that play is also an important part of peaceful and prosperous communities.

Another highlight of the event was the annual competition

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among the women’s groups. This year the competition involved road-side clean-ups to promote a clean environment and safe roads for their communities. After thorough inspection of all the villages, the panel of judges, which included representatives from the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs, Pohnpei State Office of Social Affairs and Pohnpei State EPA, awarded the \$1,000 first prize to the Village of Sapwalap. The \$500 second prize was awarded to Senpehn of Section Four and the \$250 third prize to Mand of Section Seven. All other participating groups received \$50 in condolence prizes.

The event was well-attended. The dignitaries present included Likend Madolenihmw, Kuroun en Lehdau, Lepen Moar Madolenihmw and Lehp Moar Madolenihmw, Nahlaimw Madolenihmw, Lt. Governor Marcelo Peterson and Mrs. Linda Suzuki as well as Ms. Susana Sohs, President of the Pohnpei Women’s Council.

The host group’s President Mrs. Marlihse Mudong closed the program by thanking all participants for making the event a great success. The host group also thanked the many government officials, private businesses, donors and individuals for their funding support.

The event was held in Pohnpeian and the author wishes to thank Ms. Evelyn Adolph for her facilitation and translations.



Left: A view of the cleanest road.
Below: Dr Elizabeth Keller.
Right: Ms Evelyn Adolph.



Team of Pacific Island journalists selected to cover regional climate change and disaster risk management meetings

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 27, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—A major regional meeting of Pacific Island climate change and disaster risk management officials is set to kick off in Nadi, Fiji on July 1. The meetings will be co-facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP).

To ensure that the people of the Pacific Islands know what happens at the meetings, Journalists from the Pacific Island region were chosen to work as a team to cover the meetings that will end on July 11. The experience will also provide journalists with greater experience in covering large scale meetings on climate change and other issues of importance.

A short bio of each of the media team members follows:

Halitesh Datt has been a multimedia journalist at Fiji Television Limited since 2011. He graduated from University of the South Pacific with a degree in Literature, Language and Journalism in 2012.

Sini Latu is a junior reporter working for the Tonga Broadcasting Commission where she has worked for just over a year.

Benjamin Kedoga is Journalist In-Charge at the National Broadcasting Corporation of Papua New Guinea East Sepik, one of the Provincial Radio Stations of NBC. He has been with NBC since 2005.

Daniel Namosuaia has been a reporter at the Solomon Star News Paper since 2010. He covers a variety of stories for the newspaper but is assigned to do Climate Change, Fisheries, and Socio-economic development stories.

Asenati Taugasolo Semu is the Senior Press Secretariat Officer at the Government of Samoa Office of the Press Secretariat where she has worked for four years. For the two previous years she worked at the Government-owned Savali weekly newspaper. She also worked for four years at the Samoa Observer daily newspaper.

Bill Jaynes is the Managing Editor of The Kaselehlie Press based in Pohnpei, FSM. Jaynes has held the position for over seven years.”

Support members and mentors include the following:

Makereta Komai is the editor of the regional news agency, PACNEWS, owned by the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). She has a broadcasting background having worked as senior political reporter for Fiji Television (1996-1999) and Desk Sub-Editor Desk Sub-Editor for the Fiji Broadcasting Commission (1989-1996). She has been involved with SPREP’s Regional Media Outreach Programme as a Trainer and as a Mentor for young journalists.

Evan Wasuka is currently a free lance journalist based in the Solomon Islands. He has extensive journalistic experience in the Pacific region.

SPC and IUCN to increase cooperation to address conservation and development needs

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

July 18 2013,

Noumea, New Caledonia - The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) today to work together to more efficiently address issues relating to conservation and development in the Pacific region.

The four-year MOU recognises the special expertise that the two international organisations possess in different sectors related to biodiversity conservation, such as fisheries and marine conservation, forestry, energy, food security, water and climate change.

By joining their competencies, SPC and IUCN will enable a more holistic and sustainable approach to economic and social development in the region.

“SPC welcomes the opportunity for a meaningful partnership with IUCN to help the countries of the Pacific region develop and implement a green growth strategy in the blue continent,” said SPC Director-General Dr Jimmie Rodgers.

Mr Taholo Kami, IUCN Oceania Regional Director, said “SPC is the key regional organization that can assist Pacific Island countries in a shift from

See “SPC IUCN” on page 14

JOB VACANCY



JOB TITLE: Protected Areas Advisor

OPENING DATE: June 18, 2013

LOCATION: Palau, FSM, Guam

CLOSING DATE: July 18, 2013

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The Protected Areas Advisor leads on coordination of technical and scientific support for the implementation of the Conservancy’s conservation planning and measures processes including Ecoregional Assessments (ERA), Conservation Action Planning (CAP), Conservation Impact Goals (CIG), and spatial analysis, with special emphasis on incorporating ecosystem-based climate adaptation strategies and terrestrial ecosystems in resilient Protected Areas Network design within the geographic scope of the Micronesia. He/she also provides scientific and planning support to local jurisdictions on protected areas design, implementation and evaluation; climate change adaptation; coordination of watershed partnership efforts; and site based planning for terrestrial conservation and management. He/she provides support in the coordination of the MC Terrestrial Measures Working Group and participates as part of the resource team for the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC). He/she represents the Micronesia Program in TNC planning and science forums, and develops and maintains external partnerships. He/she assists in fundraising for the Micronesia Program, including the development of grant proposals and progress reports.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

- Bachelor’s degree in forestry, biology, wildlife biology, agriculture, climate adaptation, or related field and 3-5 years relevant experience, Masters preferred.
- Understanding and experience of protected areas network design, implementation and evaluation
- Practical knowledge of climate adaptation in Pacific islands
- Financial responsibility may include working within/managing a budget to complete projects, negotiating and contracting with vendors, assisting with budget development and meeting fundraising targets.
- Ensures program compliance with internal policies and external requirements
- May work in variable weather conditions, at remote locations, on difficult and hazardous terrain and under physical demanding circumstances.

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For more information, please call Serleen Aldis at 691-320-4267

“PNI Nation” from Pohnpei places on Pacific Break album

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 27, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Those Salomon boys have done it again! The song PNI Nation submitted for the Pacific Break competition of Radio Australia was selected as one of the 25 cuts on the 2012 compilation album the contest promoters recently released. This year’s compilation album is a two CD set.



Jun Salomon

For several years Radio Australia has solicited recordings from unsigned musical artists from the Pacific region in an effort to give Pacific artists “a break” that they might not otherwise have to be heard wherever Radio Australia broadcasts. This year the Pacific Break contest received more than a hundred entries from throughout the Pacific, an unprecedented number. The winner of the competition would win an opportunity to travel to Australia to work with professional musicians in a professional recording studio.

“I’m really happy for it,” Jun Salomon exclaimed. “It’s an overwhelming feeling. It feels like we’re paving the way for Pohnpei musicians who feel like they don’t have what it takes.” He said that he tried to get some other Pohnpei musicians to enter and a few did but he said that some of them just didn’t feel confident enough.

PNI Nation’s song, “I Got This Feeling” did not win the top spot. That honor went to Jaik Berg of the Cook Islands who very nearly did not send a song in for the competition. With only moments to go before the cutoff for submissions, a friend brought a handheld recorder and recorded Berg singing his song, “My Oh My” and sent it in just before the deadline. His young, tender and engaging voice, along with his “hooky” melody and lyrics won him the top spot even though the very short song was hastily recorded and submitted.

The original version of Berg’s song appears as the first track on the compilation album. As bonus tracks, the album includes a studio version of “My Oh My” and another of his songs entitled “Ten Again”, both arranged and recorded by full band during Berg’s visit to Australia.

Though PNI Nation’s song did not win the grand prize in the competition, the fact that it is included on the compilation CD is quite an honor for any musician and songwriter. It’s track number 18 on the CD which features recording from Samoa, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea,

Kiribati, and Tonga.

Jun Salomon said that he also decided late to enter the contest. Three days before the deadline for entry into the competition he assembled the main music loop for “I Got This Feeling”. He said that the lyrics were born almost immediately and he started laying down vocal tracks for the song the next day. He mixed it, polished it and sent it off on the third day. It was all recorded on his computer in his home.

“I Got This Feeling” is a feel good dance track in the island style with lots of autotune, a popular electronic vocal effect in the Pacific islands that changes vocals into an almost robotic sound. “It’s a party song with a shout out to the other Pacific Islands in the third verse; the ‘Nesians’, Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia. We’re calling for a united Pacific,” Salomon said.

PNI Nation consists of Jun, Berney, and Holland Salomon. The brothers have worked together musically for a long time. Over a decade ago they were known as “Boyz N Harmony” with a pretty high circulation of recordings in the FSM. Shortly afterwards they formed “Kastaway”. I was privileged to play guitar on the CD they recorded under that name.

They are still together musically but the Salomon’s are widely separated by miles of ocean. Berney is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Political Science at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. “Yeah, he’s following in mom’s footsteps,” Jun chuckled during a short interview at The Kaselehlie Press.

Jun’s other brother, Holland is attending medical school in Majuro.

The Salomon brothers are over achievers and though they are separated by many miles, they still continue to send musical tracks to each other over the Internet so that they can continue to record until they are one day reunited in person. He says they’re working on three new tracks right now.

“It’s kinda like what happened with ‘Bones, Thugz n Harmony’ back in the day,” Salomon said. “They took a break for a while because they were all in different places.”

The brothers all have different influences that come together in PNI Nation in their own unique way. Jun described his tastes as “Sean Paul Reggae Tone Dance Hall.” He said that Berney is heavily into Hip Hop. Holland, the main instrumentalist in the band plays keyboards and guitar and is into classic rock and metal. It’s a surprising combination of tastes that seem to complement each other in many ways though not necessarily in “I Got This Feeling” which was recorded by Jun alone. “It still had to go out as PNI Nation,” he said. “We’re a band.”

The FSM had an unprecedented number of entries into the contest this year as well. First was a song from Pohnpei by Wejelieh entitled “The One”, a mixture of reggae, hip hop, and island pop. “Micro Family”, also from Pohnpei submitted “Rootz On Fire”, a hip hop song with a really tasty hook. “PMP” from Yap submitted “Dabi Mai”, a mixture of Rock and Country with deep, dark texture.

“I’m really grateful to Radio Australia and the Pacific Break contest for the opportunity to enter, and for including our song on the album,” Salomon said.



Request for Proposals

The Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting proposals from business(s) or individuals interested in updating the Pohnpei Port Authority’s Five Year Strategic Plan. The Scope of such plan must touch on and address the following as required for the interest of Pohnpei Port Authority:

The five year planning horizon should address the following requirements:

- A) Focus on internal and external issues that require a thoughtful and forwarding looking approach;
- B) a medium-and long term strategy but not necessarily a detailed long-term plan;
- C) It must be a living plan designed to be evolutionary;
- D) It must show benefits to Pohnpei and to FSM;
- E) It should incorporate “role, vision, and mission”;
- F) It should incorporate “core values and philosophies”;
- G) It should include a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) on PPA development addressing both external and internal factors;
- H) It should include Planning Assumptions and Scenarios;
- I) It should include the Authority’s needs and strategic direction;
- J) Priorities and Goals;
- K) Objectives;
- L) Sources and uses of funds;
- M) Net Earning Reserve
- N) Implementation and Control including methods of monitoring Progress and Measuring Performance.

- All proposals should include the project time line, cost proposal & budget.
- Proposals will be accepted starting July 1, 2013. Closing day for proposal is August 30, 2013 no later than 5:00pm.
- Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in connection with this proposing request.

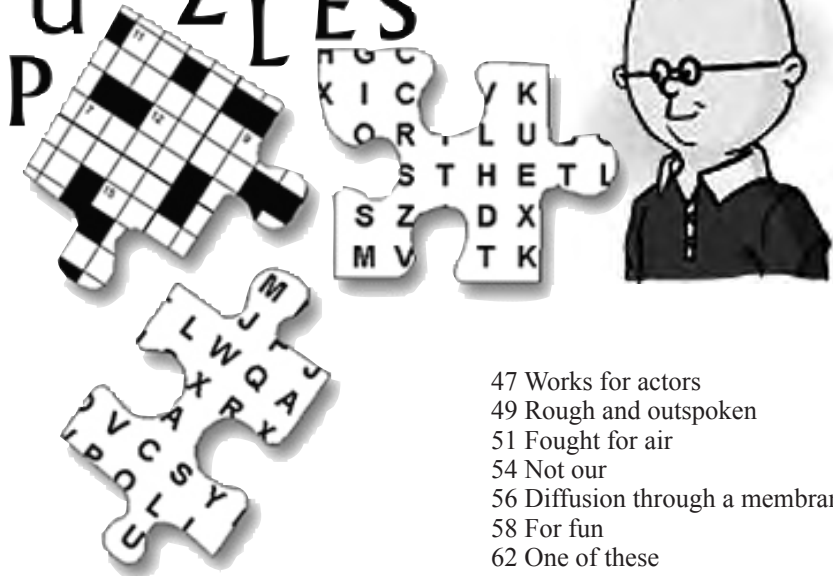
Additional information regarding this request proposal can be obtained from:

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Thank you for your time and attention to this proposing request.

Nelperson Etse
General Manager
Pohnpei Port Authority

Puzzles



- 47 Works for actors
- 49 Rough and outspoken
- 51 Fought for air
- 54 Not our
- 56 Diffusion through a membrane
- 58 For fun
- 62 One of these
- 63 Uninteresting
- 65 Danny DeVito's "Taxi" role
- 66 "Women and Love" author
- 67 Tel _
- 68 Touch of color
- 69 Rushed
- 70 Computer command
- 71 Readily available

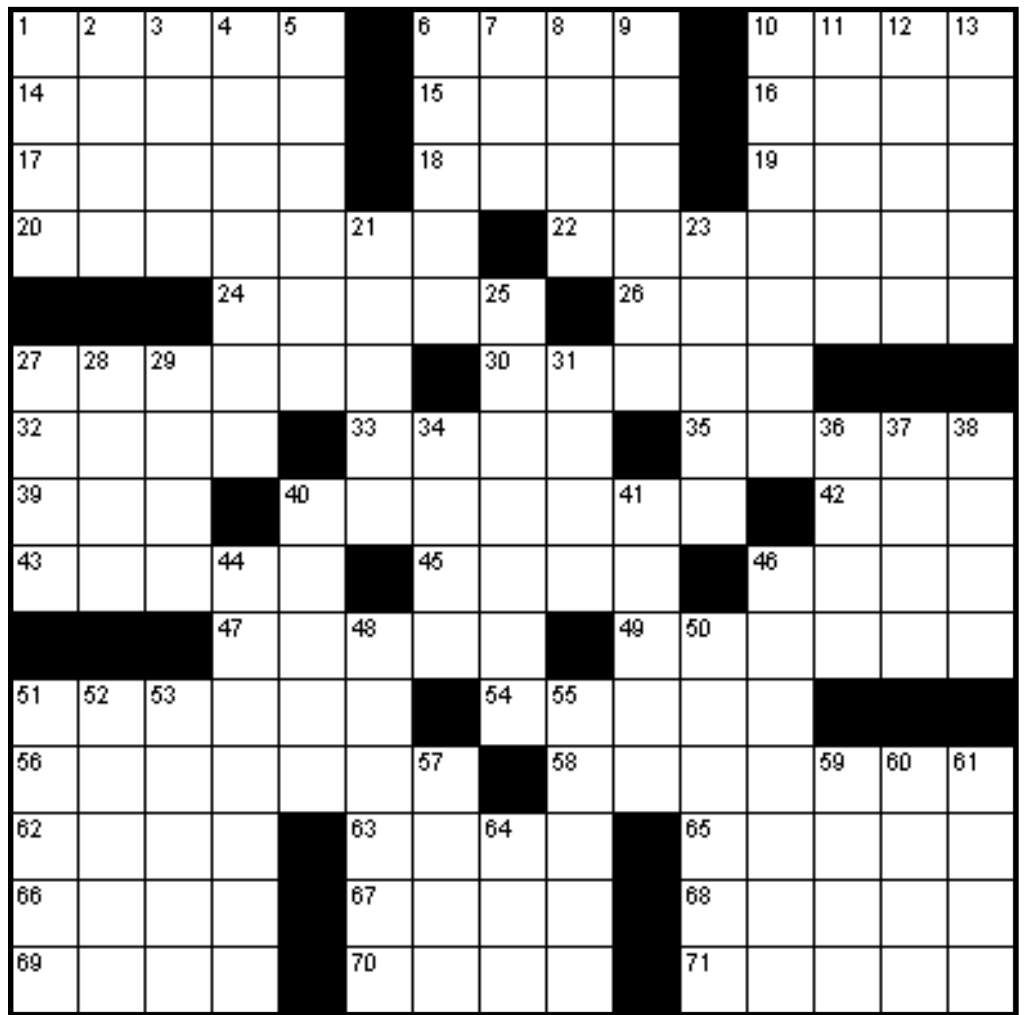
Across

- 1 Lights
- 6 Thomas _ Edison
- 10 Actor Lugosi
- 14 Banish
- 15 Great Trek participant
- 16 Berserk
- 17 Funny man Woody
- 18 "Touched _ Angel"
- 19 Persian fairy
- 20 Must
- 22 Speaker's spot
- 24 Billy, Nanny and the kids?
- 26 English counties
- 27 Heraldic dragon
- 30 Orbital point
- 32 Weeding tools
- 33 Commotion
- 35 D-day beach
- 39 Like some vbs.
- 40 Checkpoint sites
- 42 Yang's opposite
- 43 Words of agreement
- 45 "I _ Kick Out Of You"
- 46 Hang in the balance

Down

- 1 "Ryan's Daughter" director
- 2 Wheel support
- 3 Race distance
- 4 Promises
- 5 It picks up readings
- 6 Monks' head
- 7 Frequent Powell co-star
- 8 Calf's flesh
- 9 TV's "Gunsmoke" star
- 10 Christening
- 11 Mideast prince
- 12 Mr Moto portrayer Peter
- 13 Actor Claude
- 21 So much, to Solti
- 23 Aegean island
- 25 Most pathetic
- 27 Caprice

Crossword!



- 28 Days gone by
- 29 Green, in heraldry
- 31 Longfellow, e.g.
- 34 Wild party
- 36 Passing remarks?
- 37 Helpful suggestion
- 38 Capp of comics
- 40 Tree trunks
- 41 Track events
- 44 Anti
- 46 Filch
- 48 Gymwear name
- 50 Commercial area of Venice
- 51 Ancient invaders
- 52 On board
- 53 Afflict
- 55 Reduce by 50 percent
- 57 Fiji's capital
- 59 Female relative
- 60 Baltic port
- 61 Retain
- 64 Actress Ullmann

Word Search

- Ha! -

- Buffoonery
- Burlesque
- Clowning
- Comedy
- Drollery
- Farce
- Gags
- Japes
- Jests
- Jocularly
- Jokes
- Nonsense
- Parody
- Puns
- Raillery
- Satire
- Slapstick
- Wisecracks
- Witticism



President Mori signs two public laws and reiterates concerns

FSM Information Services

June 20, 2013

On June 18, President Manny Mori signed into law Congressional Act No. 18-02 to become Public Law 18-03.

The new public law is the sixth revision to the original appropriation law numbered 17-68 that became law on December 3, 2012 for "public projects and social programs". This appropriation was for a total of \$5,697,383 million, which included some amounts owed to FEMA by the State Governments.

The amendment was made to accommodate changes to the use and allottee of funds in the States of Yap, Kosrae and Chuuk, "and for other purposes".

"I acknowledge that a committee report mentions some of the changes for Yap's portion of public projects. However, the fact that there is no explanation of the amendments for Kosrae and Chuuk projects contradicts a transparent process", President Manny Mori indicated in his signing message to Congress.

President Mori reiterated his concern that several public project appropriations

lacked careful and transparent planning and appeared to have been decided in haste. He stressed his observation that many of the "so-called public projects and social programs" bore "little linkage to the Strategic Development Plan (of the FSM)".

"I urge Congress to seriously consider the foregoing concerns at the earliest opportunity because continuing inaction on our part will not yield meaningful benefit to our people."

The new public law can be viewed through the link below from the FSM Congress website.

<http://www.fsmcongress.fm/pdf%20documents/18th%20Congress/Public%20Laws/PUBLIC%20LAW%2018-03.pdf>

On another measure, President Mori "reluctantly signed" into law Congressional Act No. 18-04, which has become Public Law No. 18-04.

This legislation is for a supplemental funding of \$80,000 from the general fund of the FSM to make available \$70,000 to Congress Office and \$10,000 to the President's Office for the remaining three months of this FY 2013.

...SPC IUCN

Continued from page 11

where we are today towards the green / blue economies that will secure a sustainable future – IUCN looks

forward to be part of this journey with SPC."

The joint work by SPC and IUCN aims to support each Pacific Island member to achieve the national and regional outcomes defined as priorities by Pacific leaders.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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

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- For information on Alcoholics Anonymous call 924-9197 or email lonestarihelipters@yahoo.com
- 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

Habele

OUTER ISLAND EDUCATION FUND

Scholarships

The US based charity "Habele" is offering tuition scholarships for students throughout the FSM.

These scholarships cover seventy five percent of the tuition for students attending private schools from grades 1 through 12 within the FSM.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit. Many will apply but the number of scholarships awarded will be limited.

An application form can be found at www.habele.org. Click on the text reading "scholarship application" on the right side of the page. The completed application (along with the attachments required) must be sent to Habele no later than July 1st.

Habele works to announce scholarship awards during the first two weeks of August. Checks will be mailed directly to schools. Winners must provide Habele with report cards, letters and photos throughout the school year.

Good luck!

Peace Corps Go Local!

By April Turner

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

On Thursday 20th July nineteen Peace Corps trainees attended Island Food Community Training Center to learn about the importance of the Let's Go Local campaign.

While sipping on Karat smoothies, the trainees, US Ambassador Rosen, US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and Peace Corps staff heard about the health crisis facing Micronesia and the solution proposed by Island Food Community. By growing and eating local food, the physical exercise and rich vitamin and mineral content helps to prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The trainees learnt that although vegetables or salad are not generally part of a daily meal, a diet based on local foods provides sufficient nutrients.

The knowledge gained by the trainees may help them to relish the wonderful variety of local foods in this island paradise and influence them to eat some local food at every meal.

Peace Corps encourages the volunteers to share this knowledge with their host families, schools and communities thus helping to extend the Let's Go Local message further. Thank you Peace Corps Volunteers for being a part of the solution!

Special thanks to AusAID/Australian Embassy, Australian Volunteers International (AVI), Children's Healthy Living Program (USDA grant to University of Hawaii) and Pohnpei State Government for their current funding support.



Peace Corps at Island Food Community

Mahi Salad (Breadfruit Salad)

By Chizuru Seki

2012 World Food Day Cooking Competition

Ingredients

- 1 local egg, hardboiled and chopped
- ½ mature breadfruit
- 1 fillet of fish (skip jack is the best, but you can use any kind)
 - ¼ ripe papaya
 - ¼ onion, diced
- ½ teaspoon Pohnpei Pepper
- Pinch of salt
- Optional: calamansi juice

Instructions

- Cut the breadfruit into two quarters, steam for 30-45 minutes. When it is cooked, peel and remove the core and cut into ½ inch cubes.
- Boil the fish until cooked, when it is cool, remove the flesh and cut into small pieces.
- Peel the papaya, remove the seeds and shred.
- Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl and season with salt and pepper.

Health Facts

The papaya is high in Vitamin C and A, aids digestion and adds a sweet fruity taste which is a great combination with the breadfruit and fish. Breadfruit is a good source of dietary fiber and various vitamins and minerals.

Help students and hospital patients have access to local food! Fun Run/Walk & Plant LOCAL!

By April Turner

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Island Food Community of Pohnpei encourages you all to join us to go local on Saturday, 20th July at our annual Fun Run/Walk & Plant event.

Participants will walk or run to one of three designated public sites and plant a local indigenous food plant such as papaya, pandanus, calamansi, and banana.

Everyone, of all ages and fitness levels, can participate as there are 3 courses to choose from:

Course 1: Palm terrace to Kolonia Elementary School

Course 2: Palm Terrace to Causeway

Course 3: Palm Terrace to Pohnpei Public Hospital

By taking part in the Fun Run/Walk & Plant you are not only doing some exercise, but you are also securing a healthy future for Pohnpei by improving food security, protecting the environment, and supporting the local school, hospital and public picnic grounds. As the plants grow the community will have access to free healthy, local foods that you have planted. Be a part of change, and come to the Fun Run/Walk & Plant on July 20th!

Time: 7am (registration starts 6:30am)

Fee: \$5 (T-shirt included)

Island Food Community would like to thank all the organizations who are supporting this event and contributing to a healthier Pohnpei!

Special thanks to Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, FSM Development Bank, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, Pohnpei state Legislature and Palm Terrace for their support for the Fun Run/Walk & Plant.

Pandanus Climate Frontlines Project presented at UNESCO Traditional Calendar Symposium, NZ

By Emihner Johnson

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

On June 4th representatives from a number of Pacific Islands met in Auckland, New Zealand to present their working papers and share the project outcomes on Climate Change Adaptation using Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Calendars. There were six United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Climate Frontlines projects presented by:

- Alan Resture (Tuvalu) A case study from Nanumea, Nukufetau, and Vaitupu Islands, Tuvalu
- Emi Johnson (IFCP, FSM) Building resilience and food security through the promotion of traditional food sources such as pandanus in Mwoakilloa and Pingelap.
- Lawrence Nodua (Solomon Islands) worked with his community in Tuo to look at observations of change in the Reef Islands
- Stewart Serawe (Papua New Guinea) documented observations related to sea level rise in the Krangket Islands
- Vika Lutui (Tiaflo Consultancy, Tonga) observations and experiences of the local community of Lifuka/Ha'apai
- Carlos Mondragon (Mexico) anthropologist, with many years of research experience in Vanuatu

The workshop continued until the 7th of June covering presentations on Traditional Calendars of the Australian Aboriginals, FSM, PNG, Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Maori Lunar Cycles. It was interesting to note the similarities of seasons in low lying islands like Tuvalu and atolls of Pohnpei. During this workshop, all of the Pacific Island representatives expressed the need to collect and document this traditional knowledge before it is lost. Also noted was the need to start a Pacific Island network for us to share and learn from each other.

Special Thanks to UNESCO Climate Frontlines and New Zealand Commission



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