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# Millinocket arrives in Micronesia for Pacific Partnership



Photo by Lt. Laura Price

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West  
Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Carla Burdt

Sunday, June 21, 2015

**POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia** - The Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3) arrived in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, June 21 for the ship's second stop of Pacific Partnership 2015.

Millinocket and embarked Task Force Forager, led by an expeditionary command element from the Navy's 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30 NCR) from Port Hueneme, California, are currently serving as the secondary platform for Pacific Partnership 2015. The primary platform for the mission is the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).

"My crew and I are incredibly excited for our visit to the Federated States of Micronesia," said Capt. James Meyer, Commodore, Task Force Forager. "We look forward to meeting with the national and local leaders and all the people of the community. Military and civilian leaders all agree it is necessary for us to work together to respond quickly and effectively to natural disasters. This mission helps build that ability while simultaneously providing

See "Millinocket arrives" on page 4

## Pohnpei State Police confiscate and destroy marijuana plants in Mwoalok



Story on page 5

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# Pacific Partnership celebrates arrival in Micronesia with ceremony, reception



(Left) Lt. Col. Greg Malone, performs in a traditional song and dance at the welcoming ceremony to mark the commencement of PacificPartnership 2015. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Laura A. Price)



(Right) Federated States of Micronesia, Vice President His Excellency Yosiwo George, Pohnpei Acting Governor, Marcelo Peterson, U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Doria Rosen, U.S. Defense Representative to the Federated States of Micronesia, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, and Commodore, Task Force Forager, Capt. James Meyer, pause for a photo following an opening reception June 22.

(Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Carla Burdt)

**Navy Public Affairs Support Element West**  
*Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Carla Burdt*

**Monday, June 22, 2015**

**KOLONIA, Pohnpei** - Task Force Forager, embarked aboard the Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3), kicked off its second visit of Pacific Partnership June 22 with an opening ceremony and reception onboard the ship.

Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) acting governor Marcelo Peterson expressed his gratitude for the work that Pacific Partnership will be completing in Micronesia.

"I am confident that the next two weeks, this partnership will make a positive, lasting impact on the people of the Federated States of Micronesia. On behalf of the people of FSM, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the U.S. for your unwavering commitment," said Peterson. "I would also like to thank those of you who have been working to make this possible."

In his remarks at the opening ceremony, Federated States of Micronesia Vice President Yosiwo George spoke of the value of friendships and partnerships, especially that between the United States and FSM.

"We have gathered today to witness a ceremony to mark the commencement of the mission," said George. "In doing so, perhaps it is fitting we use this occasion to reflect on the unique partnership that the FSM has with the United States of

America. It is a special partnership forged many years ago, based on historic times, common shared values, principles and mutual desire for friendship."

To the crew of Task Force Forager and Pacific Partnership, George had these words.

"I ask that you showcase our island hospitality and show the Micronesian spirit of friendship and camaraderie. I trust that this stay will extend your cooperation, understanding and support so that the mission's objectives are implemented efficiently and effectively.

"At the end of it all, remember and know that your friendly interactions will make the mission successful, memorable and enjoyable for all of us," he said.

Millinocket arrived in Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM June 21 for a two-week mission visit.

Millinocket and embarked Task Force Forager, led by an expeditionary command element from the Navy's

30th Naval Construction Regiment (30 NCR) from Port Hueneme, California, are currently serving as the secondary platform for Pacific Partnership 2015. The primary platform for the mission is the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), currently in route to its second mission port of Papua New Guinea.

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, the mission has provided critical infrastructure developments to host nations through the completion of more than 180 engineering projects.

Additional information on the Pacific Partnership mission is available on the U.S. Pacific Fleet Pacific Partnership website at [www.cpf.navy.mil/pacific-partnership/2015/](http://www.cpf.navy.mil/pacific-partnership/2015/).



Local Micronesians perform a traditional song and dance at the welcoming ceremony to mark the commencement of PacificPartnership 2015. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Laura A. Price)



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Bill Jaynes  
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## Globe to Globe Hamlet thrills Pohnpei audience



By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 2, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—Phoebe Fildes has been performing in the same show in a different country every few days since April of 2014. As part of the Globe to Globe tour, it's been Shakespeare's "Hamlet" over and over again in over 113 countries so far.

"But it's not the same show really," she said during an interview the day after the troupe, by all accounts performed yet another stunning performance, "I'd say that in the last 15 months we've only duplicated the exact cast roles once or maybe twice."

The cast members can and do handle several roles. Fildes says that it keeps things interesting on their long journey. All of the cast members of Shakespeare's Globe are schooled professional actors and musicians. But if the actors played the same role night after night opposite other players who also played the same roles night after night, the performance could become stale. Fildes says that each show has a freshness for the actors and therefore, a freshness for the audience.

The model is brilliant really.

Last night's show at the College of Micronesia FSM certainly was another kind of challenge for the crew of The Globe Shakespeare.

With no explanation, Fiji Airlines simply didn't carry the 1700 or so pounds of costumes and sets the troupe normally uses to stage their show. The crew won't see their gear or their luggage until they arrive in Taipei which won't be until after they perform in Palau tomorrow night.

"Look, it's certainly not the first time," their road manager said during yesterday's pre-performance rehearsal during which the troupe completely re-blocked the show in order to deal with the absence of their props. She said that when the troupe arrived at the airport on their way to Tonga, they were told that due to the coronation going on there each passenger would be limited to just over 23 kilos of luggage (a kilo is 2.2 pounds). "It was a shock and we did a lot of scrambling."

"That's actually been quite liberating to strip down to the bare essentials", Fildes said.

Some who saw last night's performance said that the absence of props and costumes probably made the show even more unique. Many credited the incredible talent of the actors with making the performance work even though they were wearing street clothes and had "make do" props.

And work it did, with a bit of creativity and outright inventiveness. The crowd was captivated; fascinated by the performance right down to the English accents of the

performers.

"The themes in 'Hamlet' are universal no matter what language they (the audience) speak," Fildes said. "What does it mean to be alive. What is the meaning of life? Everyone asks themselves those questions."

Knowing the plot of "Hamlet" and its themes, we worried that some of those might resonate in a negative way with an audience in Pohnpei, or anywhere else for that matter.

Fildes said that until she did a performance in a country in North Africa that we will not name but that has a reputation for repressive government policies, she hadn't really thought too much about what repercussions the themes of the play might bring about.

The troupe had been told in advance of that performance that they might have to tone down the play. They might have to remove some of the elements of the high church that are prevalent. Of course, the women would have to be modestly clad. They were willing

to do all of that and did.

In one of Hamlet's most famous soliloquies, he reveals that he is completely torn apart by the murder of his father for what amounted to political reasons. He is so distraught that he feels he must act. He must do something rather than sit and let it pass. He must take revenge. Fildes said that the soliloquy resonated with the audience in the North African country which reacted enthusiastically. She said that started her thinking about the message. Ultimately she decided that Shakespeare's play doesn't condone revenge or violent means to an end.

"It ends with a stage littered with dead bodies," she said. "It doesn't condone revenge."

The performance was enthusiastically received in Pohnpei.

*Before her engagement with Shakespeare Global, Phoebe performed in the hit West End production of Once the Musical at the Phoenix Theatre. She grew up in the countryside of Cheshire, surrounded mostly by family, dogs and ducks. Though she grew up playing violin and thought that was what she'd like to do, acting is her chosen profession. She vows that her performances during the Globe to Globe Hamlet tour will not be the last that we see of her.*

Photos by Paulo Santos, Official Photographer for COM FSM



## ...Millinocket arrives

Continued from front page

medical, dental, veterinarian, engineering and civic assistance."

Meyer added, "This mission is also about the exchange of ideas. Unlike previous missions that focused solely on direct care, PP15 is primarily focusing on knowledge exchange and all direct care is shoulder-to-shoulder with the host nation, in addition to some direct care. The intent is to impart knowledge and skills that will last well after the mission is over."

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, the mission has provided critical infrastructure developments to host nations through the completion of more than 180 engineering projects.

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## Filipino community celebrates 117th Philippine Independence Day

The United Filipino Community of Pohnpei (UFCP) spearheaded the celebration of the 117th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence on June 21, 2015 at the OLMCHS Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Kolonia.

Mr. Russell Figueras, UFCP President officially opened the event by welcoming everyone who attended the celebration. He reminded his fellow Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) to be responsible to their jobs here in Pohnpei and to start preparing for their life after they leave Pohnpei or retire here.

Messages from the Philippine President, Vice President, and the Secretaries of the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Labor and Employment were all read during the program.

This year's Guest Speaker was the Consul General of the Philippine Consulate in Guam. In his message, Consul General Marciano De Borja informed the Filipinos in Pohnpei that the Philippine economy is improving significantly during the Aquino Administration.

The event's highlight was the performance of different groups showcasing Philippine cultural songs and dances.

The Members of the Diplomatic Community in the FSM joined the celebration in full force. Ambassador Doria Rosen and Deputy Chief of Mission Hugues Ogier from the US Embassy were at the celebration. Ambassador Masaki Sakai and his wife, Nobuko Sakai of the Embassy of Japan were also in attendance. Deputy Chief of Mission Neil Young of the Australian Embassy was present along with his family. Counselor Chen Xi Yang and his Secretary Jing Jang Xiao Embassy of the People's Republic of China took part in the commemoration. Spain's Honorary Consul to the FSM Maria Linda Abello Mendez, and the Philippine Honorary Consul to the FSM Dr. Merlynn Abello Alfonso also took part.

The UFCP would like to thank each and everyone who contributed to the success of the celebration. Special thanks go to Genesis Hospital and Pharmacy and CTSI-Western Union.

### Philippine Government donates to Typhoon Maysak Relief Fund

Consul General Marciano De Borja, of the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, visited Palikir last June 23, 2015 to formally hand over the donation from the Philippine Government for the victims of Typhoon Maysak in Chuuk and Yap. Vice President Yosiwo George formally welcomed and received the donation of \$50,000.

Consul General De Borja was joined by the Philippine Honorary Consul to the FSM, Dr. Merlynn Abello Alfonso and the Filipino Community representative Mr. Raul Miralles.



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### Pohnpei State Police confiscate and destroy marijuana plants in Mwoalok

*Pohnpei State Police*

**June 25, 2015**

**Pohnpei, FSM**—On the 25th, day of June 2015, Pohnpei State Police Detectives received a report from an anonymous informant about a marijuana plantation in the community area of Mwoalok, Sokehs Municipality.



Immediately police detectives gathered more supporting evidence that led to an approval of a legal search warrant from the Pohnpei State Supreme Court on the evening of the same day that authorized law enforcement officers to search the premises of the plantation site.

On the early morning of June 26, 2015, Pohnpei State Police with the assistance of Sokehs Police Department executed the search warrant and confiscated more than 20 marijuana bushes on the property.



# Pacific Partnership Micronesia 2015



USCGC Assateague, WPB 1337 under the command of LT Sarah Ernst was in Pohnpei as part of Pacific Partnership 2015. While in Pohnpei the ships crew assisted with Search and Rescue training, and small boat safety courses. Photo by US Embassy



POHNPEI (June 26, 2015) – Musician 1st Class David Baine dances with a Micronesian girl during a concert June 26. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carla Burdt)

The extremely popular and talented Pacific Fleet Band performed New Orleans style music at several venues during Pacific Partnership 2015 bringing smiles to the faces of everyone who heard them. Photo by Bill Jaynes



Ambassador Rosen and Commodore Meyer visited Governor Johnson Elimo to discuss Pacific Partnership activities in Chuuk. Photo by US Embassy



WENO, Chuuk (June 23, 2015) – Medical personnel attached to Task Force Forager tour Chuuk State Hospital June 23. The medical team was in Chuuk for six days providing assistance to the local hospitals. Photo by US Embassy

(Chuuk, FSM) - Blood pressure screening was administered by local hospital staff. Photo by US Embassy



Captain Meyer, Ambassador Rosen, Command Master Chief Anthony Teart, Vice President Yosiwo P.George, Rear Admiral Bette Bolivar, Commander Gibbs. Photo by US Embassy



Weno Chuuk, Pacific Partnership 2015 assisted Chuuk State with a public health outreach. U.S. medical military team members worked with the Chuukese state medical team. Photo by US Embassy

Ambassador Rosen and Commodore Meyer visited Kiki Stinnet at the Chuuk Women's Center. Kiki provided a tour of the Center's resources. Photo by US Embassy





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The position will be based at the FSMTC Headquarters in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

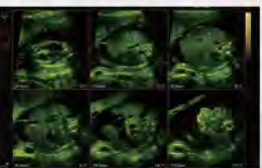
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## *Dr. Harriet* IS BACK!

Genesis management would also like to announce that Dr. Harriet Sy is back to provide medical and surgical care to Genesis' patients. She has over 12 years of experience as an obstetrician-gynecologist and has particular expertise in pregnancy, child-birth, and disorder of the reproductive system. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from Manila Central University in Manila, Philippines.



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# Pacific Partnership Micronesia 2015



**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (June 23, 2015) – Staff Sgt. Andraes Jackson talks with a dental student during a dental symposium June 23.**  
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carla Burdt



**POHNPEI (June 25, 2015) – Commodore, Task Force Forager, Capt. James Meyer, discusses school renovations with U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Doria Rosen, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Yosiwo George, and Utilitiesman 2nd Class Aaron Miller June 25.**  
U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Chelsea Irish



**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (June 23, 2015) – Spc. Zhenigan Zhu performs an eye exam on a patient at Pohnpei State Hospital, June 23.**  
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carla Burdt



**POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (June 18, 2015) Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Gerla administers the Oath of Enlistment at the U.S. Embassy during the Future Soldiers of Enlistment Ceremony. Twenty-four men and women from Pohnpei State enlisted in the U.S. Army through the U.S. Army Recruiting Detachment Guam.**  
U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Laura A. Price



**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (June 23, 2015) – Lt. Orlando White reads a book to children during a community relations event at Pohnpei Library June 23.** U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carla Burdt



**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (June 29, 2015) – Lt. Jenna Dimaggio instructs local students from the College of Micronesia – Federated States of Micronesia June 29. The medical team, attached to the Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3), conducted multiple classes at the college designed to teach nursing students basic lifesaving skills and health management.**  
U.S. Marine Corps photo by combat correspondent Sgt. James Gulliver



**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (July 2, 2015) – Army Capt. Andy Vu teaches local children how to brush their teeth during a medical outreach event at Nanpei Memorial High School July 2. The event was designed to provide medical, dental and optometry care and was spearheaded by medics aboard the Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3)** U.S. Marine Corps photo by combat correspondent Sgt. James Gulliver

# Pacific Partnership Micronesia 2015



**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (June 24, 2015) – Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Lange (left) and Flight Lt. David Nakken (right) observe a representative of the Federated States of Micronesia pouring water into a container June 24. Lange and Nakken are part of a preventive medicine team testing mosquitoes for diseases.**  
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carla Burdt



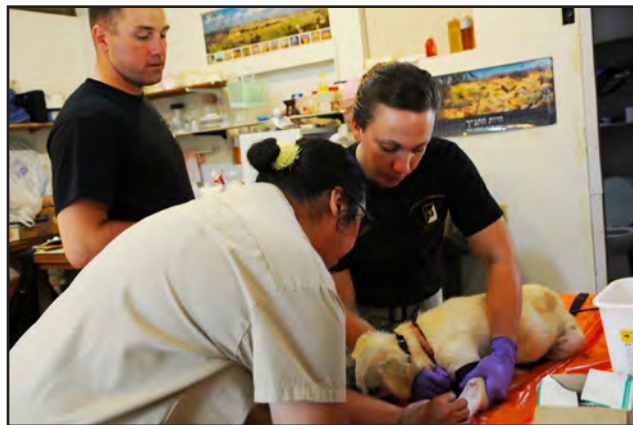
**POHNPEI (June 25, 2015) – Chief Steelworker Bradley Vanhorn finishes concrete during a school renovation June 25.**  
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carla Burdt



**POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (June 25, 2015) Lt. Cmdr. Josh Blocker explains Search and Rescue Operations at the College of FSM.**  
U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Laura A. Price



**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (June 30, 2015) – Maj. Shayna Thompson talks to students about the benefits of joining the military during a question and answer session at College of Micronesia – FSM June 30. Service members attached to the Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3) went to the college to answer any questions the students had about the military and how it could help them with their education.**  
U.S. Marine Corps photo by combat correspondent Sgt. James Gulliver



**POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (June 23, 2015) Capt. Paige Wallace instructs a local veterinarian technician on proper insertion of an IV at the Pohnpei Small Animal Clinic as part of the veterinarian services offered for Pacific Partnership 2015**  
U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Laura A. Price



**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (July 1, 2015)–Commodore, Task Force Forager, Capt. James Meyer shakes hands with acting secretary Department of Education, Wayne Medolia after donating more than 20 wheelchairs aboard the Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3)** U.S. Marine Corps photo by combat correspondent Sgt. James Gulliver (above) and Bill Jaynes (right)



# Pacific Partnership Micronesia 2015



*H.E. Ambassador Doria Rosen, the Honorable Acting Secretary Samson Pretrick, Capt. James Meyer, Commodore, Task Force Forager Pacific Partnership 2015, Capt. Erich Diehl, Commander, Navy Expeditionary Forces Command Pacific, 7th Fleet and crew members representing Pacific Partnership 2015 joined with veterans of FSM and families of the fallen in a moving Wreath Laying Ceremony at Pohnpei International Airport. It was a humbling experience for observers and participants to honor those who have fallen. Part of the unique bond FSM shares with the U.S. is the ability to serve in United States Armed Forces. The ceremony brought military members of the past and present together and continued to develop the bond between our two nations. Photo by US Embassy*



*COLONIA, Federated States of Micronesia (June 17, 2015). Construction Electrician 2nd Class Christopher Danner (left), from Aumsville, Ore., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Eleven, and Tom Tamangmow (right), project manager at the Yap Visitors Bureau, examine an electric box to plan for additional wiring. U.S. Navy photo taken by Builder 3rd Class Amirah Ramelize*



*COLONIA, Federated States of Micronesia (June 12, 2015). Builder Constructionman Tyler Richey, from Onalaska, Tex., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Eleven, applies brown paint to a 'Welcome' sign for Yap International Airport. U.S. Navy photo taken by Builder 2nd Class Susan Johnston*

## FSM athletes competing in 2015 Pacific Games

By Jim Tobin  
FSM National Olympic Committee

The 2015 Pacific Games will be held in Port Moresby, PNG from July 4-18. Twenty-two Pacific islands nations will compete in 28 sports, with an estimated 4,500 athletes and coaches. The FSM delegation – TEAM FSM – will be 40 FSM athletes and coaches and will compete in Boxing, Tennis, Weightlifting, Swimming, Soccer (Football) and Swimming. The head of TEAM FSM (Chef de Mission) is Castro Joab.

The Pacific Games opening ceremony will be held on Saturday, July 04, with newly elected FSM President Peter Christian attending. The TEAM FSM flag bearer will be Manuel Minginfel, world famous Olympic weightlifter from Yap. Manuel's first appearance at a Pacific Games was at the Mini Games in Pago Pago, American Samoa 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. In Port Moresby, he will be competing for the first time in a new bodyweight category for him - 69kg category. In January, Minginfel received an Olympic athlete training scholarship to train and try to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

The FSM men's soccer team has been training on Guam the past few weeks. The team comprises 18 soccer athletes from Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei. The soccer athletes are: 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, Jonothan Garayog, Devon Figirmow, Walter Pongkagnan, Benjiman Gilmoon and Javin Kognang. The head coach of the team is Stan Foster (from Australia). The assistant coach is Curtis Graham. The soccer athletes and coaches were selected by the leaders of the FSM Football Association. By competing in the games, the association is hoping to become a member of FIFA (international football association). The training camp on Guam was funded and organized by the FSM Football Association. The FSM National Olympic Committee provided a \$50,000 grant that funded airfare, insurance, travel stipends and accommodation costs in Port Moresby.

For the first time, FSM will be competing in Boxing. Three male boxers from Pohnpei, Derick Perman, Royce Rott and Angelo Rodriguez will compete. One female from Yap, Jennifer Chieng will also compete. She currently trains at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, New York, USA, under Coach Devon Cormack and Heather Hardy who is the current WBC International Female Super Bantam weight Champion. In January, Chieng received an Olympic

*MAAP, Federated States of Micronesia (June 23, 2015). Equipment Operator 2nd Class Anthony Phillips Deltona, Fla., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Eleven, holds up a sheet of metal sheet roofing while a Yapese apprentice applies silicone where it will be placed for the Maap Early Childhood Education Center. NMCB 11 Construction Civic Action Detail Yap is deployed in the Federated States of Micronesia to complete humanitarian construction projects alongside local workers and conduct community engagement programs. U.S. Navy photo taken by Builder 2nd Class Susan Johnston*



athlete training scholarship to train and try to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. The FSM Boxing coach is Erick Divinagracia who is also the President of the newly formed FSM Boxing Association. The Boxing athletes and coaches were selected by the leaders of the FSM Boxing Association. The FSMNOC funded the airfare, insurance, travel stipends and accommodation costs for the FSM boxers.

TJ Apis, attending the Oceania Tennis Institute in Fiji, will be representing the FSM in Tennis. He is ranked in the top 5 of his age group in the Oceania Tennis player rankings. Apis will be coached by Ronald Etscheit.

Debra Daniel, 2-time Olympian, and Dionisio Augustine will be competing in Swimming, and will be coached by Sweeter Daniel. In January, Daniel received an Olympic athlete training scholarship to train to attempt to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Kitson Kapriel, 100 meter run gold medalist of the 2014 Micronesia Games, Roy Elwise, Pahnrasco Ardos, Penter Pluhs and Lihen Jonas will be competing in Athletics (Track and Field). The runners will be competing in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay. The runners will be coached by Rendy Germinaro.

Alvin Ruemau, Einstein Perman and Minginfel will compete in Weightlifting. The lifters will be coached by Ronald Etscheit. The Tennis, Swimming, Athletics and Weightlifting athletes and coaches

were selected by each sports national federation. The FSMNOC funded these athletes and the coaches' airfare, insurance, travel stipends and accommodation costs from a special International Olympic Committee (IOC) grant for \$30,000.

The FSM had hoped to send a men's Fast-Pitch Softball team to the games but the sport was cancelled due to lack of teams. The FSM would have also been competitive in Wrestling but it is not on the sport program of the 2015 Pacific Games.

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. Also a special thank you to TEAM FSM local sponsors: Palm Terrace Shopping Centre, Matson Navigation, Caroline Fisheries and Etscheit Enterprises.

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## 2015, National Law Day Debate, July 9, 2015

The Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia was established on July 12, 1981 as the highest Court of the Nation. In celebrating the inception of the FSM Supreme Court or the Judiciary branch, the FSM Supreme Court organizes and sponsors a National Law day Debate each year which is done between all high schools at the state level and which is then followed by a national level debate between four representing high schools, one for each respective state. The FSM Supreme Court chooses a topic, for which all high schools will debate upon at the state level and with the winning high schools advancing to compete at the national level on July 12. The first law day debate was conducted on July 12, 1991 which commemorate the first ten years of the existence of the FSM Supreme Court. Since then, the National Law Day Debated has become an annual event of the court. July 12, 2015 will mark the thirty fourth anniversary of the FSM Supreme Court and mark the twenty fourth law day debate celebration. One of the main purposes of this event is to allow students or the young people throughout the Nation to engage in and voice their thoughts on important issues that leaders of the Nation deals with in the government.

Since July 12, 1991, the first Law Day Debate, over \$200,000 scholarship funds had been issued to students participating in the National Law Day debates. This scholarship money comes from funds

appropriated by the FSM Congress, in kind donations from interested individuals, and sponsors given in response to solicitation by the Court. This scholarship fund is given to help tuitions cost and school supplies during a participants first semester in College.

It is time again for the nation to commemorate the inauguration of our National Judiciary System. The Supreme Court of the Federated Stated of Micronesia is hosting a National Law Day debate at the FSM Supreme Court, Palikir Pohnpei on July 9th, 2015 since July 12th, 2015 falls on Sunday.

The topic for this year is:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT TITLE 53, SUBTITLE II, OF THE FSM CODE IS AMENDED, TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS 60 OR OLDER, WHO HAVE VESTED IN THE FSM SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, TO RECEIVE 100% OF THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, AND THE WAGES EARNER’S CONTRIBUTION SHALL BE RAISED ACCORDINGLY TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL REVENUE TO ACCOMMODATE THE CHANGE IN THE LAW”

Representing each respective state, the schools are:

- 1.Chuuk State- Saraman Chuuk Academy High School
- 2.Kosrae State- Kosrae High School
- 3.Pohnpei State- Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School
- 4.Yap State

- 2.Kosrae State- Kosrae High School
- 3.Pohnpei State- Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School
- 4.Yap State

This year the Law Day organizing committee still seeks assistance in soliciting funds. We are requesting interested donors who wish to donate for the

National Law Day to contact the FSM Supreme Court at 320 – 2763, or email Lorina Pernet at secretarytocj@mail.fm.

The National Law Day Organizing committee invites everyone to join us on July 9, 2015 to celebrate the National Law day debates in Palikir, Pohnpei. Ceremony will start at 9:00 a.m. and you can either join us at the Supreme Court complex or join us through the local radio station in your state as this event will broad cast live. The event will also be video streamed live on the internet. For access you may visit the FSM Supreme Court Website at <http://www.fsmsupremecourt.org/lawday.html>. The live stream link will be only available on the debate date which is July 9, 2015.



President Peter Christian & Speaker Wesley Simina; met with U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's Ron Simpson in Honolulu; on Friday, June 19.

President Christian and Speaker Simina thanked FAA for its \$200M investment in runway safety upgrades in Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, & Yap airports over the past 8-years. The FSM leaders said that they look forward to continuing a long term relationship for further airport advancements.

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**Opinion Editorial**

**More needs to be done**

Dear Editor,

I would like to offer my thoughts on the article "FSM reviews disaster risk management lessons from typhoons" that appeared in your June 9th issue.

I think one of the lessons learned from the recent typhoons is that certain risk prevention actions are needed to be taken before the next typhoon hits us. One of these immediate actions is, the mango trees, the cotton and other big trees with short roots standing right next to or over the family houses and right along all the roadways should be allowed to be chopped down immediately. I think we all have to be sensitized to the urgency of this matter and convince the mango tree owners and all owners of such trees to please forego their

own personal property rights for the life and security of the people and the public, for that matter.

My questions now are: how should we go about doing this to achieve our desired objective? Do we need enabling legislation and at what level of government? Who in the government or the civil society must take the charge?

I'm bringing this up because I did not see the Review Committee's reaction on this specific action, which I strongly believe should be addressed and rectified immediately.

Thank you and have a nice day.

*Leske K. Iehsi*

**China provides funding for solar lighting in Sapuafik**



*Last week the government of the People's Republic of China donated solar lights to the people of Sapuafik. The lights can be used as flashlights or room lighting and have a long running life on one charge. The donation will directly benefit over 100 households in Sapuafik.*



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# High level economic cooperation delegation from China meets with Pohnpei Legislature

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

June 29, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—A high level economic delegation from Beijing, China composed of both government officials and business leaders paid a formal visit to the Pohnpei State Legislature and Acting Governor Marcelo Peterson in Legislative chambers this evening.

According to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the delegation is in Pohnpei to explore ways that the FSM and China can further develop economic cooperation between the two countries.

Senator Aurelio Joab served as Master of Ceremonies for the formal meeting which included remarks by Speaker Fernando

Scaliem and a representative of the Chinese government.

Both governments expressed the desire to work together for strengthened economic cooperation in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, and "related fields".

"It is a blessing and a golden opportunity for Pohnpei State to be an economic partner with China," Speaker Scaliem's message in the program for the event said. That message described China as "a country with the world's second largest economy, largest trader in goods, largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, third largest outbound investor and the largest trading partner with nearly 130 nations. We hope to realize a lasting cooperation and partnership with China, and seek your economic assistance and guidance as we strive to develop our



meager economy now and in the years to come."

The FSM Department of Foreign Affairs and the Pohnpei State Legislature held a reception at Cupid's Bar and Grill later in

the evening. The Chinese delegation is headed by Mr. Ma Hui, Director-General of the International Department of CPC.

# Ground breaking for Sekere Multi-Purpose Gym Project



By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

June 23, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—State and local officials gathered with Japanese Ambassador Masaki Sakai at the Sekere All-Inclusive Elementary School for a ground breaking ceremony for what will be the Sekere Community Multi-Purpose Gym Project funded by the Government of Japan.

"About two years ago, there was a dream, a dream that we envisioned to bring us together and unite us all as one community with the same purpose and goal," said Nixon Ludwig, President of the Sekere Community Youth Association (SCYA). He said that in addition to sports activities the new facility would "shelter education activities, medical activities or missions, and cultural and traditional presentations." Referring to the recent Tropical Storm Dolphin and the damage that it did in the Sekere community, he

said that the new center could also serve as a temporary refuge center during times of natural disaster.

Ludwig said that members of SCYA immediately began to seek funding from government resources. Finding that financial resources were meager in Pohnpei, the group nearly abandoned their dream. But in September of 2014 they met with officials at the Japanese Embassy who, along with the Pohnpei Department of Education, helped them to prepare a grant proposal to the Government of Japan. The grant was ultimately approved and in February of this year the grant documents were signed.

Ambassador Sakai spoke of the friendly relations between the FSM and Japan and reintroduced a Japanese word that has already become part of the FSM lexicon. "Kizuna" refers to the bonds of friendship and certainly applies between

the people of FSM and Japan.

As often happens in Pohnpei and particularly in Sekere, rain fell during the ceremony. Ambassador Sakai spoke of the blessing of rain for crops and other uses but said that there are certain activities that simply can't take place in the rain. He said that the new facility will allow the people of Sekere to participate in sports and other activities even when the weather would not normally allow it.

VCS Construction won the bid for the construction of the facility and owner Jose San Nicolas took part in the ground breaking ceremony. Staff members at VCS say that construction should begin in early July.

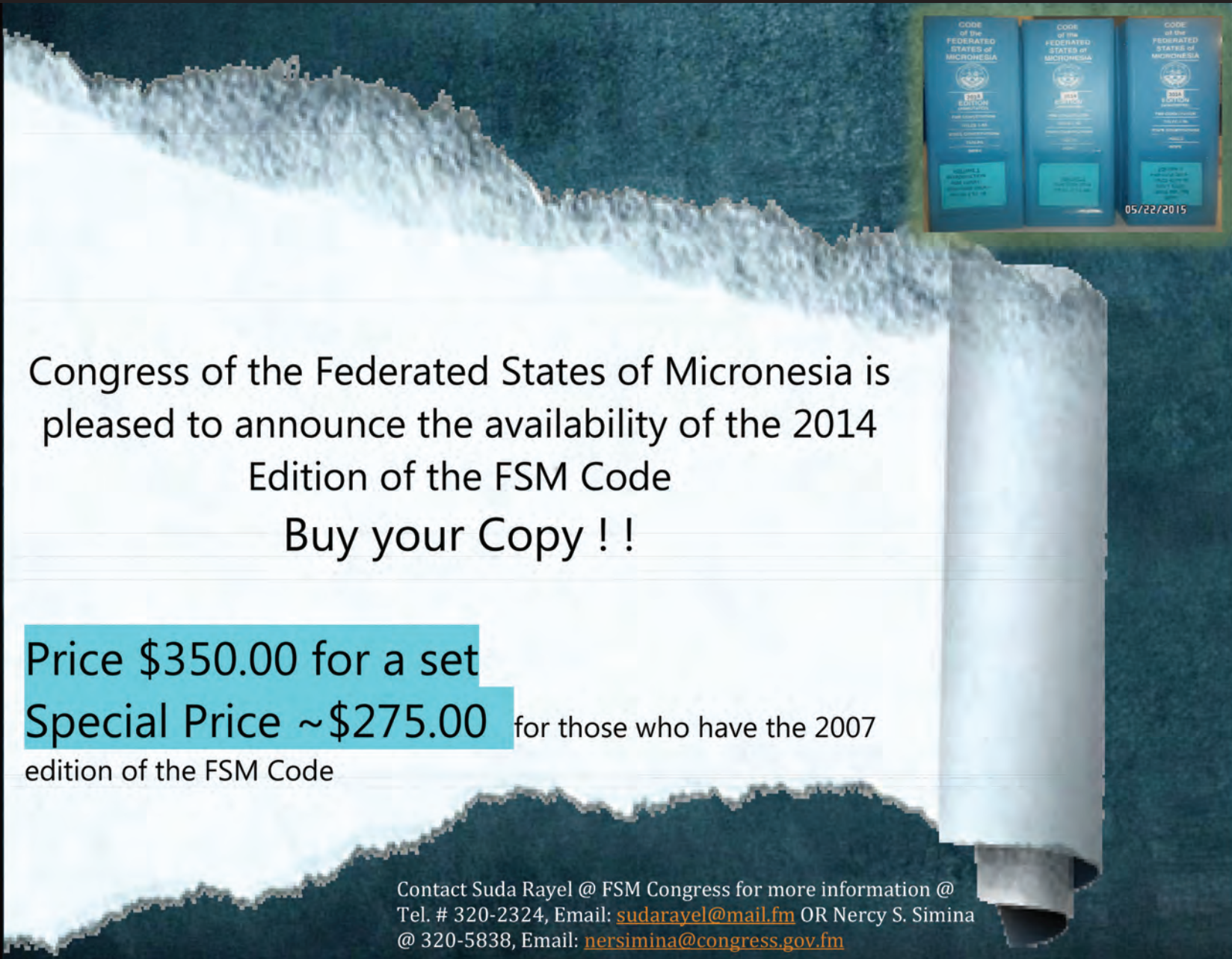
Senator Rensper Liwy, who is also the Lepen Sekere gave the opening remarks. Pastor Peterson Else provided the invocation. Cristina Elnei, Acting



Director of Treasury and Administration spoke on behalf of Acting Governor Peterson, who was unable to attend the ceremony. On behalf of the Sokehs Government, Chief Magistrate Michael Liemen addressed the small crowd. Joseph Villazon spoke as the Director of Pohnpei's Department of Education.

Senior Pastor Lepty Herry blessed the project with a word of prayer before the groundbreaking. 10 officials and members of the SCYA ceremonially turned the first spade of earth symbolizing the start of construction. Afterwards, 10 students and teachers were chosen to do the same.

Pastor Perez Amaraich provided the benediction.



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