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FSM celebrates the inauguration of its leaders

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 10, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—This morning's joint inaugural celebration was not for the purpose of swearing in new FSM leadership. That task was covered during previous sessions of Congress. This morning's inaugural festivities were a chance for FSM to celebrate itself and to formally welcome the new leadership.

On May 11, 2015 the members of the FSM's 19th Congress were seated and took their oaths of office. From amongst those Constitutionally voter selected members Congress selected Senator Peter Christian of Pohnpei to be the nation's eighth president and Yosiwo George to be the nation's eighth Vice President. Congress selected Senator Wesley Simina to be the sixth Speaker of

Congress.

All of the selected FSM National leaders took their oaths of office on that morning and a special election was held to fill the seats vacated by President Christian and Vice President George.

Senator David Panuelo won Pohnpei's vacated at-large seat. Former Vice President Alik Alik won Kosrae's seat. They took their oaths of office on July 7 during a special session of Congress that at press time was still in progress.

Pohnpei's two year seat for Election District three, vacated by Senator Panuelo after he won the at-large seat will be filled by the winner of yet another special election. At this morning's inaugural celebration in

See "Inauguration" on page 5



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FSM PetroCorp would like to thank all of the participants, volunteers and the members of the Pohnpei Fishing Club for a record turnout!



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Salvage experts say grounded "Ping Da 7" is an environmental time bomb

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 14, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—Two experts on marine salvage who visited Pohnpei two weeks ago claim that the Ping Da 7, the massive reefer ship that has been stuck hard aground on Pohnpei's reef for over a year and a half is an environmental time bomb waiting to go off.

Who is responsible for the wreck now is by all accounts uncertain.

The Chinese businessman who owned the Ping Da 7 essentially walked away from the vessel after it slammed into Pohnpei's northern reef in December of 2013. By all reports he declared financial insolvency. The insurance company that covered the vessel walked away as well.

On the government level, the problem of the vessel and whose responsibility it would be to remove it is confused for a variety of reasons. On one hand, it is sitting on Pohnpei's reef which could be interpreted to mean that the problem is one for Pohnpei State government to handle. On the other hand, the owner of the vessel is a foreign national, or at least he was until the FSM Department of TC&I was appointed as receiver for the vessel. Neither the fact that it is in the purview of the National Government nor the fact that TC&I was appointed as receiver combine to clearly point to the FSM National Government as the responsible entity.

An employee at TC&I said this afternoon that a task force was formed in order to deal with the situation but that he hadn't heard any conclusions "until now".

Meanwhile there simply is no money to deal with the environmental time bomb that is the Ping Da 7. And the clock is ticking. Incremental damage is being done to the reef and to the lagoon every moment that the huge ship sits on the reef.

Jaco Sluijimers of Mammoet Salvage, perhaps the world's largest and most expert marine salvage companies, and Captain Will Naden of Cabras Island Marine Services came to Pohnpei last year with an eye toward developing a salvage plan and presenting it to the FSM Government. They said that at that time the Ping Da 7 had been ransacked, that fuel and lube oil had been removed by a contractor, though not all of it. They found buckets and barrels of various oils lying around in the engine room and in barrels and some half emptied "day tanks". They found an ammonia room that had a large tank holding tons of pressurized liquid ammonia. At that time they found little material on the reef.

When they returned on June 27 this year they found junk thrown from the decks of the ship on to the reef including five gallon containers of paint that had spilled and "painted" the reef. They found considerably more corrosion to the fittings and tanks aboard the ship. Barrels were leaking on deck and the oil in them was leaking into the ocean. They found water tight hatches and doors that were rusted open. They still found the same oils and other pollutants they had found the first time they went aboard.

Naden and Sluijimers did a thorough evaluation of the hazards and the possibility for removing the ship from the reef. Their visit was unsolicited but they hoped to be able to provide to the relevant Governments, enough information so that those governments could use it in order to attract funding to get the job done. They want the job and they have the resources to do it.



Mammoet Salvage has over 5000 employees and 80 offices worldwide. They specialize in heavy lift engineering and performed vessel salvages all over the world including in Guam. Cabras Island Marine Services based in Guam has worked with Jaco Sluijimers of Mammoet on at least two large salvage operations in Guam. The FSM has called upon Captain Naden for his services as a marine consultant and surveyor several times.

The two said that scrapping the vessel in situ is not a viable alternative but that the hull appears to be sufficiently intact to remove the vessel from the reef in a manner that would not create severe environmental damage. Though there certainly is a salvage value for the metals in the massive vessel the cost to tow the vessel to a port where it could be recycled would be enormously expensive. Any money earned from recycling would likely be less than just the cost to tow the vessel and wouldn't even touch the cost of completely cleaning it to international standards and removing it from the reef. That operation will require large machinery and will be a feat of engineering marvel for which Mammoet is famous.

The best solution would be to remove all environmentally hazardous materials, thoroughly strip and clean the vessel to international environmental standards, remove it from the reef and sink it in deep water.

In addition to meeting with many government officials, while the two were on island they performed GPS positioning of 36 other wrecks in Pohnpei's lagoon. They said that since it would be necessary to bring equipment to the island if they get the contract to remove the Ping Da 7 that same equipment could be used to remove those 37 other wrecks which are also polluting Pohnpei's lagoon.

They said that the fiberglass wrecks are also an environmental hazard as they contain toxic lead, heavy metals, foam, and plastics that are breaking down and going into the food chain.

They said that they are hoping to get the interest of the local population in order to try to convince Pohnpei State to maintain the State of Emergency and to do what they can to convince the national government to seek aid.

In a posting on Micronesia Forum they wrote, "With the Ping Da 7 and 36 other wrecks sitting on your reefs and in the mangroves, Pohnpei has a compelling case to seek remediation and help. We can assist with securing funding only after a request is made."



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Nurse midwife saves baby's life after attending Pacific Partnership course

From Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

7/6/2015

KOLONIA, Pohnpei (NNS) -- A Pohnpei nurse midwife credits the "Helping Babies Breathe" course taught during Pacific Partnership with helping her save a baby's life June 29, just hours after attending the two-day event.

Bernolina Hedson was a student in the course taught by Royal Australian Navy Lt. Cmdr. Alison Zilko and U.S. Navy Lt. Jenna DiMaggio June 29-30. Only nine hours after the completion of her first day of training, Hedson used her newly obtained knowledge to successfully resuscitate a newborn.

While delivering a baby, Hedson was surprised to find an undiagnosed twin pregnancy, with the other fetus still in utero and breech. Forty-five minutes later she delivered the second baby, who had a low heart beat and no spontaneous breathing. Hedson remembered the training from earlier that day and was able to successfully resuscitate the child within seven minutes,

just as the Helping Babies Breathe algorithm dictates.

"The first thing that popped into my mind after delivering the baby was to use the knowledge and skills learned earlier in the day for routine care of the newborn," said Hedson.

According to Hedson, the baby was spontaneously breathing after seven minutes and now is expected to make a full recovery and join his brother at their mother's side.

Helping Babies Breathe is designed to teach those who attend deliveries in austere environments to help babies breathe in the first crucial minutes of their lives.

This is the first time that the Helping Babies Breathe course is being taught in Pacific Partnership by U.S. and partner nation military personnel. On July 1-2, students trained other medical providers in the same course, as Helping Babies Breathe is also a train-the-trainer course.

"The course is designed to not only teach providers the principles of resuscitation, but also trains them to teach others the same material," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ashley Maranich, the master trainer for the course. "This allows the principles to be propagated throughout the resource-limited areas where it is intended to be used."

Hedson attested firsthand that Helping Babies Breathe can help save lives. She also vowed to continue to teach the course throughout the Federated States of Micronesia and other Pacific island countries.

Now in its tenth iteration, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region. While training for crisis conditions, Pacific Partnership missions have provided medical care to approximately 270,000 patients and veterinary services to more than 38,000 animals. Additionally, Pacific Partnership has provided critical infrastructure developments to host nations through the completion of more than 180 engineering projects.

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High level envoy from Japan speaks on relations with FSM

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 9, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—On the evening before the Joint Inauguration Celebration the Embassy of Japan hosted a reception they called "Japan Night" at the home of Ambassador Sakai. The reception was well attended by FSM leadership including the President, Vice President, Speaker, several members of Congress, and Governors of FSM states.

Special guest speaker during the evening's festivities was Mr. Keiji Furuya who was personally appointed by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to represent the Government of Japan during the FSM joint inauguration celebration.

As the reception was winding up Mr. Furuya, who has served in Japan's Parliament for over 25 years sat for an interview. He told us that he is the President of two Parliamentary Friendship Leagues. One of them is the Japan FSM Friendship League and the other is the Japan Pacific Island Countries Friendship League.

"Japan and Micronesia, historically have a very close relationship," he said through his interpreter. "Also Japan has strong ties with Pacific Island countries. We think this region is very important for Japan in terms of the marine fisheries resources."

He reminded us that during the 7th Pacific Area Leaders Meeting (PALM 7) held in Japan on May 22 and 23 that the Japan Parliamentary Friendship Leagues conducted several events and projects. One of those was to double the number of trainees including exchange students from the region over the next three years from

2000 to 4000. Additionally the intention is to make the program stronger in terms of content.

"One of the goals of the program is to make supporters of Japan and to develop good human resources in this region", he said. "...That will contribute to the two countries' relationship and friendship further...I think that people are the most important resource in the region."

The second point he wanted to make during his interview regarded continuing grant aid and financial assistance. He said that on the 8th of July Japan and the FSM signed an agreement for 400 million yen in financial support, over \$3 million at today's exchange rate. He also reminded us that during the PALM 7 Prime Minister Abe announced 55 billion yen (nearly \$444 million) in assistance in the region for helping in such areas as Climate Change and disaster management.

He spoke of the challenges that both FSM and Japan face as island countries in terms of dealing with natural disasters and reminded us of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan and killed almost 20,000 people. He said that Japan has introduced a proposal at the United Nations to establish a World Tsunami Day in an effort to establish a worldwide cognizance of the importance of early warning systems and preparedness. He said that Japan is asking for the support of 14 Pacific Island nations in the U.N. for their initiative and said that the leaders had expressed support during PALM 7.

"I have one story from the March 11 earthquake," he said. "There was one Elementary School Principal who remembered what happened in 1960 when

a big earthquake hit Chile and the tsunami reached to Japan and killed many people. When he noticed that the sea level was lowering he predicted that the tsunami would come so he evacuated all the children from the school to a higher place. Because of that effort, no one from that school was killed despite the fact that the four story school building was entirely flooded over the roof line because of the tsunami. If they had merely evacuated to the roof, the children would not have survived."

"Those kinds of experiences should be shared all over the world," he said.

His third talking point regarded cooperation between the FSM and Japan on marine fisheries resources.

"I discussed this issue with President Christian and also with Speaker Simina," he said and indicated that the meeting had been productive with both leaders indicating that they would consider the matter. "

"For Japan the issue is very important," he said. "Of the tuna consumed in Japan, 80 percent of it comes from this region."

He said that the issue is also very important to the FSM since the country would lose significant fishing and other fees if the Japanese fleet is forced to decide to fish elsewhere. The entire Japanese fleet did leave the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone shortly after the FSM pressed charges against three Japanese vessels. Charges on one of those vessels are still being heard at the FSM Supreme Court. He said that some vessels have since returned and are paying the proper and agreed upon fees to fish in the FSM's EEZ. "But it is certainly

true that the Japanese fishing industry is operating in fear because of that situation because they don't know when the next capturing of the ship will happen," he said.

"So what I discussed with President and Speaker was that it is important for both FSM and Japan to create a win-win situation," he said.

We told him that we have heard the sentiment expressed by several of Japan's citizens who were not necessarily speaking for the Japanese government, that perhaps Japanese aid should be curtailed for FSM until the fisheries matter is resolved. Yet Japan continues to provide aid to the FSM.

"Yes, that is why I said that Micronesia and Japan should develop a win-win situation," he concluded.



Joint Inaugural Celebration



Joint Inaugural Inter-Denominational Church Service

On July 9, 2015 an inter-denominational church service was held at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

The service opened with a song by the Erike Church Choir. Father Patrick Daniel gave the opening prayer followed by a reading of 1 Corinthians 12:1-7 by Father Robert Ifamilik.

The Satowan Church Choir from the Mortlocks, Chuuk filled up a quarter of the sanctuary and sang enthusiastically.

Pastor Bethwel Henry, who was also the first Speaker of the FSM Congress read from Ephesians Chapter 4 verses 2 through 6.

Father Julio Angkel presented a homily based on the Gospel of John 17:2-23 after which the UCCP Church Choir sang.

The Nett Church Choir closed the service.



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Wednesday, July 29th, 2015**

22 Pacific participants graduate from 2015 Executive Leadership Development Program

Twenty-two (22) participants from throughout the U.S. affiliated insular areas represented the 2015 graduating class of the Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP).

ELDP graduation ceremonies were held on June 12, 2015 at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. The ELDP is funded by the U. S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and administered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative.

The ELDP was designed to assist the insular areas with developing and retaining the qualified and skilled staff that will become the future leaders of their respective governments. Program participants met four times over the past year to further develop their skills in leadership, management, government finance, program management, public policy and fiscal reform.

ELDP participants represent the governments of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

The ELDP participants met over the past year for one week of training on Guam, American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, and Honolulu, Hawaii. During each phase of the program, participants heard from guest speakers that included Guam Governor Eddie B. Calvo, American Samoa Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga, Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau and former Hawaii Governor John Waihe'e.

In addition to developing an Individual Development Plan, ELDP participants identified mentors who they met with throughout the year and took part in reading and group assignments between training sessions. A major component of the ELDP were group projects in the areas as health, education, the environment, finance and budgeting, commerce, and human resource management that the participants developed throughout the year and presented on the final day of the program



This year's ELDP graduating class included:
(American Samoa) Magdalene Petaia, Salamasina Jessica Satele, Leifiloa Tanoi;
(Chuuk) Sermina Namelo;
(CNMI) Alfreda Camacho, Frankie Eliptico;
(Guam) Llewelyn Terlaje, Natalia Faculo, Selina Onedera-Salas;
(FSM National Government) Kemsy Sigrah, Shanty Sigrah-Asher;
(Kosrae) Priscilla Laborete;
(Marshall Islands) Angeline Heine, Donna Lanej, Junior Aini, Terry Hazzard;
(Palau) Darnelle Decherong, Mingrang Kloulechad, Roxanne Blesam, Umerang Imetengel;
(Pohnpei) Brandon Tara, Pressler Martin.

The 2015 ELDP graduating class represents the fourth ELDP program. Since its inception in 2008, eighty-one participants from across the Pacific have completed the ELDP program.

Additional information on the Executive Leadership Development Program can be found online at <http://eldp.pitiviti.org>. The application process for the fifth ELDP cohort is expected to begin February, 2016.

...Inauguration

Continued from front page

Palikir, that seat was still vacant. A number of contenders are vying for voter attention for that vacant seat.

Norleen Oliver admirably served as the Master of Ceremonies for this morning's celebration.

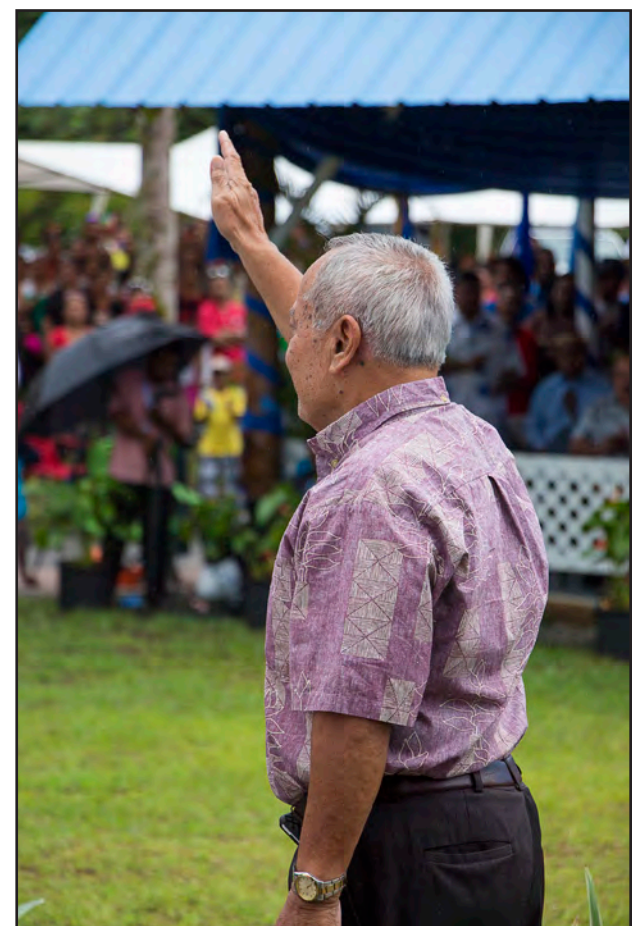
So many dignitaries were in attendance at the celebration that it took nearly 30 minutes for them all to be introduced. They came from as far away as Germany, Russia, and Israel. Micronesia heads of State were in attendance including Palau's President Remengesau, and RMI's President Loek.

The FSM National Anthem was sung by the Youth-4-Change Choir and the invocation was provided by Father Robert Ifamlik.

Welcoming remarks were given by Pohnpei's Acting Governor Marcelo Peterson.

The United Church of Christ Pohnpei Kepinle Choir performed a number before President Peter M. Christian stood to give his inaugural address. Turning and joking with his staff members he held up a large notebook and claimed that he had asked them for the long version of the speech but they had provided him with the short version.

By all received accounts, President Christian's speech was well received by those citizens and most residents of the FSM in attendance. Unfortunately, some who attended the inauguration celebration could not hear the speech. It was broadcast live on Pohnpei's State Radio Station, V6AH.



The Kaselehlie Press tradition has been to publish the substantive transcripts of inaugural addresses. However, President Christian, an eloquent and entertaining speaker strayed far from the speech writers' text and information officers scrambled to type transcripts from audio recordings. At press time nearly a week later there was still no copy of the speech that could be released to the press.

After President Christian's inaugural address, the highly entertaining choir from Satowan, Chuuk performed several numbers. During their performance dignitaries of all levels starting with President Christian rose to give the group a

significant amount of tips.

Reverend Bethwel Henry, FSM's Speaker of the first Congress of the FSM provided the benediction.

After the ceremony was concluded, local dancers provided entertainment while a full take out lunch was served to the participants present at the celebration in Palikir.

FSM participates in opening of Pacific Games

By Jim Tobin

Sunday, July 05

Port Moresby, PNG- After years of preparation by Papua New Guinea for thousands of Pacific regional athletes, the 15th Pacific Games opening ceremony was held Saturday night, July 4, in the nation's capital, Port Moresby.

TEAM FSM, from the Federated States of Micronesia, was one of 23 Pacific island countries and territories that marched at the opening ceremony. The flag bearer for TEAM FSM was famous Olympic weightlifter Manuel Minginfel, from Yap. TEAM FSM is composed of 42 athletes, coaches and manager competing in Weightlifting, Boxing, Swimming, Track and Field, Tennis and Soccer (Football).

Artistic director for the opening ceremony, Airleke Ingram said the opening ceremony

was a celebration of Papua New Guinea's rich cultural history while also pointing to the country's future direction. The sing-sing performance had a cast of 3,000 performers and almost 300 ceremony staff.

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, Great Britain welcomed all 23 Pacific region island countries and territories. "I wish everyone two successful weeks of sport. Good luck to all the competitors. Congratulations, Port Moresby," he said.

On Monday, July 6, Minginfel, the FSM best hope of winning a medal, will compete in the men's 69kg Weightlifting category. Manuel's first appearance at a Pacific Games was at the Mini Games in Pago Pago in 1997. Since that time, he has competed in every single Pacific Games and Mini Games, winning a total of 19 gold medals and 5 silver medals.

2015 Pacific Games events began on Friday, July 03 and will continue until July 18.



FSM weightlifter Manuel Minginfel wins gold at Pacific Games

By Jim Tobin

Monday, July 06

Port Moresby, PNG- A few hours ago in Port Moresby, PNG, Manuel Minginfel, famous Olympic weightlifter from Yap competed in his fifth Pacific Games (formally known as

the South Pacific Games). At age 37, he is the oldest athlete competing in Weightlifting at the games.

Minginfel completed in the 69kg division with 11 other lifters from Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji, PNG, Kiribati, Guam, Tuvalu and Nauru. This is the first Pacific Games that Australia and New Zealand have participated in.

Amazingly, Minginfel won 2 gold medals in the Snatch and Overall Weight, and a silver medal in the Clean & Jerk. His Snatch lift was 120kg, Clean & Jerk was 156kg and total weight was 276kg.

Minginfel has been training with world famous coach Paul Coffa for the past few months in New Caledonia at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute.

"The old man did it – he beat the young guns again", Coffa said after Minginfel won



FSM football team participates in Pacific Games

By Jim Tobin

FSM National Olympic Committee

The FSM Men's Football Team finished playing in the preliminary round of the 2015 Pacific Games Football losing all 3 games to Tahiti, Fiji and Vanuatu. The FSM team had trained on Guam 2 weeks prior to travelling to PNG for the games.

The 2015 Pacific Games are being held in Port Moresby, PNG from July 04-18, 2015, with 28 sports being played and over 4000 athletes competing. The FSM is one of 24 island countries and territories, including Australia and New Zealand, competing in the games. TEAM FSM one of the smallest delegations with only 40 athletes and coaches is competing in Football, Weightlifting, Tennis, Boxing, Swimming and Track and Field.

The FSM Men's Football team comprised 18 soccer athletes from Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei. The soccer athletes were: Mikson Kuka, Paulis Jeikek, Scott Rudolph, Roger Nakasone, James Macarthur, Ioane Kariti, Franson Simeon, Kacy Alton Olmos, Michael Reyes, Mark Jones, Jacob Nam, Dominic Gadad, Aaron Bayow, Jonathan Garayog, Devon Figirmow, Walter Pongkagnan, Benjiman Gilmoon and Javin Kognang. The head coach of the team is Stan Foster from Australia and assistant coach is Curtis Graham. The soccer athletes and coaches were selected by Coach Foster and the FSM Football Association.

This was the first international experience for the young FSM Football athletes. Most of the athletes are still in high school. The Football competition was also an Olympic Qualifier for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Thus, the best Football teams in the Pacific participated. Even though the

FSM Football team was dominated in all three games the athletes never gave up and they received the respect of the teams from Tahiti, Fiji, and Vanuatu. TEAM FSM is very proud of the hard work done by Coach Foster and our young athletes.

By competing in the games, the FSM Football Association hopes to become a member of FIFA (the international football association). The FSM was the only country in the north Pacific that sent a Football team to the Pacific Games. When the FSM joins FIFA in the near future our country will receive grants to renovate and build new soccer venues in the FSM, bring professional FIFA coaches to train the FSM athletes and receive needed equipment. Though the FSM Football team results at the Pacific Games were a disappointment, the future benefits from participating outweigh the results.

The FSM Football team members departed PNG on Sunday, July 12 and returned to the FSM.

The training camp on Guam was funded and organized by the FSM Football Association. The FSM National Olympic Committee applied for and received a special International Olympic Committee (IOC) \$50,000 grant that funded airfare, insurance, travel stipends and accommodation costs for the FSM Football team while in Port Moresby.

TEAM FSM wishes to thank the Office of the FSM President and the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs for funding team uniforms and a \$200 stipend for all TEAM FSM athletes and coaches. TEAM FSM also wants to especially thank its local sponsors—Palm Terrace Shopping Centre, Matson Navigation, Caroline Fisheries and Etscheit Enterprises.



gold today. Minginfel was not a favourite to win the gold medals. Before the competition started this morning his FSM coach Ronald Etscheit said– "TEAM FSM and I just hope that Manuel will win a medal. We are all very proud of him".

Manuel's first appearance at a Pacific Games was at the Mini Games in Pago Pago in 1997. Since that time, he has competed in every single Pacific Games and Mini Games, winning a

total of 21 gold medals and 6 silver medals. The FSM National Olympic Committee is working with the Pacific Games Council to confirm that Minginfel now holds the record for winning the most gold medals by an athlete in the history of the Pacific Games.

Minginfel was awarded a Rio 2016 Olympic Games athlete training scholarship in January 2015 and will continue to try to qualify for next year's Olympic Games.

Australian Grant awarded for Pohnpei Fitness Center renovation project

The Australian Embassy recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Pohnpei Athletics Club, which is a non-profit organization that was created to renovate the old Pohnpei Fitness Center located in Nan Peper, Pwunsoh and start new innovate sports and health programs there. To date, this is the largest grant awarded by the Australian Embassy for such a project and renovation has already begun, which will hopefully be the first grant for future phases at the location.

The first phase of this project is to first renovate the dilapidated fitness center into a new gym complete with new locker rooms and a conference room. The next phase is to bring in equipment for new sports programs such as cross-fit, wrestling, boxing, and an area for women related programs such as dance, yoga, Zumba and other exercises. Other future plans with the center will be to improve the parking lot and fence, make the center handicap accessible, and make the overall project a sustainable green-project by installing solar panels and other clean energy equipment, thereby making this fitness center a model for all others in the region. The Pohnpei Athletics Club hopes

to find other interested donors to help fund those future projects.

With these projects, it is the hope of the Pohnpei Athletics Club along with the Australian Embassy, Governor's Office, and Pohnpei Sports Commission, that the facility will benefit all of the youth, men and women of Pohnpei State, by educating and promoting a healthy lifestyle and getting people involved in athletics, which will ultimately help fight against diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease and non-communicable diseases.

Pohnpei Athletics Club would like to greatly thank all of the people whom worked hard together in order to put this great project together for the health and future of all Pohnpeians, which include: Jose Joab, Director Mikail Loyola and Chairman Hermes Edmund from Pohnpei Sports Commission, along with the Governor's Office and FSM Department of Foreign Affairs whom endorsed this project, and most of all, the people and government of Australia for providing this grant opportunity.



2 O'Clock Group donates to Disaster Relief

Kolonia, Pohnpei - The Kepinle Protestant 2 O'Clock Group from the Kepinle Church donated \$710.00 to the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) for FSM Disaster-Relief activities. This 2 O'Clock group got together to record and archive old classic religious Mwokilese, Pohnpeian and English songs for entertainment purposes. After releasing the 1st Album/Volume One, about 300 CDs were sold around Pohnpei, Honolulu and US mainland. The group decided to put the proceeds to good causes and use, which was used for church-offerings i.e. Youth activities, bible translation and lastly Disaster Relief activities in the FSM. The Group extended their sincere appreciation and gratitude to all who supported this project.

Receiving the \$710 cashier's check on behalf of MRCS Wayner Louis, the Disaster Management Officer and staff members:



Awak Elementary School Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony



International Organization For Migration

Awak Elementary School is one step closer to improving coastal protection at the school site, an important priority determined by Awak community.

Today (Wednesday 1 July 2015), disaster risk management partners held a groundbreaking ceremony for installation of a new gabion seawall at Awak Elementary School.

Gerald Zackios, North Pacific Regional Office Director and Noa Tokavou, Officer Disaster Risk Management from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Principal Ramirez from Awak Elementary School, Lino Amor, PTA president of Awak Elementary School, Deacon Donre of Awak Catholic Church, Eugene Joseph, Executive Director, Kesdy-Ray Ladore, Jason Cammarano, and Julius Fischer from Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), and Canita Rilometo-Swigert and Kate McDermott from IOM attended the groundbreaking event, surrounded by pupils.

The project is funded by the European Union through the SPC-managed Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BRSP) project. In Awak, it is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) with

coordination and support from the Pohnpei Climate Change Outreach Committee (PCCOC).

IOM, CSP, and PCCOC members conducted a climate change outreach and Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Mapping exercise at the Nan Awak Catholic Mission Nahs in early October 2013. At this session, community members from Awak Powe, Awak Pah, Kepin Awak, Pohn Awak, Awak, and Tipwen Kehpei, developed their community action plan for both short and long term climate impacts. Awak Elementary School caters to all of these villages.

The school is located on the lagoon side and exposed to the ocean. While there is a seawall in place, it is incomplete. Based on the threats posed to the school by sea level rise and coastal erosion, community members listed the school as one of their most vulnerable sites.

IOM, CSP, and PCCOC members returned to the Nan Awak Catholic Mission Nahs on 21 June 2015 to update community members about progress to improve coastal protection at their school and to conduct an informational session on resilient coastal management. Construction of the gabion seawall will commence in July and is expected to be completed by November 2015.

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FSM NATIONAL LAW DAY



2015 National Law Day Winners - Team Kosrae



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706

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688

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572



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FSM (TC)

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the order of the FSM Supreme Court entered on May 25, 2015, public notice is hereby given that the parcels described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

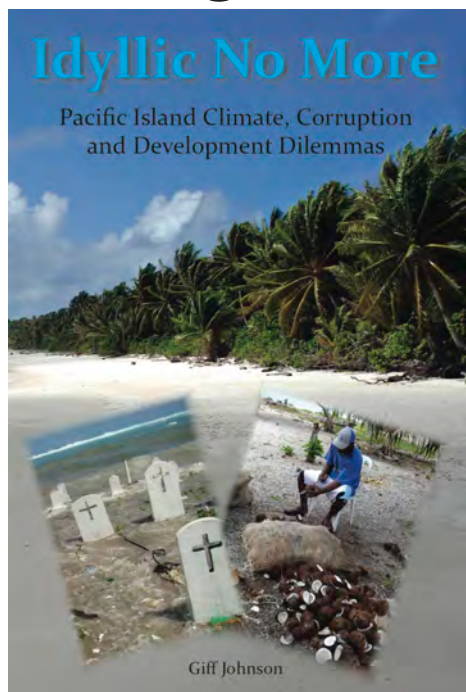
Parcel no. 009-F-01, land known as "Pe'meerur", situated in Keng, Weloy Municipality, with an approximate area of 373 square meters, as shown on the certificate of title issued March 10, 1992 and cadastral plat no. 009-F-00 filed in the Yap State Land Registry, together with all buildings, fixtures and other improvements thereon; and

Parcel no. 013-D-02, land known as "Aedik", situated in Tomil Municipality with an approximate area of 2,905 square meters, as shown on the certificate of title issued March 10, 1992 and cadastral plat no. 013-D-00, filed in the Yap State Land Registry, together with all buildings, fixtures and other improvements situated thereon.

- There is no minimum bid amount. Bids may be submitted for one or both parcels.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "July 30, 2015 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Ms Trudy Munggol at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Colonia, Yap on Thursday, July 30, 2015 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2015.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount for each parcel.
- All bid submissions must include a deposit of 5 % of the total bid amount by cashier's check. If the bid submission does not include the 5 % deposit, the bid is immediately disqualified.
- Winning bidders shall be notified in writing and payment of the remaining balance of the bid must be paid to the FSM Development Bank no later than ten (10) calendar days after notice of award is given. If the winning bidder fails to pay the remaining balance of the bid within the required time, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Bank.
- Upon qualification and full payment of winning bids, the non-winning bidders shall have their 5% deposit returned to them within two (2) business days.
- The winning bidders shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the land, including all buildings, fixtures and other improvements on the land.
- Winning bidders must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- If the winning bidder who has been provided notice of award by the Bank fails to remit payment within the required time, his/her deposit is forfeited to the Bank and the notice of award will be granted to the next highest bidder, and the same conditions will apply.
- The parcels are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigras, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, fax no. 691-320-6533, website: www.fsmdb.fm

New book highlights Micronesia, Pacific island challenges



Majuro—Corruption, reliance on donor-driven aid and consultants, dwindling rural populations and burgeoning urban centers that stress the ability of governments to provide education and health services, an epidemic of non-communicable diseases as lifestyles change, and battles with countries outside the region for control of fisheries and deep sea resources — these are among contemporary island issues that are the focus of a just-published book on the Pacific islands.

“Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas” is a new book released over the weekend by Giff Johnson, the editor of the Marshall Islands Journal, the weekly newspaper published in Majuro.

The book is “a bracing look at where the islands are today, and what it will take to build a future of hope and opportunity for islanders across the region,” said veteran Oceania journalist Floyd K. Takeuchi. Johnson “frames a view of the Pacific islands that’s characterized by hard-edge realism while offering a way forward,” Takeuchi said.

The 153-page book is published by CreateSpace and is available through amazon.com.

In a series of essays about the looming climate threat and island responses, sustainable development and the region’s multi-billion dollar tuna industry, the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands, and the impact of out-migration, “Idyllic No More” focuses on the often difficult problems and choices facing the Pacific islands today.

“I’m hopeful that educators will see the new book as a useful resource for stimulating discussion in high school and college classes on the key issues of the day, and that it offers an interesting read for people who want to delve more deeply into the challenges facing the region,” said Johnson.

Bikini Atoll Trust Liaison and Microwave Films president Jack Niedenthal said because of the author’s “decades of experienced reporting about the Marshall Islands and Micronesia, his inside look at the world of island governments and people is both enlightening and thought provoking.”

Vital Fishing Tournament draws record number of participants

Pohnpei Fishing Club

June 20, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—Vital-FSM Petrocorp hosted a tournament for the Pohnpei Fishing Club that drew a record 32 participating boats.

Each boat that checked out in the morning and also checked back in during the weigh in received fuel vouchers from Vital ranging from 20 to 80 gallons, depending on the size of their engines.

The organizers said that the fishing day was beautiful and fishers were guaranteed to catch something, even if only a sunburn.

For the big fish category every prize went out for yellow fin catches:

1.	100 gallons	Steincia Hawley	97.5 pounds	Salt Addiction
2.	75 gallons	Denise Etscheit	85.0 pounds	Salt Addiction
3.	60 gallons	Welbert David	78.5 pounds	Manta Ray
4.	50 gallons	Alex Tretnoff	74.5 pounds	Boat
5.	40 gallons	Alex Tretnoff	71.5 pounds	Boat
6.	Tie:			
	30 gallons	Andy Musrasrik	59.0 pounds	Miss Pakin
	30 gallons	Arleen David	59.0 pounds	Blue Fin

There were also prize for the biggest fish in each species. First prize winners were awarded 25 gallons of fuel. Second prize winners were awarded 10 gallons of fuel.

For Yellow Fin Tuna, the first prize went to Andy Musrasrik and to Arleen David for their 59 pound fish. Second prize went to Alex Tretnoff for his 57 pound fish.

For Wahoo first prize went to Ankie Mendiola for 19 pounder. Second prize went to Wilmar Aquino for a 16 pounder.

Lara Wichman took first prize for Mahi Mahi with a 27.5 pounder. Charles took second with a 20.5 pounder.

Welbert David landed an 11 pound Skip Jack for first prize in that species. There was no second prize winner in that category.

Anthony Manuel brought in a 25.5 pound barracuda, followed by Patterson Lawrence whose barracuda weighed 19.5 pounds.

Greeno Welbert brought in a nice 11 pound Grand Trevalle for first prize.

The first place Lady Angler award went to Joyce Gehr for her 52 pound Yellow Fin tuna. Kalesia Artui came in second place with a 10 pound Grand Trevalle.

The top Junior Angler was Trex Lee Lawrence for an 11.5 pound Grand Trevalle. Daniel Mix took second with a 9 pound Grand Trevalle.

In addition to the fuel it provided to participants and winners, Vital also provided a big barbecue for all of the participants and spectators at Mangrove Bay Marina during the weigh in.



We want to thank Bill, Paul, Kumer’s guys, Tina, Uta and Sophie for all their help.

Many thanks to Vital/Petrocorp for putting on the tournament. It was a great success!

(Editor’s note: Any missing last names are a function of the information provided to us. Our deepest apologies!)

TUNE IN TO POHNPEI’S #1 RADIO

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The Pohnpei Legislature hosts 34th APIL General Assembly

This year's 34th APIL General Assembly was hosted by The Pohnpei Legislature. APIL officers and delegates from Hawaii, Republic of Palau, Republic of Kiribati, Island of Guam, the CNMI, FSM States of Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, and Pohnpei met in Kolonia beginning July 7th up until July 10th for this year's assembly. Invited guests and presenters included the President of the Republic of Palau, environmentalist H.E. Tommy Remengasau, Jr., and RMI's Minister of Foreign Affairs T.H. Tony Debrum. Also in attendance were presenters from the US Embassies in the RMI and the FSM, as well as the PEW Environment Group, Blue Ocean LAW, Digital Society Foundation, Pacific Islands Development Bank, and other regional organizations. The General Assembly concluded with 17 adopted resolutions ranging from "...exploring and establishing a think tank for the APIL-affiliated region" to "working with the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs to use unallocated funding to fund a feasibility study for a regional health insurance plan for the FAS countries."

The Pohnpei Legislature wishes to thank all those who contributed to the success of this year's General Assembly. We appreciate our major sponsors including



PEW Environment Group, Micronesia Conservation Trust, Pohnpei Port Authority, Bank of Guam, Bank of the FSM, FSM Telecommunications, FSM Petro Corp /VITAL, College of Micronesia-FSM, NIHCO Store, Pohnpei Arts & Crafts, Pohnpei Visitors Bureau, Pacific Islands Development Bank, and Congressman Ferny S. Perman. Our Kalahngan also goes to the presenters, invited guests, and others like Acting Governor T.H. Marcello Peterson and the Kaselehlia Press, who contributed their time and effort in making this meeting a success.

APIL meets regularly to consider matters in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance may help governments achieve their goals through collective action.

For complete texts of resolutions for the recently concluded General Assembly as well as other APIL meetings, contact Central Secretariat's office in Guam by e-mail at apil@guam.net.

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on December 24, 2013 and July 1, 2015, public notice is hereby given that the parcel described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel no. 025-A-158, land known as Dolonier, situated in Nett Municipality, Pohnpei State with an approximate area of 5,749 square meters, as shown on the certificate of title issued January 20, 1981, determination of heirship made on October 29, 2001, and deed registered on July 24, 2013, and as described on cadastral plat no. 025-A-12 filed in the Pohnpei State Land Registry, together with all buildings, fixtures and other improvements thereon commonly known as the C-Star Apartelle.

- There is no minimum bid amount.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "October 30, 2015 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Rendy Abraham at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Palikir, Pohnpei on Friday, October 30, 2015 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2015.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount and must include a deposit of 5 % of the total bid amount by cashier's check. If the bid submission does not include the 5 % deposit, the bid is immediately disqualified.
- The winning bidder shall be notified in writing and payment of the remaining balance of the bid must be paid to the FSM Development Bank no later than ten (10) calendar days after notice of award is given. If the winning bidder fails to pay the remaining balance of the bid within the required time, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Bank.
- Upon qualification and full payment of the winning bid, the non-winning bidders shall have their 5% deposit returned to them within two (2) business days.
- The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the land, including all buildings, fixtures and other improvements on the land. (other than tenants' personal property)
- The winning bidder must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia and provide proof of such eligibility.
- If the winning bidder who has been provided notice of award by the Bank fails to remit payment within the required time, his/her deposit is forfeited to the Bank and the notice of award will be granted to the next highest bidder, and the same conditions will apply.
- The parcel and improvements thereon are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, fax no. 691-320-6533, website: www.fsmdb.fm

Pohnpei State, Micronesia finalizing talks on medicinal cannabis program in hopes to attract foreign tourists

EADP Press Release

July 3, 2015
POHNPEI,
FEDERATED
STATES OF
MICRONESIA –

Federated States of Micronesia capitol state Pohnpei has opened final review at Department of Justice and Department of Health Services on an agreement with international partners to launch the first medicinal cannabis program in the Asia-Pacific region, with the anticipation to enable economic growth and works for global humanity that will provide cost effective treatment to people with illnesses as epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, PTSD, and cancer.

Eurasia-America Development Program (EADP), a multi-lateral partnership between United States, Federated States of Micronesia, and Albania, which is held under a Bilateral Diplomacy Charter and Civil Society Treaty. EADP agreement shall also serve as an addendum to the Albania New Millennium Civil Society Program Agreement entered and approved by Albanian government, ECCO2 Global



Partners, Diplomatic Mission Peace Prosperity, and other U.N. affiliated non-governmental organizations in December 2013.

U.S. Senate lobbyist and EADP Chairman Cary Lee Peterson states, "This is a potential colossal hurdle to cross and a major achievement for the U.S., Micronesia, Albania, and the entire world. FSM will be the first of all U.S. affiliated territories and countries in the Asia-Pacific region to legalize CBD and we're very blessed by the Almighty God to be here today from when we started talks with Albania in 2013 and when I made the intervention statement last year at United Nations discussing my thoughts to do more to help the people of Micronesia. We have only begun and under God's will I feel that today is the beginning of a new and more prosperous Micronesia.

North Pacific negotiators prepare for Paris climate change talks

Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Communities

13 July 2015, Pohnpei

A crucial workshop to prepare three North Pacific nations for their participation in negotiations at the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference opens in Pohnpei today, supported by the Government of Germany.

Senior officials from Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) were updated on the current status of climate change negotiations and assisted to analyze the draft Paris treaty text and to prepare proposals for the 21st UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties in Paris (COP 21) by end of this year.

Climate change is a real and serious threat to the livelihoods and sustainable development of Pacific people and the Pacific Islands will continue to call for a significant reduction in the rate of global greenhouse gas emissions to prevent further long term impacts.

The workshop is hosted by the Government of FSM and jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS).

The UNFCCC process for developing a protocol, another legally-binding instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention is complex and challenging for many small states.

European countries, among them Germany, are standing side by side with Pacific Island governments to achieve a positive outcome at the climate change negotiations, the Programme Director and Senior Adviser for GIZ, Dr Wulf Killmann, said.

"The stakes are high for Pacific nations so there's been anticipation in this intensive training for negotiators which complements ongoing financial and technical support to strengthen their resilience against the impacts of climate change," said Dr Killmann, the workshop's moderator.

"It's important that the international community comes to an ambitious, comprehensive climate change agreement at COP 21 at the end of the year," he said.

The financial and technical support of industrialized nations is essential for small island nations, which are among the most vulnerable to climate change, the Director of SPC's North Pacific Regional office, Gerald Zackios, said.

"Importantly, the workshop has improved the participants' understanding of climate finance, including the Green Climate Fund and the concept of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and the related preparation process in the North Pacific," Mr Zackios said.

Around 30 participants were expected at the workshop which ran until Wednesday (15 July). It was made possible with funding from Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.



EMPLOYMENT VACANCY AMERICAN EMBASSY KOLONIA

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 15-05

OPEN TO: All Interested Candidates/All Sources

POSITION: Public Diplomacy/Staff Assistant, LE-9; FP-5*

OPENING DATE: July 17, 2015

CLOSING DATE: July 31, 2015

WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week

SALARY: *Not-Ordinarily Resident (NOR): Starting salary at FP-5; Step to be determined by Washington

*Ordinarily-Resident (OR): Starting salary at \$17,902, LE-9

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The U.S. Embassy in Kolonia is seeking an individual for the position of Public Diplomacy/Staff Assistant in the Executive Office and Public Diplomacy Section.

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

The employee serves as Public Diplomacy Chief and Staff Assistant to the Ambassador. Advises the Ambassador and larger United States Mission to the Federated States of Micronesia on public advocacy, representational events, and core contacts. Initiates, organizes, and analyzes the impact of public diplomacy programs. Drafts Press releases, speeches and other public diplomacy outreach materials. Oversees the Education USA program. Acts as Grants Officer Representative for a number of public diplomacy programs including the International Visitor's Leadership Program, the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, and the Small Grants Program.

A copy of the complete position description listing all duties and responsibilities is available in the Human Resources Office. Contact the U.S. Embassy at (691) 320-2187.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DEPLOYMENT OF HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM (HIMS)

FSM Health Insurance (MiCare) invites proposals from qualified individuals and companies to develop and deploy a Health Information Management system for the company. Details about assignment, scope of work and other requirements can be acquired at MiCare office or by emailing us at info@micareplan.fm

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Peace Corps volunteers visit Island Food Community

Peace Corps Volunteers who recently arrived from the United States are shown at a demonstration of coconut milk preparation at the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP). They were introduced to coconut harvesting, husking and preparation, then given a tour of the different varieties of bananas and other plants at the IFCP site in the Botanical Gardens at Kolonia.

USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Natural Resources Conservation Services staff members Arlene Rosenkrans, Rodasio Samuel, and Gibson Santos provided these demonstrations and tours. Sylvia Johnson, College of Micronesia summer intern at IFCP, used the coconut grater shown in the picture and explained making coconut milk by combining grated coconut with coconut juice.

This group of eighteen Peace Corps Volunteers is on Pohnpei for three months training that includes intensive language classes before they leave for two-year assignments throughout the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau.



Protective footwear to promote healthy feet in Micronesia

On Wednesday June 17th, the Care Micronesia Foundation accepted a delivery of 10,000 pairs of Crocs sandals from the AYUDA Foundation in Guam to be distributed in Micronesia to young and elderly islanders to help prevent illness and diseases caused by walking barefoot. The donation originated from the Crocs Care International organization and was passed through AYUDA to the Care Micronesia Foundation (CMF) to assist with the distribution. President of the Board of CMF, Mr. Bethwel Henry, was present to witness the opening of the container and oversee transport to the Care Micronesia Foundation building, which is located in the old MicSem building in Kolonia, Pohnpei. CMF was founded by Senator David W. Panuelo in 2013 as an organization to provide services, assistance, and implementation of community-sponsored programs intended to benefit the citizens of the FSM.

Around 385 boxes of sandals were handled by youth volunteers from the Pohnras - Palikir Youth Group. Special thanks goes out to Matson for covering the cost of shipping the container from Guam to Pohnpei and to Marianas Steamship Agency on Guam who assisted by donating the storage space in their warehouse for the sandals and they assisted with the loading of the container as well. The Executive Director of CMF, Mr. Patrick Blank, will work with the CMF Board to devise a dissemination plan to get the sandals out to the people in the communities that have the greatest need. CMF will work with several partners including the state hospital, Public Health, PMA, and other NGOs to assist in the dissemination of the sandals over the next few months.



Volunteers help offload the 10,000 crocs from Matson's 40 foot container. Photo by Nigel Jaynes

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Business Net-8192 \$720	Business Net-8192N \$726

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New carrier solutions has brought about these exciting new rates and because Pohnpei is connected directly to the fiber optic cable, FSMTC can currently offer these rates only in Pohnpei. FSMTC plans to roll out these rates in other states as facilities become available.

Pohnpei and Kosrae voters select At-Large representatives



On July 7, 2015, former Vice President Senator Alik Alik and Senator David Panuelo were sworn in to office by FSM Congress Speaker Wesley Simina as a result of special elections to fill the seats vacated by President Christian and Vice President George.

LYON presents

Vanishing Fishes...

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