

The **KASELEHLIE PRESS**

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PO Box 2222 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone 691-320-6547 Kpress@mail.fm www.kpress.info

FSM Congress sends FSM goodwill ambassadors to France

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press
From materials provided by
Yap Media Services

August 28, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM— As the result of a request by the French Parliament several years ago to the then FSM Congress Speaker, Isaac Figir, for the FSM to send a cultural group to participate in the annual Confolens Festival in France “Team FSM”, a delegation of musicians, dancers, and travel promoters made the lengthy journey where they were heartily received and heralded in the press. Funding support for the trip was made possible by the FSM Congress through appropriation.

The Confolens Festival, always held in the second week of August in the Confolens town of France, brings in 100,000 people from all over France and overseas, who arrived to see up to 500 elaborately dressed dancers from many countries. This year the line-up of countries included Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chypre Du Nord, Costa Rica, France, India, Italy, FSM, Poland, the Dominican Republic and Russia.

The FSM, represented by the Nimar Bamboo dancing group was the only country in the Pacific to have taken part in this year’s Confolens Festival. During the Festival, the Yap Visitors Bureau and Waa’gey also set up a side booth to promote Yap as a tourist destination with emphasis on culture and diving in Yap. There was also a selection of locally made handicrafts for sale at the booth.

A call was put out over a year ago by the organizing committee for dance groups who wished to participate. The Nimar Bamboo



All photos courtesy of Lam Dang



dancing group expressed interest and had practiced ever since that time in preparation to represent the Federated States of Micronesia at the big European event.

The delegation, officially known as Team-FSM was headed by Yap State Governor Honorable Sebastian Anefal, with leadership support from Traditional Chiefs in attendance which includes Chairman Bruno Tharngan, member James Manguon and Mr. Petrus Beyan, Council of Pilung Administrative Officer.

Other members included the Organizing Committee Chairman, former Yap State Governor Vincent Figir and his wife Carol Falagong, with coordination assistance from Sebastian Tamagken, Chief of Media, Francis Reg Chief of Historical Preservation Office, Thomas Tamangmow of Yap Visitors Bureau, Larry Raigetel of Waa’gey and Martina Reichhardt as Public Information officer.

Band members included lead rhythm guitar player Domingo Techur, John Hex Gilmatam on bass guitar, William Yowtamag on electric guitar and Leahlynn Rikin as lead vocal with Sebastian Tamagken doubling up on duties as a drummer for the band in addition to being one of the key organizing committee members.

Dancers included Jolie Gurtmag, Cathryn Gootinngin, Michelle Chutinag, Gloria Falmngar, Raphaela Falmngar, Kristina Yintinan, Janice Yinmed, Brenda Mangarfal, Brandy Yinug, Dexter Falniyan, Jake U. Yinmed, Jake F. Yinmed, Alvin Rubothin, Louis Falmngar, Leo Pugram Jr., Johnny Goomtam, Derek Defan, Helen Tinan, Carmen Rubothin, Genevieve Godgow and Daisy Layan.

FSM Congress Chief Legal Counsel Mr. Lam Dang met the delegation on arrival in Paris, France and served as the delegation’s liaison officer to the

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Some Pohnpeians threaten legal action over personal information posted on world's biggest genealogical resource

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 28, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—A legal brouhaha has been brewing over the posting of family records of Pohnpeians on FamilySearch.org. The postings have upset some Pohnpei residents enough to have sought legal assistance at Micronesian Legal Services Corporation in order to have their records pulled off the website and to seek other possible remedies. No lawsuit has yet been filed but Salomon Saimon did write a "Cease and Desist" letter to the attorney for the Corporation of the Latter-Day Saints and also threatening legal action against the Pohnpei State Supreme Court.

His letter to Attorney Stephen V. Finnen follows in its entirety:

"Mr. Stephen V. Finnen:

"As legal counsel for the Corporation of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, I am writing to provide notice to your client for a claim for invasion of privacy, among other things. The Pohnpei Supreme Court is getting a copy of this claim with Lieutenant Governor Marcelo Peterson, Pohnpei senators and a few offended Pohnpeians, including myself. This claim may extend to Pohnpei Supreme Court if this government entity participated in compromising personal records of Pohnpeians. Pohnpei Attorney General is notified herewith as well for criminal investigations, where necessary.

"Some years back, Pohnpei Supreme Court, somehow, allowed your client to copy vital statistics of Pohnpeians. The public's understanding of that relationship was that the LDS was assisting to bring the computer age to the vital statistical records in Pohnpei. Recently, it has come to the attention of Pohnpeians that their vital

statistics are fully available online for both identity thieves and honest people alike. This is contrary to the intent that your client presented to Pohnpei.

"Your client must cease and desist publishing these records forthwith. You have five days to pull these information from familysearch.org and/or other websites that make these information available for identity thieves. Failure to do so will be met with complaint in the FSM Supreme Court for declaratory relief, torts and injunctive relief. Pohnpei Supreme Court is on notice for civil rights violations.

"Salomon Saimon, Esq.
Directing Attorney
Law Offices of Micronesian Legal Services Corporation"

Saimon's first email that included The Kaselehlie Press as a recipient went out to a few recipients that we could see. His email asking if other Pohnpeians would like to be included in a potential law suit went out to dozens more.

On the 27th of August, Saimon wrote a message to "stakeholders" to update them on the progress of his actions. It said that as of August 22, the digitized images of court records were available only to "members" of the website after they logged on. It also said that he had told LDS legal counsel that "even that was not enough. It must be completely disabled and available ONLY to Pohnpei Supreme Court and other parties that Legislature will designate with these personal data of Pohnpeians."

The email claimed that representatives from the legal department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints would be traveling to Pohnpei to meet with him about his demands on behalf of his clients. He said that he told them that he would need to bring policy makers to any such meeting.

"The claims are not limited to privacy because if discovery shows that (identity) thieves have in fact used personal information of Pohnpeians then the measure of damages are much higher and more complex at that point," his letter to the stakeholders said.

"Once again, familysearch.org has thousands of information but only Pohnpei showed birth records," his letter claimed. "This is the invasion of privacy, violation of information that is meant to be privately kept by Pohnpei Supreme Court. Also, familysearch.org only display genealogical information but not birth (death) records of deceased persons. Again, only Pohnpei was being displayed publicly until we demanded them to cease and desist. As of the writing of this email, familysearch.org is not displaying birth (digitized) records any longer but are only available to "members."

The claims about what records have been digitized by FamilySearch are dubious. It would take only one previously posted digitized birth or death record to disprove the claim and The Kaselehlie Press quickly found several when we looked at the site.

Attorney Salomon Saimon did not respond to our emails or to our phone calls for clarification of the issues.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints issued an official statement late this evening in response to our questions. Its content also follows in its entirety:

"FamilySearch, historically known as the Genealogical Society of Utah, founded in 1894, is a non-profit family history organization dedicated to helping people connect with their ancestors through easy access to historical records. FamilySearch is the largest genealogical organization in the world, with millions of people using

FamilySearch records, resources and services each year to learn more about their family history at no cost, providing online access and approximately 4,745 FamilySearch Centers worldwide. To that end, FamilySearch has pioneered industry standards for gathering, imaging, indexing and preserving records. The following services are regularly offered without charge to record custodians all over the world:

- Obtaining a preservation quality image, often using one of FamilySearch's own worldwide camera teams;
- Digitizing images and providing digital image storage;
- Preserving copies of microfilm, microfiche and digital records, with such records from over 100 countries and spanning hundreds of years being safely stored in the Granite Mountains Records Vault—a long-term storage facility designed for preservation;
- Creating online, searchable indexes that patrons around the world can access; and
- Creating online access to indexes and records on FamilySearch.org.

"FamilySearch has assisted the Pohnpei State Government Court of Land Tenure Judiciary, the Pohnpei Supreme Court and the Pohnpei Department of Health Services with the digitization and preservation of public records under their care. FamilySearch recently received a letter from a Pohnpeian resident raising concerns about the privacy of the records which were digitized with the approval of these government agencies. FamilySearch is carefully reviewing these concerns and will address the concerns as appropriate. FamilySearch requests that all inquiries in this matter be directed to Bill Davis, Guam Service Center Manager, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

The
Kaselehlie Press

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P.O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941
ph: (691) 320-6547
email: Kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Akoyikoyi School in Chuuk, FSM receives RACHEL Server for offline educational content

Last week, the PISCES (Pacific Islands Schools, Connectivity, Education, and Solar) Team visited the Akoyikoyi School, located in Penia Village, on Weno Island, in Chuuk State, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This is a unique primary school, presently comprising grades 1-3, and operating like a charter school yet charging no fees, while focusing on community involvement to ensure long-term student success.

We met with the Akoyikoyi Team of teacher-volunteers, principal, and director (Clark Graham). We spoke about the PISCES Team's progress to-date and future work in developing an off-line repository for educational material to be made available to all of Chuuk's schools.

Among other things, we demonstrated the RACHEL educational content server to the Akoyikoyi Team. The RACHEL server is an ultra-compact, ultra-low power computer (on a Raspberry Pi) preloaded with free educational content (RACHEL, from World Possible). There seemed to be a great fit for a RACHEL server at the Akoyikoyi School, as they have both electricity and technological devices (tablets) for the students to use, but no Internet connectivity (which can otherwise severely limit the usefulness of devices such as tablets). RACHEL provides an offline repository of educational content, but does still require electricity and devices to be useful.

A few days after our initial visit, we brought a RACHEL to the Akoyikoyi School for them to keep, explore the content and how to use it, and discover what they'd like to add to the content.

This is only the first stage of what we believe will become a fruitful partnership moving forward. Not only do we hope to be able to provide the Akoyikoyi School with a greater number of more powerful devices, so that all of their students can make use of this digital technology and content, but we also look forward to their input to our team on digital content that will be valuable and primary-level appropriate, which we can add to the off-line repository for all schools in Chuuk to be able to access in the future.

We understand that an ethnomusicologist is coming to visit the Akoyikoyi School in the near future, and it would be fantastic to be able to add some Chuukese music to the digital library!



Pictured above is Hiro, from the iSolutions Micronesia and PISCES Team, handing the Rachel Pi over to Grace, one of Akoyikoyi's teachers.

Interior Assistant Secretary and Federal Officials meet with Freely Associated States citizens in Honolulu

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas

HONOLULU, HI – Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina met today with key representatives of the Micronesian, Marshallese and Palauan communities, joined by their Ambassadors and Consuls General, to get a better understanding of their experiences and to discuss unique challenges they may be facing while living in the United States. Under federal law, citizens of these three Pacific Island nations may travel freely to the U.S. for work and school without regard for visas, and since the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association beginning in the 1980s, an estimated 15,000 freely associated states (FAS) migrants now live in Hawaii.

"I am here with our federal partners to meet the FAS community, to gain a better appreciation for the FAS experience here in Hawaii and to see where existing federal programs and policies may be leveraged to help FAS communities navigate their way more successfully as members of the Hawaiian community," said Ms. Kia'aina. "Today, we had some thoughtful discussions about obstacles and challenges while also recognizing that in the current environment of shrinking federal dollars, we must be resourceful and creative to make a difference. It is equally important that the Office of Insular Affairs also works closely with Hawaii's federal and state officials, as well as officials from the freely associated states, to identify collaborative efforts that could help our FAS communities," added Kia'aina. Given the importance of Compact Impact issues in affected jurisdictions, it is the desire of the Assistant Secretary to replicate such outreach efforts during future visits to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Assistant Secretary Kia'aina was joined by key federal officials from the Departments of Justice, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development and Homeland Security who are familiar with the FAS communities.

While in Honolulu, the Assistant Secretary intends to meet with key State government officials who handle homelessness, education, health, and fisheries issues as related to Compact migrants. She will also be attending bi-lateral meetings with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia as part of the financial provisions of the Compact agreements with these nations.

...Goodwill

Continued from front page

French while on the ground there.

Yap's media services provided a nearly blow by blow description of the Team FSM's activities in France that spanned nearly 10,000 words before the trip was completed. The folksy, newsy type

press releases read like a diary journal complete with weather descriptions and flight conditions and made this reporter jealous that he was not part of the lengthy journey. They were all fun reads that made it feel almost as if I had been there.

Unfortunately, the news content is not on Yap's website. Subscribers to Yap's news service received the press releases by email but they are currently not available on the Internet. We have sought permission to republish those articles on our website (www.kpress.info) and on our Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/kpressFSM) and will do so if we receive that permission.



Team FSM, one of ten countries to participate in Haguenau's Festival Du Houblon

Aug. 21, 2014

HAGUENAU, France — Team FSM was one of ten countries to take part in the opening day festivities of the Festival du Houblon in Haguenau, another small rural town in France.

On Tuesday—the first day in Haguenau—the dancers were escorted to the center of town for group photos with the Festival photographers. The photo shoot was the first glimpse of the dance group in traditional attire by townsfolk, attracting many curious onlookers stopping to admire the costumes and take pictures of the dancers.

Following the photo shoot, the dancers then made their way across to the Opening Ceremony at the Forum area in town where a makeshift stage was set up with stands for the audience to sit on. All the country groups were asked to parade their country flags with dancers in tow to do a short one minute performance to give the audience a taste of what dances are to come in the days ahead. Dexter Falniyan and Janice Yinmed had the honor of parading the FSM flag on stage leading the dancers. There were about 1,000 people at the Opening Ceremony sitting in the stands and standing around the outdoor stage. The Festival was opened by the Festival President, Norbert Schmitt.

The ten countries participating in the Festival du Houblon over the six days are Alsace, Provence, Vietnam, Brazil, FSM, Hungary, Bhoutan, Costa Rica, Morocco and China.

On Wednesday—the second day in Haguenau—Team FSM got together mid-morning to sing happy birthday to two of the group members who celebrated their birthday on August 20—Genevieve Godgow and Brenda Mangarfal (including Congressman Isaac Figir, who was not with the delegation in France but has been in close contact with the troupe since the beginning of the trip).

By lunchtime the Team took the bus to the mess where they ate lunch, then walked to a nearby school for two workshops at 2:00 PM with two groups of students ranging from 7 to 13 years old. The band members in one workshop played their guitar and sang Yapese songs to the kids, and in return the kids were given the guitar to play and sing songs they knew. The other workshop was in a hall with the dancers who did a short demonstration to a group of 20 kids who tried the bamboo stick dance. Both sessions lasted about an hour before the dancers put on a full dance performance for the school's lower grades.

Then in the afternoon around 5:30 PM, the dancers performed in the Forum area in the center of town to a packed stadium of about 1,000 people. The beginning of this performance was somewhat interrupted as the full dance group could not start on time as some of the dancers had difficulty finding changing places being in a public square. The place behind the stage where they were to change had the previous dance group still occupying the change space so not all the dancers could change in time. But Team FSM were able to get half the group on to start the dance on time according to schedule, and then when the first break in the dance took place the remainder of the dancers streamed seamlessly on the dance floor making the late entrance seem like part of the choreography.

Then again at 9:30 PM the dancers took to the outdoor stage again for the final dance of the day before joining all the other country groups in a parade with Chinese lanterns throughout the town square and back to the center stage again.

Seven minutes to showcase FSM via Nimar bamboo dance to 3,000 audience

Aug. 13, 2014

CONFOLENS, France — Confolens Festival opening night was truly a grand event with much color, light, music, dance and dazzle in the air that captivated the hearts of the 3,000 strong audience that packed the main stadium full Wednesday night.

It was also the moment of truth for Team FSM, to showcase the FSM and Yap to the world. With flashing lights and cameras of the audience and media alike, the Nimar Bamboo Dance group had just seven minutes to deliver the performance of their lives. And they did it with flying colors.

Placed fourth in the lineup of the opening night's program, the dancers filed in onstage in beautiful formation to take their places and give the people of France and visitors a taste of the dance culture of one State in the FSM, Yap. A look around at the faces of the 3,000 strong audience showed that it was obvious people who had paid money to come witness this grand event were not sure what to expect. During the seven minutes, there were expressions of sheer surprise and shock, intrigue and mystery, fascination and awe with lots of camera lights flashing and side comments, whispers, giggles and nodding of heads as the audience got their first ever glimpse of the Federated States of Micronesia in action through the State of Yap and the village of Nimar, Weloy Municipality.

The gala event started off at exactly 9:00 PM as scheduled with a packed stadium. First up, there was a welcome and opening speech followed by an introduction on the history of the origin of the annual Confolens Festival in France.

Then the stage filled with smoke as a lone female dancer took center stage and danced to various flashing colored lights which added to the excitement. Then one by one, each country was paraded on stage in pairs, a male and a female. Representing FSM in this first walk on stage was Leo Pugram Jr. and Jollie Gurtamag.

After all 12 countries paraded the stage and took their final standing place, the official Confolens Festival Flag was raised center stage in the midst of much applaud in recognition of the unity in diversity through promotion of culture and peace for all mankind. Each country came out with all their dancers holding blue glow in the dark lights that became a sea of blue as they waved their lights in unison along with a white cloth representing peace to officially declare the 2014 57th Confolens Festival open.

The order of performances was as follows: first up, the Dominican Republic followed by Italy, Bolivia, FSM, Pays Basque, Tartarstan, France, India, Poland, Burkina Faso, Cyprus and Costa Rica.

Once all 12 country groups finished their performances, all the groups were brought on stage with much fanfare, music and dance to bid farewell and good night to the crowd; then, one by one they filed off the stage into the aisles amongst the audience to streaming confetti and much applause and whistling and flashing camera lights. The whole floor of the indoor stadium shook as the dancers jumped and waved in joy following great performances by all for the Festival opening night.

The group made it back to their dormitory around 11:00 PM, tired and ready to rest when the fire alarm went off at midnight causing all the country groups to come out of their rooms and enquire as to the source of the alarm being set off. After about ten minutes of ringing, the alarm was turned off allowing all the people to go back to their rooms and resume their sleep.

The Team FSM is now represented by 31 individuals from Yap State comprising State leaders and officials, Nimar bamboo dancers, local band members, Division of Media, Yap Historical Preservation Office, Yap Visitors Bureau and Yap NGO Waa'gey, who will be promoting FSM and Yap as a tourist destination with emphasis on traditional culture.

The delegation's travel to Confolens and Hagenau, France is the result of a request by the French Parliament several years ago to the then FSM Congress Speaker, Isaac Figir, and is funded by the FSM Congress through appropriation.

Nauru Agreement best fisheries boat floating

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 19, 2014

Suva, Fiji—The assent of only two more Parties to the Nauru Agreement is all that stands in the way of including the thousands of long line vessels that fish the Western and Central Pacific Waters in PNA Vessel Day Scheme. According to Dr. Transform Aqorau, CEO of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, The Solomon Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia have already agreed to the plan.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement is not a very descriptive term. Simply put, PNA is a group of eight nations in the Western and Central Pacific who 34 years ago signed an agreement in Nauru to take control of their own waters to bring back a better benefit to their own residents. Aqorau said that it took 10 years just to begin to put the pieces together and come to grips with what the agreement would mean, and that until recently fishing arrangements always worked for fishing nations and not for the commodity holders.

The eight member nations are the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. Unlike the much larger organization, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission which includes 28 nations and essentially requires 100 percent assent on its decisions, the PNA requires only a simple majority. If five of the eight member nations agree on a plan for management of the PNA waters it's done.

PNA works for the economic advantage of PNA nations

At its core, the PNA is a group of nations working for the economic advantage of the citizens of the most prosperous fishing waters in the world. It is not a conservation group though it certainly has made powerful conservation decisions for its waters such as the effective closure of the high seas pockets to purse seiners.

High seas pockets are the areas outside of the EEZ's (Exclusive Economic Zone) of any nation and therefore outside of any nation's control. A nation's EEZ is the water 200 miles out from its coast. Kiribati, which this year has the best fishing grounds has the largest EEZ in the Western and Central Pacific. FSM has the second largest.

PNA effectively closed the high seas pockets by mandating that if purse seiners fish in the high seas pockets they will not be issued licenses in any of the eight most productive fishing waters in the world. It was a bold move and it worked.

Last year, Western and Central Pacific waters supplied over 2/3 of the world's tuna stock, Adam Baske, Manager of Global Tuna Conservation for Pew Charitable Trusts told a group of senior journalists during a Pew sponsored seminar in Suva, Fiji last week.

PNA controls the vast majority of Western and Central Pacific fishing waters. PNA's

conservation efforts are all about sustainability for its most valuable resource—migratory fish. The trick is to manage the harvest of the world's last great wild food resource in a way that is sustainable.

Future be damned?

Fishing companies also have a vested interest in sustainable fish stocks. Though there are in fact some fishing companies and even fishing nations that seem hell bent on taking all they can right now and the future be damned, some journalists at last week's Pew sponsored media event in Suva were surprised to hear the opinion of one of the world's largest fishing companies. "We're not against conservation. If tuna becomes overharvested we don't have a living tomorrow. We're deeply interested in the sustainability issue," said Phil Roberts, Trimarine's Managing Director for the Pacific Region.

PNA is working primarily to keep the value of its resources high by limiting the number of days that are available for fishing its waters. It's a tricky balancing act based on supply and demand. If demand for a commodity is higher than supply, consumers are willing to pay more for the commodity. If the prices are prohibitively high demand goes down.

Equal enforcement necessary

PNA policies have to be enforced equally amongst the member nations including the concept of "non-fishing days". A non-fishing day is a day for which a fishing vessel is not charged a fishing day because it was not fishing for a variety of reasons such as repairs, net repairs, transiting, bad weather and a few other reasons. The nation's representatives further refined the definition of non-fishing days during PNA's recent meeting in Majuro. Further, previously a nation could charge a fishing company a fraction of a fishing day depending on how long that vessel fished before they were forced to stop on a day that they fished. Now, if they fished for five minutes on a new day before stopping for whatever reason, it is a fishing day and they are charged for the full day. The definition is getting tighter and tighter with the end goal of eliminating the concept of non-fishing days altogether.

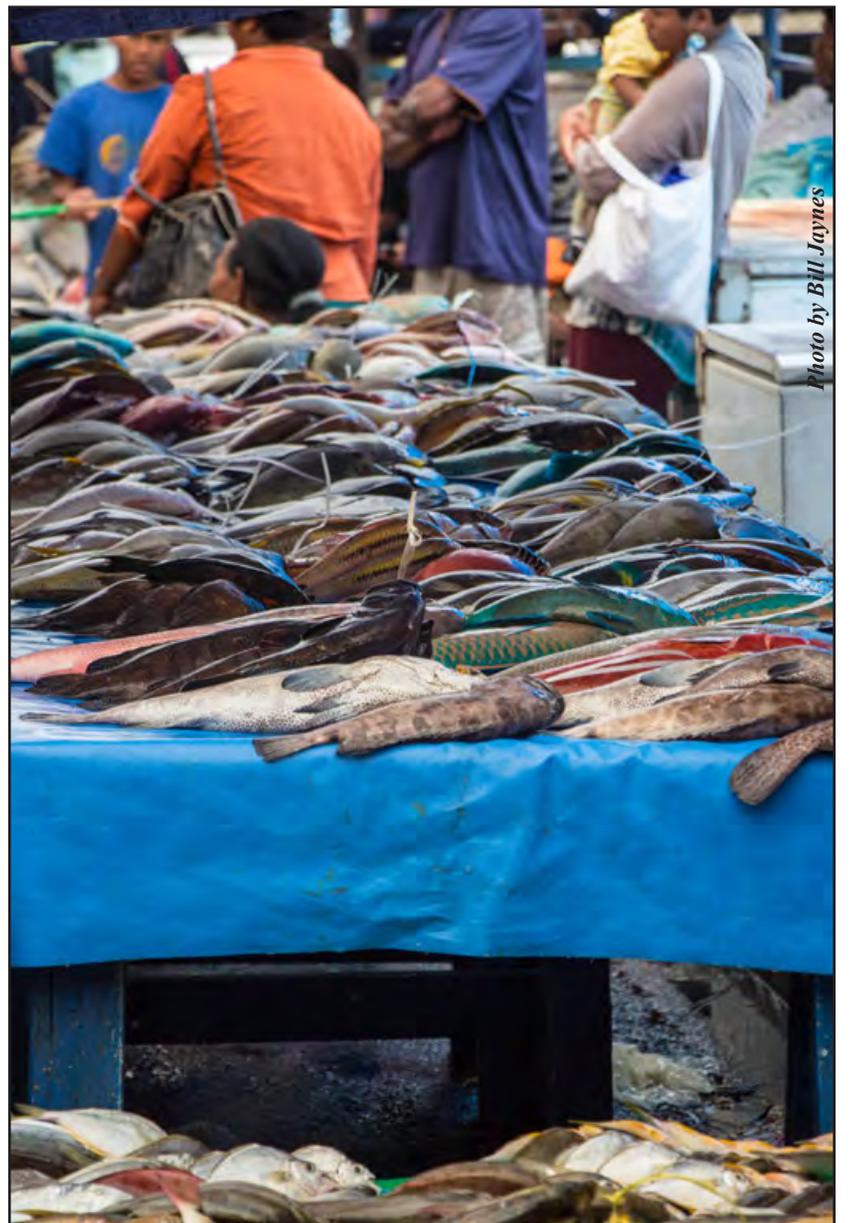
Each vessel is closely watched both by an electronic vessel monitoring system and by the fisheries observers that each vessel is required to bring aboard when fishing in the Western and Central Pacific.

To keep value high and to conserve fish stocks, PNA nations agreed on the number of fishing days it would make available based on previous year's fishing efforts. Each year it divides the days up amongst member nations. Currently PNA member nations have agreed to charge \$6,000 for each fishing day they have for sale. That's a benchmark figure and the number can go higher. It can go much higher for days traded between nations, as high as \$13,000. Next year PNA has set the minimum price for fishing days at \$8,000.

Fishing revenue at record highs

PNA is obviously having an effect on fisheries revenue that is being returned to its member nations. In 2010 the eight member nations collected \$60 million dollars from the Vessel Day Scheme when the value of the fishery was at about \$2 billion. In 2013 PNA members collected \$231 million when the value of the fishery was at just over \$6 billion.

Of course, each individual nation wants as much as it can get and deserves the highest value from its EEZ. Last year the FSM brought in over \$30 million in fishing revenues under the Vessel Day Scheme, the single largest non-



Suva fish market

Compact source of revenue for the nation. Senator David Panuelo, Chairman of FSM Congress's Resources and Development Standing Committee called the FSM's National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (NORMA) to an oversight hearing claiming that 920 of FSM's fishing days had gone unsold in 2013 because of fishing days that went unsold. NORMA argued that non-fishing days are not a salable commodity. So far the committee has not issued a report on that oversight hearing but it was clear that the Chairman was not convinced that NORMA had received the maximum value from the FSM's EEZ in 2013.

Imperfect but best boat floating

Presenters at last week's media conference agreed that for a variety of reasons the initial establishment of the number of fishing days was fundamentally flawed, the divvying up of days is fraught with political peril, and the definition of non-fishing days and other regulations can be contentious.

"The best compromise is one in which everyone walks away from the meeting equally unhappy," Dr. Aqorau quipped.

Still, in terms of financial returns for Pacific Islanders for fish caught in their sovereign waters in what was last year a \$6 billion industry in the Western and Central Pacific, the PNA's Vessel Day Scheme is arguably the best boat floating for economic returns to islanders. Previously the scheme has applied only to the 290 purse seiners that fish the world's most lucrative fishing waters. PNA now has its sights set on including the thousands of long line fishing vessels that ply PNA waters in the scheme.

"There are thousands of boats and it is a more complicated fishery than purse seiners," he said. Further, the long line fleets of several Asian countries fish exclusively on the high seas.

He opined that because bigeye tuna is currently being overfished by long liners, particularly by long liners fishing on the high seas, and the effort continues despite that fact, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission will simply have to do something about high seas regulations at its next meeting.

He noted that it took nearly 10 years to get the Vessel Management Scheme to its current state and that if PNA decides to implement the program for long liners it will probably take five to 10 years to fully implement. If it is it would change the dynamic of the long line industry by bringing it under the management control of Pacific Island nations.

Durable Partnerships for the Pacific -The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Pacific Islands Forum Update

Around 3,000 delegates from around the world, including representatives from all Forum member countries, will meet in Samoa next week to discuss global efforts to address the unique challenges faced by small island developing states.

"This international meeting in Samoa, which builds on the outcomes of the Rio+20 Summit and the 5 year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held in 2012 and 2010, respectively, will be an important opportunity to assess global efforts to contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS," said Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. "These discussions are particularly important for the countries in the Pacific region, many of which are reliant on long-term partnerships to address their unique vulnerabilities and development challenges."

"The Pacific region is well placed to contribute to this Conference and show case examples of practical and sustainable partnerships. We are also ready to implement the outcomes of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway document at the regional level through implementing the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, which was endorsed by Pacific Leaders' at their meeting in Palau earlier this month," explained the Secretary General. "It is important that we use existing regional arrangements in the Pacific, rather than building parallel systems, to support Pacific countries in implementing the outcomes of this Conference."

"I am pleased that Pacific island countries and their partners in the region, supported by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, will be able to show case their work under the Forum Compact to strengthen development effectiveness. This innovative partnership demonstrates the importance of political leadership, effective institutions and mutual accountability to drive better use of local and external resources to improve the lives of Pacific people," explained the Secretary General.

"A second side event will focus on the Pacific ocean, which is our home and central to achieving sustainable development in this region. It will launch the Pacific Oceans Alliance, an important open-ended partnership to coordinate high-level political leadership, and

improve coordination and coherence of policy between multiple key players with a stake in the sustainable development, management and conservation of the Ocean."

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be held in Apia, Samoa from 1-4 September. The Forum Secretariat will host the side event – Forum Compact: achieving sustainable development through effective institutions and mutually accountable partnerships in the Pacific and co-host a second side event Our Sea of Islands, Our Livelihoods, Our Oceania – The Pacific Ocean Alliance.

The Forum Compact side event will be held on Tuesday 2 September from 1:00-2:30pm at the Conference Centre, Room CR3.

Panelists include: HE Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa; the Hon Peter O'Neill, the Prime Minister of PNG; HE Anote Tong, President of Kiribati; Senator Mason, the Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ms Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator; Mr Erik Solheim, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee; Mr Stephen Groff, Vice President Asian Development Bank; and Mr Craig Hawke, NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It will be moderated by Ms Veronica Pedrosa, broadcast journalist for Al Jazeera network.

The Pacific Ocean Alliance side event will be held on Monday 1 September from 1:00-2:30pm at the Conference Centre, Room CR3.

In addition to a performance from dancers from the Oceanic Centre at the University of the South Pacific, panelists include: HE Tommy Remengesau Jr, President of Palau and current Forum Chair; HE Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of PNG; HE Enele Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu; Ms Rachel Kyte, Vice President and Special Envoy, Climate Change Group, World Bank; Mr Miguel de Serpa Soares, UN Under Secretary General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel; Dr Greg Stone, Senior Vice President and Chief Ocean Scientist, Conservation International; Dr Ulrike Guerin, Secretary of the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, UNESCO; Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, deputy Director of SPREP; Mr Ilisoni Vuidreketi, CEO of the South Pacific Tourism Organisation; Mr Moses Amos, Director of the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems of the SPC; and Mr Etika Rupeni, Technical Adviser, Locally-Managed Marine Area Network.

Bank of Guam announces 8th annual christmas card contest For Elementary and Middle School Students, Deadline October 3, 2014

Bank of Guam

August 12, 2014

Hagatna, Guam - The Bank of Guam is now accepting entries for its 8th Annual Christmas Card Contest, which is open to all elementary and middle school students throughout Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"My Favorite Island Christmas Tradition" is this year's theme, and the winner will be featured on the

cover of the Bank's Christmas Card which is annually sent to businesses and individuals. The medium is a 4"x 6" card entry using watercolors, pastel crayons, colored pencils or acrylic paints only.

Prizes are as follows:

First Place: \$250.00

Second Place: \$175.00

Third Place: \$100.00

Gift baskets of school supplies will also be included with the cash prizes.

Contest rules and applications are available at all Elementary and Middle Schools, at any Bank of Guam branches and its website, www.bankofguam.com.



AUSTRALIA IN MICRONESIA



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Pohnpei Port Authority

P.O Box 1150
Dekehtik, Pohnpei
Federated States Of Micronesia
FM 96941
Phone: (691) 320-2793
FAX (691) 320-2798

The Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting proposals from Businesses or individuals interested in leasing PPA Restaurant (B) at the terminal located at Dekehtik Airport Terminal.

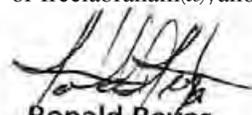
Size of the concession is stated below.

Restaurant slot No: {B} dimension size is 59.6' X 18.5' or a total of 1,102.6 square feet.

Proposals will be accepted from September 01, 2014 September 15, 2014 no later than 5:00 pm

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in connection with this proposal request.

Additional information regarding this request proposal can be obtained from the office of the General Manager or the Marketing Division of Pohnpei Port Authority, Dekehtik, Pohnpei State, Telephone No: 320-2793 or 320-2682, Email: netse@mail.fm or freelabraham@yahoo.com


Ronald Reyes
Acting General Manager
Pohnpei Port Authority

Mexican Ambassador Camarena-Villasenor presents credentials to President Mori

FSM Information Services

August 26, 2014

On August 25, 2014, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) President Manny Mori received Mr. Julio Camarena-Villasenor who presented his Letters of Credence from President Enrique Pena Nieto accrediting him as Ambassador of the United Mexican States to the FSM.

President Mori welcomed Ambassador Camarena-Villasenor to the FSM and expressed his appreciation for the shared interest in keeping a strong relationship between the FSM and the Mexican States.

Ambassador Camarena-Villasenor thanked President Mori for accepting

him and expressed his country's readiness to connect FSM and Mexico together in diverse ways that will further solidify diplomatic ties between the two nations.

Among an array of interests discussed, the Ambassador highlighted Mexico's willingness to waive visa requirements for FSM citizens traveling to Mexico as a way of deepening interactions. President Mori welcomed this prospect and said the FSM should reciprocate this offer.

The two officials also touched upon Mexico's experience of economic success with the Ambassador sharing insights on his country's interest in boosting air transportation services to the Asian region through Micronesia to maintain strengths in its tourism sector.

President Mori pointed out that air transportation has been an outstanding challenge for his country, which can catalyze economic growth once resolved. In this connection, he encouraged collaboration to make this interest an eventual reality with benefits for both partners.

Ambassador Camarena-Villasenor also spoke of education opportunities for FSM college students, which will require the knowledge of Spanish language. He also offered as an option training of FSM young professionals in foreign services as well as training opportunities in agriculture and tourism trades.

In concluding the ceremony, President Mori asked the Ambassador to convey

his regards to President Enrique Pena Nieto and said the FSM will continue to collaborate with Mexico in the international arena. He also stressed his desire for Mexico to partner strongly with the FSM in climate change matters as the most critical and urgent challenge of modern times.

The Ambassador had served as the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs for Management, Budget and Legal Affairs. He had been a professor in Political Science and International Law at the International University of Mexico. Aside from speaking Spanish and English, the Ambassador also speaks French and Italian. The new appointed Ambassador replaced Tomas Javier Calvillo Unna who served the FSM since January 2012.

Scientists: Pacific Bigeye Tuna population in steep decline

New data also detail record catch of Skipjack

PEW Charitable Trusts

Scientists have released new assessments of tuna populations in the western and central Pacific Ocean, and the results include several troubling developments for the world's largest tuna fishing grounds.

According to figures released by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Scientific Committee in late July, the total tuna catch in 2013 was estimated at over 2.6 million metric tons. Furthermore, the numbers of some tuna species left to reproduce are dwindling, dropping to dangerously low levels in some cases.

The region's most recent assessment of bigeye tuna confirms that less than 20 percent of the population remains.

That's a significant development, because fishing nations have agreed that a population size this low "represents an unacceptable risk" to the stock, scientist John Hampton, who leads the program that conducted the assessments, was quoted as telling the Pacific News Center. And while the longline catch of bigeye dropped to its lowest rate since 1996, the purse seine catch increased to its highest rate.

"The continued decline of the bigeye population is a clear sign that the region's current conservation management measures are just not working," said Amanda Nickson, director of global tuna conservation for The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Purse seine vessels use fish aggregating devices (FADs) to attract and ultimately

catch skipjack tuna with their large nets, but the use of floating objects also lures juvenile bigeye tuna. Countries that are members of the WCPFC have agreed to a seasonal closure of the FAD fishery to reduce the catch of juvenile bigeye, but scientists have warned for several years that this measure would not bring the population back to healthy levels.

"The latest science eliminates any doubt as to the urgent need for fishing nations to reduce levels of FAD fishing," Nickson said. "It is vital that commission member countries agree to a rebuilding plan for bigeye tuna, one that is based in science with a high probability of success."

In April, scientists reported that the Pacific bluefin tuna population was just 4 percent of its un-fished size, and the unsustainably high catch of juveniles—the smallest fish—threatens the species' continued existence.

Populations of yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the western and central Pacific are at acceptable levels, according to scientists, but there is concern that catches should not be allowed to increase. It's particularly troubling that large vessels continue to enter the fishery.

According to a document presented during the meeting of the Scientific Committee in August, the number of purse seine vessels chasing tropical tuna in 2013 reached an all-time high (297 vessels), and overall fishing effort was also at its highest.

The report of the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting will be used to inform management decisions when commission members meet in December in Apia, Samoa.

Sophia University and other Japanese officials call on President Mori

FSM Information Services

August 25, 2014

On August 21, 2014, a five-member delegation from Japan, consisting of officials from Sophia University as well as distinguished members of the Japanese Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) visited the Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori in Palikir.

President Mori welcomed the delegation and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet with them and discuss matters of mutual interest and benefit in the education sector.

President Mori acknowledged Japan's increasing investment in the FSM with potential impacts in stimulating the economy and welcomed the new collaboration in the education sector. The President also spoke of his interest to visit Sophia University in response to its invitation for the President to speak at the University and to receive an honorary doctorate degree during his trip to Japan later in November.

Mr. Takashi Hayashita, President of Sophia University, thanked President Mori for receiving the delegation and his support for the university's initiative to establish a new collaborative relationship with the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM). He then confirmed the university's plan to confer an honorary doctorate degree on President Mori in recognition of his strong leadership in deepening further the bilateral relations between Japan and the FSM.

Mr. Hiroshi Yamamoto, President of Sophia University Junior College (SUJC) followed suit in speaking about the college's goal in establishing a new

friendship with COM-FSM. He said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SUJC and COM-FSM is being drafted for signature by the institutions, which will allow students from SUJC to take an English language course at COM-FSM and learn from the rich cultures and history of Micronesia.

Sophia University has already started a new scholarship program for Xavier High School graduates through which a graduate each year will be selected on merit to study at Sophia University. A student has been selected for school year 2014-2015.

Wrapping up the meeting, President Mori recognized the important contribution that the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) has made regarding the establishment of the new scholarship for Xavier High School and the new initiative between Sophia and the COM-FSM. He thanked former Japanese Ambassador to FSM Shoji Sato who is a new member of APIC for his strong support for these new initiatives.

Besides Ambassador Sato, the visiting group included Mr. Takashi Hayashita, President of Sophia University and also professor of Science and Technology, Mr. Hiroshi Yamamoto, President of Sophia University Junior College, Mr. Megumi Araki, Director of APIC, and Mr. Yoshihiko Miwa, Director of the Office of General Affairs.

The Micronesian Registration Advisors, Inc. (MRA) played a key role in arranging the visit and meetings with government and College officials for the group. In this connection, former FSM Ambassador to Japan Kasio Mida, senior MRA executive in Pohnpei, was also present at the meeting with President Mori.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION



Cecilia Charfauros Reyes Pangelinan
November 22, 1936 - July 22, 2014

Psalms 28:7 The lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in a song.

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Del Pangelinan and Family

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NCD prevention should focus on young people

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Thursday 28 August 2014, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Apia, Samoa –

The Youth Forum preceding the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Apia, Samoa, began today. Around 260 young people from the Pacific, Caribbean and AIMS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea) regions have gathered to discuss the priorities that they will take forward into the coming week of meetings and events at the SIDS Conference.

Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), met with Youth Forum delegates to discuss the issues of health and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), social development, youth and disability. Of these, Dr Tukuitonga emphasised the challenge of NCDs for the Pacific region: ‘We have more obese children than ever before. Overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and are more likely to develop NCDs like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at a younger age.’

The Pacific has outpaced the world in mortality from NCDs. In the Pacific, 75%

of all deaths annually are due to NCDs and as much as 60% of the health care budgets in some Pacific Island countries and territories are going towards expensive, overseas care. And because NCDs often result in premature death (before age 60), they contribute to poverty and lower workforce productivity, which in turn affects national development.

To address NCDs, Dr Tukuitonga said the focus must be on prevention, particularly in supporting healthy lifestyles for children and youth. He highlighted the regional coordinated effort – the Pacific Partnership for a Multi-sector Approach to Prevent and Control NCDs – to strengthen the capacity and expertise to support response efforts in Pacific countries. He said expanding the response to increase the focus on prevention means addressing the risk factors that are often present in childhood, adolescence and youth and he urged the young audience to avoid sugary carbonated drinks and to work together to address smoking among their peers.

Dr Tukuitonga said, ‘Addressing NCDs and focusing on the youth population will result in a healthier, more productive society, which will in turn contribute opportunities for economic growth. With half the region’s population being under 25 years, this is imperative.’

Island states propose maritime border extension

PACNEWS

28 August 2014

New York, (Post Courier) - Papua New Guinea will soon extend its international maritime boundaries in the deep Pacific Ocean seabed between the Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands.

This follows the presentation of a single joint submission by senior government officials from PNG, FSM and Solomon Islands on Monday to the United Nations Sub-Commission on the limits of the continental shelf for deliberations and subsequent approval in the near future.

The joint submission covers the extended continental shelf in the Ontong Java Plateau (OJP) region between the three Pacific island states.

PNG’s Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations, Robert Aisi delivered an address covering specific legal and imperative issues of the claim for the extended continental shelf in the OJP region, while his Solomon Islands counterpart, Collin Beck made the opening statement with FSM Ambassador, Jane Chigiya concluding the joint submission.

Aisi highlighted that in preparing the joint submission, the three countries had applied the relevant provisions of “Article 76” together with the ancillary scientific and technical guidelines, and the rules of procedure of

the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf respectively.

Article 76 of the Convention defines the continental shelf as comprising the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extended beyond the territorial sea of the coastal State throughout the natural prolongation of the land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, up to the limits specifically provided for in the Article.

In terms of demonstrating natural prolongation, Ambassador Aisi emphasised to the Sub-Commission that the Ontong Java Plateau and its associated landmasses are all physically part of the same morphological feature and are the result of a linked chain of geological processes and events.

He said that PNG, FSM and Solomon Islands noted and satisfied the requirements and test of appurtenance in the legal and administrative processes.

“Accordingly, we believe that the entitlement to delineate the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles has been conclusively established,” Ambassador Aisi submitted.

Ambassador Beck, in the opening remarks, described the joint submission as “ground-breaking” and “first and only submission” to have been made jointly by three small island developing States anywhere in the world



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Pacific media preparing for the UNSIDS

27 August 2014

Apia, Samoa - Pacific island media are gearing up for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (UNSIDS) with a three day gathering led by the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

Opening on 26 August, the workshop brought together media from Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu as well as members from PACNEWS Agency and Islands Business International.

The training aims to help media learn more about the thematic issues of the UNSIDS and to strengthen networks between Pacific experts in these areas and the media.

"The theme of this conference revolves around partnerships and this is a prime example of a successful partnership," said Mr. David Sheppard, Director General of SPREP as he welcomed the participants to the training.

"We, working together with PACMAS and you, the media, the conveyers of our Pacific stories, have come together to help share the sustainable development messages. We look forward to your reports of the UNSIDS conference, it is through you that

we can take the outcomes from this historic event for the Pacific and share it with our Pacific communities."

Not only does the training help prepare Pacific media for the coming conference, it also helps them to reflect upon the concept of sustainable development and the role of the media to facilitate this. Presentations from the United Nations and management of SPREP have helped provide a background to the overall theme of sustainable development and the UNSIDS Conference.

Domenic Friguglietti, the PACMAS Program Director, says supporting Pacific journalists and media professionals to communicate about development issues is a key goal of PACMAS. "This workshop for UNSIDS enables Pacific communities across the region to access vital news, information and opinions about the key issues facing developing island states."

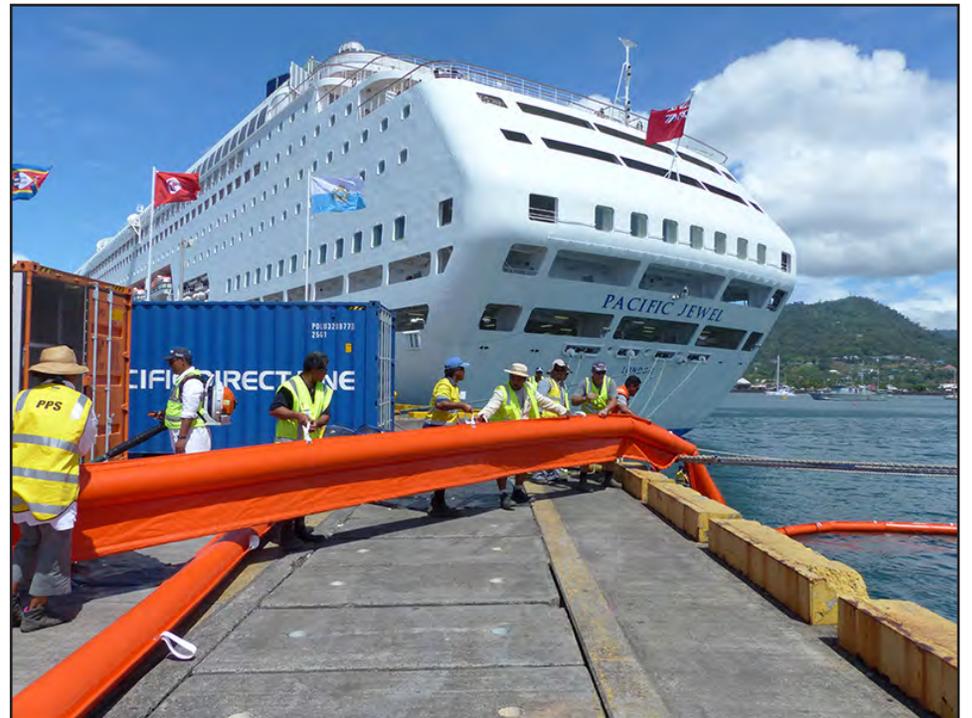
The workshop closes on 28 August and is funded by PACMAS and coordinated by SPREP. It covers each of the six thematic areas of the UNSIDS and provides participants with a practical overview on covering the event.

Five of the participants are successful recipients of PACMAS fellowships to cover the UNSIDS.



Presentation on 'Disasters and sustainable development' by Ms. Filomena Nelson, of the Samoa Disaster Management Office

SPREP training exercise sees oil containment boom placed around Pacific Jewel



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

A three-day specialised training programme in the management of oil spills has culminated in the spectacular deployment of a containment boom around the Pacific Jewel cruise ship, currently docked in Apia Harbour for the United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The oil spill response training has been undertaken through a partnership between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Maritime New Zealand and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

The training programme, facilitated by experts from all three organisations, has covered a variety of different topics including the causes of oil spills and their impact on environmental and human health. A particular emphasis has been on the management of the specialty equipment used in oil spill response and containment - such as the boom that was deployed today.

One of the training instructors, Mr Scott Reed from Maritime New Zealand, has praised the enthusiasm of the 23 participants who represent a variety of different local agencies including the Samoa Ports Authority; Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure; Petroleum Product Supplies; Samoa Shipping Corporation; Maritime Police; and the Fire Emergency Service Authority.

"You can tell from the questions and the feedback that there's a high level of enthusiasm and investment from this group of participants. They're always looking for ways to improve on their current practices and have been very proactive in coming up with ideas of how they could use local solutions for oil spill response - for example by stringing together drums to act as a containment boom or to use coconut husks as an absorbent to help mop up spills."

SPREP's Marine Pollution Officer, Mr Scott Willson, currently on secondment

from AMSA, explains that the practical experience of deploying such a large containment boom around the Pacific Jewel has been invaluable for the participants:

"This was a fantastic opportunity for our team to get first-hand experience of deploying a 500 metre boom around a vessel. And considering it was the first attempt for a lot of them they've done a terrific job! We want to thank all the agencies involved in allowing us to deploy the boom - particularly the Samoan Ports Authority and the Pacific Jewel."

Mr Tufuga To'oalo Fagaloa Tufuga, CEO of the Samoa Ports Authority, has emphasised that there is no actual oil spill from the Pacific Jewel, and that the exercise is purely for training purposes:

"This exercise has been planned for some time to enhance and refresh the skills of relevant staff. It goes without saying that we hope to not have to use these skills in an emergency situation. Members of the public should be comforted by the knowledge that we have locally-based, expertly trained staff to deal with potential oil spills if the situation arises. We are grateful that SPREP, AMSA and Maritime New Zealand have been able to assist us with this valuable training."

The specially designed boom placed around the Pacific Jewel today is one of several that have been loaned to Samoa by the Australian Government as the result of the ongoing partnership between SPREP and AMSA and at the request of Samoa's Ministry of Water, Transport and Infrastructure.

The deployment of the boom around the Pacific Jewel is just one component of a wider body of waste management activities being undertaken by SPREP in support of the Samoan Government and the UN Conference on SIDS. Two other rubbish containment booms have been set up on the Vaisigano and Mulivai rivers over the past week. Other activities have included an extensive waste audit, river clean-up and the provision of bins and collection services to the SIDS conference venue.

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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KPress Perspective

Colo-i-Suva rain forest—enter at your own
significant risk

When the landowner of the Colo-i-Suva Rainforest in Fiji dropped my taxi driver and me at the police station on the afternoon of Friday, August 22, he drove away, probably assuming that the help we needed after we had been mugged in the forest would be on its way. We did too. We were all wrong.

The building was wide open but no one was there. We wandered around inside, slaked our thirst with rust flavored water from a hose bib in a sink, but not a soul was there to help us. It would be over three hours before the police took either of our statements.

Famous Fiji journalist Samisoni Pareti responded to my later Facebook posting about having been robbed in the forest, "Hope police are on top of this. It's really due to (a) spate of robberies that a police post got opened there years back..." he wrote.

During a later informal conversation during a social gathering, an official of the FSM Embassy in Suva asked me to send him a copy of the article I would write about the situation so that FSM citizens would know to travel in groups at the Colo-i-Suva Rainforest. It certainly was information I wished I'd had.

Quite frankly, though the area is absolutely beautiful, or at least as much as I saw of it, I would never go there again, not even in a group, no matter how beautiful the place is.

When I finally did have contact with police three hours after the crime, it was remarkable to watch their attitude change after they found out I was a journalist. They were all accommodation after that bit of information.

Fijians I talked to were shocked when they heard that I had been mugged in the forest. "It never happens to tourists," a Fijian taxi driver in Nadi said. "No, this is unacceptable," he exclaimed, and pounded the steering wheel.

Opinions were mixed on what the Fiji Police would do. One Fijian said that when the police told me that they could and would trace my iPhone if they knew the phone number on the Digicel SIM card that was in my phone they were only trying to make me feel better. It did make me feel better so they at least accomplished that purpose. They asked me for my email address which also made me feel better but I haven't heard a single thing since then.

The police told me that they had sent out a team of dogs to try to find the culprit in the Colo-i-Suva forest. I don't know if that claim was true but it also made me feel better. I figured the crime would be solved before I left Suva two days later.



The lower pool of the Colo-i-Suva rainforest

Before the crime, I had paid the entry fee to the forest's management office with a five tala bill that bore the image of the parrot I went to the forest to photograph. Heeding the advice of a tourist website that said "some disturbing incidents have happened in the past", I asked the staff members at the office if the forest was currently safe. They assured me that it was and then asked if I wanted a guide. I assumed I wouldn't need one since the taxi driver would be driving me the four and a half kilometers past the forest's gated entry and then we would walk a short pathway to the lower pool to try to find parrots to photograph. I had no idea that the purpose of the guide was security. No one at the office said so. In retrospect I wish I'd spent the 30 tala (about \$16USD) for the guide's services.

The taxi driver who I knew only as Arvin drove down the dirt road. We passed happy Fijian families on the way to what we thought was a parking lot at the top of what signs in the forest said was the "lower pool" in the jungle. We locked the vehicle and headed down the short trail. About half way down we spotted a parrot. As I attempted to get the beautiful bird's photograph we heard a crash from above. Alarmed, Arvin headed up the trail to investigate. Moments later I heard panicked screaming. It sounded as if Arvin was being killed in the "parking lot" above me.

Panicked, I headed up the trail to see if I could assist, but coming down the trail was a man just short of six feet tall and built like a powerful rugby player. Despite his size he looked friendly and I asked him what was going on. He never said a word before he grabbed the camera that was wrapped around my neck and tried to wrestle it from me, knocking me to my knees on the wet clay path while I screamed at him to stop. Unable to wrench the camera from my grip he put his hands in my pockets and grabbed my wallet and my iPhone. Apparently satisfied, he

stopped short of taking my passport which was in a cargo pocket.

While I screamed at him he sauntered down the trail stopping some 15 feet later to count my money and to evaluate his take before running on down the trail. Winded and panicked I ran to the top of the trail where I found Arvin surveying his broken driver's window and holding his head. He told me that the mugger punched him in the face and took his wallet and his car keys. The mugger had taken from Arvin's car, all of the money he had earned in taxi fares during the day. I was never able to pay my taxi fare either since the mugger had taken all but about four tala in change from me.

Arvin and I were stranded and began to walk. We quickly ran into a group of ten or so friendly young people heading toward the lower pool who were shocked to hear our story and ran down the road vowing to catch the violent thief.

Shortly afterward we saw a pickup truck making a U-turn. We later learned that they were security. Arvin, the younger of us, ran after them shouting at the top of his lungs and waving his arms. The pickup truck continued its multi-point U-turn and drove on without us.

As we walked, Arvin asked me if I had heard him scream. He said that he was trying to tell me to hide. I told him it was not in my nature to hide when someone seemed to be in trouble, and we walked, and walked some more.

Just short of the entrance gate we were able to successfully wave down an SUV driven by a man who spoke very little English but who told us that he was the property owner. He clicked his tongue, wagged his head, and otherwise expressed his disgust at what had happened to us saying that it hadn't happened in a long time.

Shortly after picking us up, the drivers of the pickup truck that had neglected to respond to our obvious distress met us going in the opposite direction. They said that we had parked in the wrong place intimating that we were somehow at fault for the theft. "Your driver should have known", they said. Still, they promised to go up and see if they could find the thief. I have to assume that they were unsuccessful. To the best of my knowledge, the Fiji Police have not been successful either.

Funny thing, the Hibiscus festival was going on in downtown Suva during the entire time that I was there. Thousands of people roamed the streets until late in the night. I never had a problem there. I thought maybe I would. I was warned about pick pockets and took precautions. Other than keeping my wallet in my front pocket, I took very few precautions in the forest where I was essentially by myself.

Who knows, maybe I did deserve it. No, I don't think anyone deserves it.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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China Embassy in FSM holds farewell meeting for Chinese Government scholarship winners



Embassy of the People's Republic of China

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in FSM invited 2014-2015 school year Chinese Government Scholarship winners to the Embassy for a farewell meeting on August 21. H.E. Ambassador Zhang Lianyun, Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs Department of FSM Mr. Carl Apis, Chairman of China-FSM Friendship Association Mr. Duhlen Soumwei, and Chinese Language Instructor in COM Mrs. Chen Xiaona were attending the meeting.

During the meeting, Ambassador Zhang congratulated the scholarship winners, and issued the Award Letter for Chinese Government Scholarship to the winners. On behalf of Foreign Affairs Department, Mr. Carl Apis thanked Chinese Government for offering valuable study opportunities to FSM students, and spoke highly of the positive role the scholarship program played in developing FSM-China relationship. Based on his working experience in FSM Embassy in Beijing, Mr. Carl Apis provided guidance and suggestions to the scholarship winners concerning their study and living in China. Chinese Counselor Mr. Yang Chenqi encouraged scholarship winners to be supportive to each other, be open-minded, and overcome the difficulties brought about by the differences in language, culture and environment as soon as possible. He also wished them every success of their study in China and hoped that the winners do their part in building FSM and enhancing the friendship between the two countries.

With the development of China-FSM relationship, the number of FSM applicants for the Chinese Government Scholarship has been increasing. There are 15 FSM students are awarded Chinese Government Scholarship this year. Up to now, around 120 FSM students have been selected to study in China since the program started in 1990's. Quite a few returned scholarship students have become professionals in the areas of government, business, education, etc., and contributed to the development of China-FSM relationship.

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Mahr Preserved Breadfruit

Adapted from previous issues, by Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Raw preserved breadfruit, mahr, is one example of traditional food practices that improve food security. Although the traditional practice of preserving large volumes of breadfruit in leaf-lined pits is now disappearing in Pohnpei and the rest of the Pacific, convenient modern methods have evolved for preserving and preparing this local delicacy.

Bascom in his 1946 Economic Survey of Micronesia describes the old method of pit preservation of breadfruit. He reports that from 3000 to 10,000 breadfruits would be put into large pits, from four to six feet deep and six to nine feet in diameter. There were large communal pits and also households made their own. Pits were used and reused, and passed down from generation to generation, and provided a food reserve in off-seasons of breadfruit and in times of short food supply as after typhoons. Banana leaves, breadfruit leaves and sehauleng, a local leaf, is used to cover the mahr. It is said that these local leaves add taste to the mahr.

In present times, breadfruit pit preservation is rare. However, modern modifications of traditional methods may improve on the old methods, providing convenience.

The ripe breadfruits are carefully peeled and the core is removed. The soft yellow edible flesh is then put into a large clean plastic bag, set inside a metal or plastic container with a lid (about 10 gallon in size or bigger for more breadfruit). In this air-tight environment the breadfruit ferments and is preserved. Local food experts say that both green mature and ripe breadfruit can be used, but that ripe breadfruit ferments faster.

After around 2 to 3 months the fermented mixture is ready and can be used for making mahr, which is like bread. The properly fermented product is then washed, kneaded, and mixed with grated coconut, and sometimes sugar, and then baked.

There are some distinct differences in the Pingelapese (mar) and Pohnpei (mahr) methods of preparing mar recipes, including the thorough washing of the raw breadfruit mixture for making Pingelapese mar without the sour taste.

Many people comment about the strong taste of mahr, but people point out that if the dough is thoroughly washed the baked product does not have a strong taste.

Preserved breadfruit, mahr, has been analyzed for its nutrient content and contains important levels of iron and calcium, needed minerals for good health. Mahr also contains some provitamin A carotenoids, 40 micrograms per 100 grams, and although not high compared to some local foods, it is still higher than rice, which contains none.

Mar Kamwer is made with about 4 cups of rinsed raw mar and 2 cups grated coconut, and is then baked. Increase for larger servings.

Mar Mahn is made with about 4 cups of unrinsed raw mar (to give the sour taste) and 2 cups grated coconut. Increase for larger servings.

The most commonly prepared Pingelapese mar product is made with a proportion of about 4 cups of rinsed raw mar and 3 cups of coconut cream, and these days processed sugar is added. However, for health benefits it is advised to avoid this and to use either coconut juice or the water from mature coconut for sweetness.

It is interesting to note that traditionally, portion size was not measured by cups but instead by meid, one big round chunk of mar. When mar is prepared, it is meant to be shared with family members and friends, thus serving ingredients should be increased proportionately.

Going local PhD research project starts

The project is a PhD dissertation in history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, entitled Eating Empire, Going Local: Food, Power, and Sovereignty on Pohnpei, 1886–2000.

The research traces changes in Pohnpeian food and diet over more than a century of colonial and postcolonial rule. Each chapter focuses on a single food item, and follows that food as it moves to, from, and within Pohnpei as a way to understand the local and global forces that have produced such rapid changes in health and diet in recent years.

Eating Empire relies on a combination of archival documents and oral history interviews, which will be conducted around the island through May of 2015.

For more information contact Josh Levy on 926-1452 or jalevy2@illinois.edu

Mar Wis

Ingredients:

4 cups of preserved breadfruit mixture (mar)
4 cups pounded ripe banana, preferably a sweet one as Taiwang, Utin Pihsi, or Kaimana

3 cups coconut cream

Note: No sugar is needed because of the natural sweetness of the ripe banana. For health reasons, it is best to avoid adding processed sugar.

Method:

1. Put the mar in a clean cloth, thoroughly rinsing, washing, and squeezing. At the end, squeeze out all of the water.
2. Knead the washed mar mixture on a strong hard surface, such as a sakau rock, until it has a sticky dry texture.
3. Add the banana and coconut cream, thoroughly combining.
4. Shape into a loaf, about 5 inches wide and 12 inches long, place on banana leaves and wrap up tightly.
5. Bake in oven or uhmw for about 1 hour until done and serve.
6. Serves 2.

A video of making a similar recipe with mar can be found at www.islandfood.org or [Youtube/LetsGoLocal](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LetsGoLocal). It also currently playing on iTV along with other local food recipe videos.



Rotary announces scholarship recipients

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc., is pleased to announce the winners of its annual scholarship program. The following are the list of winners and their colleges.

Jessica Nanpei-COM-FSM
Sebastian Taruwepiy-COM-FSM
Shania David-COM-FSM
Beverly Ilemangilish-COM-FSM
Latrisha Nakasone-Hawaii Pacific
William Piki-UOG Masters
Nicole Yamase-UH Manoa-Masters
Michael Yarofaitoar-COM-FSM
Zoya Tanya Goodwin-Southwestern U.
Delta Lei Bernard-UH Manoa-Masters
Elaine Chugen-UH Hilo
Austin Folbuw- Rockhurst U.
Rockyner Hadley-UH Manoa
Isabel Ambuyoc-COM-FSM

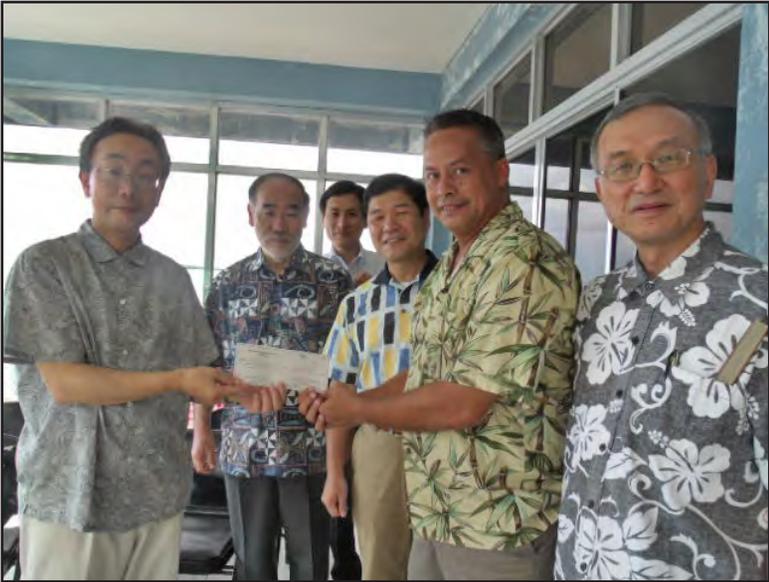
Mee-Young A. Biza-Webster U.
Maxine Iehsi-Walla Walla
Drinnette James-Fresno Pacific
Cheryll Ligoehr-UH Hilo

The Rotary Club awarded \$11,950.00 in scholarships. We want to congratulate our winners. We also want to give special thanks to VITAL, for generously contributing to assist us in this scholarship program.

The Rotary Club makes these awards every year. We had a number of great applications this year, and we are sad we could not award more scholarships. We hope to increase the number of applications next year. Please support our fundraisers so we can also raise more money.

We want to wish our scholars good luck in the upcoming school year.

The Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation gives \$10,000 for Micronesia Challenge



August 21, 2014, Kolonia, Pohnpei- Mr. Megumi Araki, the Director of the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC), presented Mr. Willy Kostka, Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), a check for \$10,000. The Honorable Shoji Sato, former Ambassador to the FSM from Japan and his colleagues, Prof. Takashi Hayashita, President of Sophia University, Prof. Hiroshi Yamamoto, President of Sophia Junior College and Mr. Yoshihiko Miwa, Director of General Affairs Bureau of Sophia University witnessed the handover.

The APIC funds are aimed at a Micronesia Challenge and Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) project, "Enhance the awareness of the Micronesia Challenge among the donors, thereby increasing financial and technical support." Specifically, the funds will support the printing of 600 booklets entitled, "We are One: Business Plan and Conservation Campaign – Micronesia Challenge." The grant will also fund distribution of the booklets at high level events during the UN Small Island Developing States Conference in Samoa in

September and at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties in South Korea in October. To raise the awareness of the Challenge, MCT and members of the Micronesia Challenge (MC) Steering Committee and the Regional Coordinating Office will distribute booklets to heads of states, ministers, donors, and technical/development partners who can potentially support the Micronesia Challenge. The ultimate goal of the project is to garner increased awareness of and leverage additional support for the Micronesia Challenge, globally.

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment made by the leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), U.S. Territory of Guam and U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. For more information about the Micronesia Challenge, please visit www.micronesiachallenge.org.

Chris Cruz is Bank of Guam's newest Vice President From Pohnpei Branch Manager to Relationship Banking Manager



Bank of Guam

August 13, 2014 - Hagatna, Guam- The Bank of Guam Board of Directors, Management and Staff are pleased to announce that Christopher Cruz has been promoted to Vice President/Relationship Banking Manager.

Cruz is a 2002 graduate of Father Duenas Memorial School, and received his undergraduate degree majoring in Political Science from the University of Guam in 2006. In 2012, he received his

Professional Master of Business Administration from the University of Guam.

Cruz joined the Bank of Guam as a management trainee in July 2007, and on completion of the training program was appointed a Credit Officer in the Upper Tumon Branch. In June 2012, Cruz was appointed Assistant Vice President/Pohnpei Branch manager where he served for two years. While in Pohnpei, Cruz was a board member of the Rotary Club of Pohnpei and the Pohnpei Chamber of Commerce.

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