

The This bi-weekly publication is only \$1.00

KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Fire in Pahnasang!



Photo by Manny Mori

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

March 6, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—At about 10:45 this morning sirens wailed as emergency responders screamed to the site of a single family dwelling fire in Pahnasang.

Two of the airports striker vehicles were called into service to battle the blaze. Pohnpei's fire engine was put in the shop a week earlier to deal with a pump pressure regulator and was still in the shop when the fire broke out.

No one was injured in the blaze which occurred in a concrete sided tin roofed home right next to the mangrove.



Photos by Bill Jaynes

Fire fighters hastily ran a long hose line down the steep, pineapple covered hillside and extinguished the blaze in short order.

Family members including President Manny Mori arrived shortly after the fire began and arranged for

food and water for the family. The Micronesia Red Cross Society also provided comfort for the family.

The dwelling was a total loss and investigators at the scene said that they had not yet determined the cause of the blaze.

Senators elected for FSM Congress

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

March 9, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—The March 3, 2015 FSM General Election is a thing of history now. Emeliano Eperiam*, Acting Director of the FSM National Election Office said that he expects to confirm the results of the election on this coming Thursday.

He said that for the first time in many years, no election challenges have been filed by any of the candidates who ran for office.

Of the 99,346 votes cast, 59,873 were for incumbents, slightly more than 60 percent of the votes.

Largely, incumbents were returned to their seats with the exception of longtime Senator Dohsis Halbert. Ferny Perman won Halbert's seat with

53 percent of the vote in Pohnpei's Election District One.

Senator Tony Otto did not run for re-election in Chuuk's Election District Five. Robson U. Romolou will take his seat. Romolou won his seat with only 855 votes, 79 more than his nearest challenger, Rufin Micky who garnered 781 votes in the District.

In Kosrae voters returned Senator Yoshiwo George to

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Four Chuuk High School students accepted to Junior Statesman of America

By *Kalika Kastein*

T'was a few days before Christmas, and all through the classrooms, not a creature was stirring—except for a few Chuuk High students. Busy as Santa's elves, four students were spending their Christmas break readying their applications and essays for the Junior Statesmen of America's Summer Program.

Every summer, the Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) holds summer schools on stateside campuses of Georgetown, Princeton and Stanford universities. JSA publicizes that they offer "advanced courses in government, politics, history and public speaking." The summer program exists, as JSA states, to combat the fact that "today's youth are often accused of being uninformed, uninterested and disengaged." Historically, JSA has accepted students from private schools on Weno, like Xavier High School. This year marked the first year in recent memory that Chuuk High submitted applications and had students admitted to the program.

Hesreen Raed, a soft-spoken eleventh grader, would come in early almost every morning during Christmas break to type and edit parts of her essay for the JSA application. Her hair always plaited back in a no-nonsense braid, Hesreen would work most mornings independently, and afterwards would meet with WorldTeach volunteers David Billington and John Hanebuth for comments and corrections.

Sitting across from Hesreen in the administrative office, both of us tapping away at our computers, I remember asking her, "what are you writing about?" Hesreen explained that she answering the application's writing prompt on the Common Core curriculum in the United States. Needless to say, I was impressed not only by her diligence, but her willingness to tackle a subject that few Americans fully understand.

It was a few short months later that Hesreen sat yet again at a computer in the school's office, this time, her face beaming. Seeing the excitement on Hesreen's face when she found out she was accepted to JSA was magical. All of her hard work had paid off. She has worked tirelessly for the chance to broaden her horizons and challenge herself this summer in the United States. For a girl who has never had the opportunity to leave Chuuk before, this is a dream come true. "I really hope I will be able to go," I remember her gushing, her excitement visibly bubbling over.

Hesreen, along with her classmates Julius Koto, Relska Andrew, and BJ James, plan to be at the JSA Stanford summer school in June. Each student will concentrate on a particular topic of study, culminating in a research paper. Julius Koto and BJ James will be studying Speech and Political Communications, Relska will cover AP US Government, and Hesreen Raed will be focusing on Constitution Law.

However, these bright students now face another hurdle; they need to find a way to raise funds for the cost of their summer tuition and their flight to Palo Alto, California. The cost of their summer tuition is almost \$5,000 each, not including airfare (around \$2,000 each), which means that the group needs to fundraise a total amount of \$28,000. We are all wishing for what some might call a belated "Christmas miracle" to ensure that they are able to gather the funds to proudly represent Chuuk and the Federated States of Micronesia in this prestigious summer program.

Should you feel moved to assist these students with a donation, please contact their program supervisor, WorldTeach volunteer John Hanebuth, by calling +691 330-2555 or emailing fsm-chuuk@worldteach.org.



Principal Jason Reiong and WorldTeach volunteer John Hanebuth stand alongside Hesreen Raed, Relska Andrew, BJ James, and Julius Koto, who will be representing Chuuk State this summer in Palo Alto, California



Accepted JSA applicants Relska Andrew, Hesreen Raed, Julius Koto, and BJ James are now planning how to fundraise to attend the JSA summer program at Stanford.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Graduate researcher thinks 3D printing could be a new Pohnpei industry

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

March 12, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—Brennan Purtzer, a graduate researcher studying at the University of Agder in Norway has some big ideas for Pohnpei development. For the past several months, Purtzer has been looking into how the still developing technology of three dimensional (3D) printing could possibly help Pohnpei to be more self-sufficient.

Purtzer will be presenting his unique and forward thinking ideas during two presentations he calls “community meetings” in the Executive Conference room of the Pohnpei State Hospital. The public is invited to attend and refreshments will be served. The first presentation will be held on Sunday March 22 at 4:00 in the afternoon. He will repeat the presentation on Monday March 23, at 6:00 in the evening. Director of Public Health Edgar Santos and Pohnpei School Improvement Coordinator Penny Jimmy will also speak.

Certain great strides have been made in the science of 3D printing. It has been used to produce a variety of products from raw materials including prosthetic devices, musical instruments, and even houses. Purtzer theorizes that the technology could help Pohnpei to decrease its reliance on importation.

Shortly after he arrived on island he said that he had been through importation statistics at the FSM National Government and at that time felt that approximately \$3 million dollars’ worth of imported products could possibly be produced on Pohnpei by the use of 3D printing. At that time he talked about the possibility of using recycled products that might otherwise hit the landfill as a source of raw materials.

He spoke in grandiose terms about the items that could be produced with the 3D printing technology but for now he has scaled back his vision and is now focusing on heavy

machinery, auto/marine parts and dental models.

Though this visit to Pohnpei is Purtzer’s first he said that when he was in High School he had posters of Micronesia in his bedroom in the same way that many teenagers have posters of pop stars and celebrities on their bedroom walls. He has a local partner and says that some financiers have expressed interest in the project.

He is currently writing his Master’s Degree thesis on the subject of “3D Printing in Geographically Isolated Rural Development Zones”. His website on the project can be found at www.3dprintmicronesia.net



**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:
March 30, 2015**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is the end of working
hours on:
Wednesday, March 25, 2014**

The New Premium Fees as recommended by the Actuarial Survey conducted last April-July, 2014 in accordance with MiCare Regulations, and adopted by the Board of Directors in November 11, 2014. This new premium rates for the next 5 years will become in effect beginning of fiscal year 2016 or October 01, 2015.

If you have any inquiries pertaining to this announcement, you may contact MiCare Office or direct your questions to the Administrator, Mr. Nena S. Nena at email nnena@micareplan.fm, or telephone number (691)320-2549/5865/3415. You may also visit our website: www.micareplan.fm.

	CURRENT RATE			FY' 2016 10% INCREASE			FY' 2017 5% INCREASE		
	48% EE Share	52% ER Share	Total	48% EE Share	52% ER Share	Total	48% EE Share	52% ER Share	Total
Non-Referral Option (NR)	3.96	4.30	8.26	4.36	4.73	9.09	4.58	4.96	9.54
Basic Plan (BA)	7.93	8.59	16.52	8.72	9.45	18.17	9.16	9.92	19.08
Supplemental Resident (SR)	17.99	19.49	37.48	19.79	21.44	41.23	20.78	22.51	43.29
Supp. Non-Resident (SN)	24.70	26.76	51.46	27.17	29.44	56.61	28.53	30.91	59.44
Regional/Int'l Res. Workers (RI)	24.70	26.76	51.46	27.17	29.44	56.61	28.53	30.91	59.44

	FY' 2018 5% INCREASE			FY' 2019 5% INCREASE			FY' 2020 5% INCREASE		
	48% EE Share	52% ER Share	Total	48% EE Share	52% ER Share	Total	48% EE Share	52% ER Share	Total
Non-Referral Option (NR)	4.81	5.21	10.02	5.05	5.47	10.52	5.30	5.74	11.04
Basic Plan (BA)	9.62	10.42	20.04	10.10	10.94	21.04	10.60	11.49	22.09
Supplemental Resident (SR)	21.82	23.63	45.45	22.91	24.82	47.73	24.05	26.06	50.11
Supp. Non-Resident (SN)	29.96	32.45	62.41	31.45	34.08	65.53	33.03	35.78	68.81
Regional/Int'l Res. Workers (RI)	29.96	32.45	62.41	31.45	34.08	65.53	33.03	35.78	68.81

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FSM Little Leaguers head to Okinawa

After weeks of car washes and hundreds of hours of practice, a baseball team from Pohnpei headed off to Okinawa, Japan to compete in the 3rd Eastern Asia Pony Baseball Tournament. Team members left Pohnpei on the early morning flight on March 9 and will return on the 18th.

The coaches and organizers say that it would have been impossible for the team to compete in the competition if not for the generosity of major donors including:

Nippon Travel Agency, Etscheit's Enterprises, Palm Terrace, and Nihco Store.

As well as sponsorships from:

Peter Christian, Lyon & Associates, Pohnpei Port Authority, Shakir's CNMI., Inc, FSM National Government, National Fisheries Corporation, Blue Nile, Asia Pacific Airline, PITC/Yamaha, Caroline Fisheries Corp., Inc, En's Seven Star, Moylan's Insurance, Genesis Pharmacy, CTSI Logistics, FSM Line, LTD, CTSI Logistics, Deloitte & Touche, Pohnpei Weather Services, Car Care Center, United Airlines, China Star Hotel, Tropic Helicopters, South Park, FSM Jr. Baseball Parents, and all others that put in their time, energy and money!



Public Health monthly music competitions continue during Cancer Awareness Month

The Care Micronesia Foundation

The Care Micronesia Foundation

On Friday, February 27th, the Care Micronesia Foundation organized the second of 12 monthly music competitions which feature local artists singing about public health related issues. The event was held at the PICS Gym and featured a duo of local artists who had created songs with lyrics specific to cancer awareness and prevention.



1st place winner Chanelle Tallon plays the guitar and sings about supporting a friend with cancer saying "You are not alone"



Pohnpei Cancer Coalition Education Specialist Mr. George Donre addresses the crowd providing cancer awareness information

The Pohnpei State Cancer Coalition Education Specialist Mr. George Donre welcomed the crowd and participants on behalf of Pohnpei State Public Health and spoke about cancer as a non-communicable disease that affects many people in Pohnpei. He told the crowd that cancer is one of the most prevalent NCDs which lead to death on the island. He listed the risk factors for cancer as (1) Substance abuse, (2) Not enough exercise, (3) Healthy Food Choices and (4) Family genetics. "If we could take the chance to control our choices of healthy living our chances are greater for us to eliminate and reduce the cancer burden we have on Pohnpei. Remember, cancer can be cured."

Mr. Jose Joab, representing the Pohnpei Sports Development Office, was present as a guest judge and gave a brief talk about how Pohnpei Sports is trying to help solve the NCD problem by using sporting activities to get people out and do more physical activity. Once example of this is a current basketball league that is called the "cancer league" organized to help fight off cancer through increased exercise.

Mr. Patrick Blank, Executive Director of the Care Micronesia Foundation, introduced CMF to the crowd and explained that the Foundation was created to provide meaningful projects, programs, and services in the areas of health, education, and economic development for the sole purpose of improving the living standards of

the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia. As the implementing organization, the Foundation will be responsible for organizing each competition.

Mr. Elieser Rospel was the MC of the event and introduced the participants; Mr. Ryan Kuor, the 3rd place winner from last month's leprosy competition, and newcomer Chanelle Tallon. Ryan again chose a rap number which highlighted "eat right, live right" to avoid cancer, while Chanelle used a guitar and sang a song about supporting someone who has cancer. The judges were impressed with both songs and awarded 1st place to Ms. Tallon and 2nd to Kuor. Both artists were happy to be presented checks for their prizes from Mr. Donre of the Cancer program.

Next month's competition will be held on March 24th, World TB Day, and artists will be tasked to sing songs about the health issue of tuberculosis. The event is scheduled to be held at the Sokehs Municipal Government building at the community nahs at 3:30pm.

This event was videotaped by Micronesian Productions and can be seen on ICTV. The music from this competition can be found on the Micronesian Productions Facebook and heard on Paradise Radio 89.5FM. For more information about this event, please contact the Care Micronesia Foundation at 320-6505.



Job Vacancies

Due to the urgency of filling these vacancies shortlisted candidates will be contacted directly and applications will be processed on a continuous basis.

Background

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an inter-governmental organization known for its dynamic work in the field of migration. The Organization has a global presence with over 450 offices worldwide, including five offices in the north Pacific region, covering every state in the Federated States of Micronesia and also in Majuro, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and is currently exploring options for the establishment of a presence in the Republic of Palau.

IOM continues to support disaster risk reduction, disaster mitigation, climate change adaptation, and relief and reconstruction initiatives in the north Pacific region, with the overall objective to respond to and address the critical needs that arise from natural hazards and climate change.

Program Assistant - PREPARE
Pohnpei - FSM

(Salary - USD 1,559.25 net)

General functions

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Mission (CoM) and direct supervision of the PREPARE Chief of Party/Program Manager, the successful candidate will assist in providing coordination and support for preparedness and emergency response activities within the FSM. Using information gathered, the Program Assistant will assist in updating multi-hazard relief and reconstruction contingency plans meant to facilitate international disaster responses, with particular focus on reaching logistically-difficult locations with relief assistance in a timely manner.

Qualifications

a) completed secondary school; (b) Minimum four (4) years of experience in emergency services or related field. (c) Understanding of logistical and human resource challenges faced in small island developing states, (d) Prior service with a government, human or emergency services, non-governmental organization and/or international organization. (e) High level of computer literacy. (f) Fluency in English and Pohnpeian; (g) Knowledge of Pohnpei state outer island languages is advantageous

How to apply

IOM offers a nine (9) month contract with likelihood of extension (subject to funding availability and performance), a competitive salary, 6 weeks annual leave, and access to sick leave medical insurance.

In order for an application to be considered valid, it should include a cover letter (not more than one page) and curriculum vitae highlighting the required education and experience.

Interested candidates may send their application to HRmicronesia@iom.int on or before **30 March 2015**. Position title should be specified in the SUBJECT field. Application may also be hand carried to IOM's office

IOM Pohnpei
Suite 2 G Pohn Umpomp Building, Nett, Pohnpei, FSM
P.O. Box K 2644, FSM 96941

Japan provides money for Mobile Clinic for schools

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

March 5, 2015
Pohnpei, FSM—This morning the Embassy of Japan presented a symbolic check in the amount of \$23,553 to help the Department of Health Services to purchase a vehicle to be used as a mobile clinic. During the ceremony, Mr. Shingo Higashimoto, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan to the FSM, and Dr. Eliaser Johnson, Chief of Primary Health Care signed the paperwork to make the grant official.

The grant was made possible by the government of Japan's "Grassroots Human Security" program and was facilitated by the Embassy of Japan in the FSM.

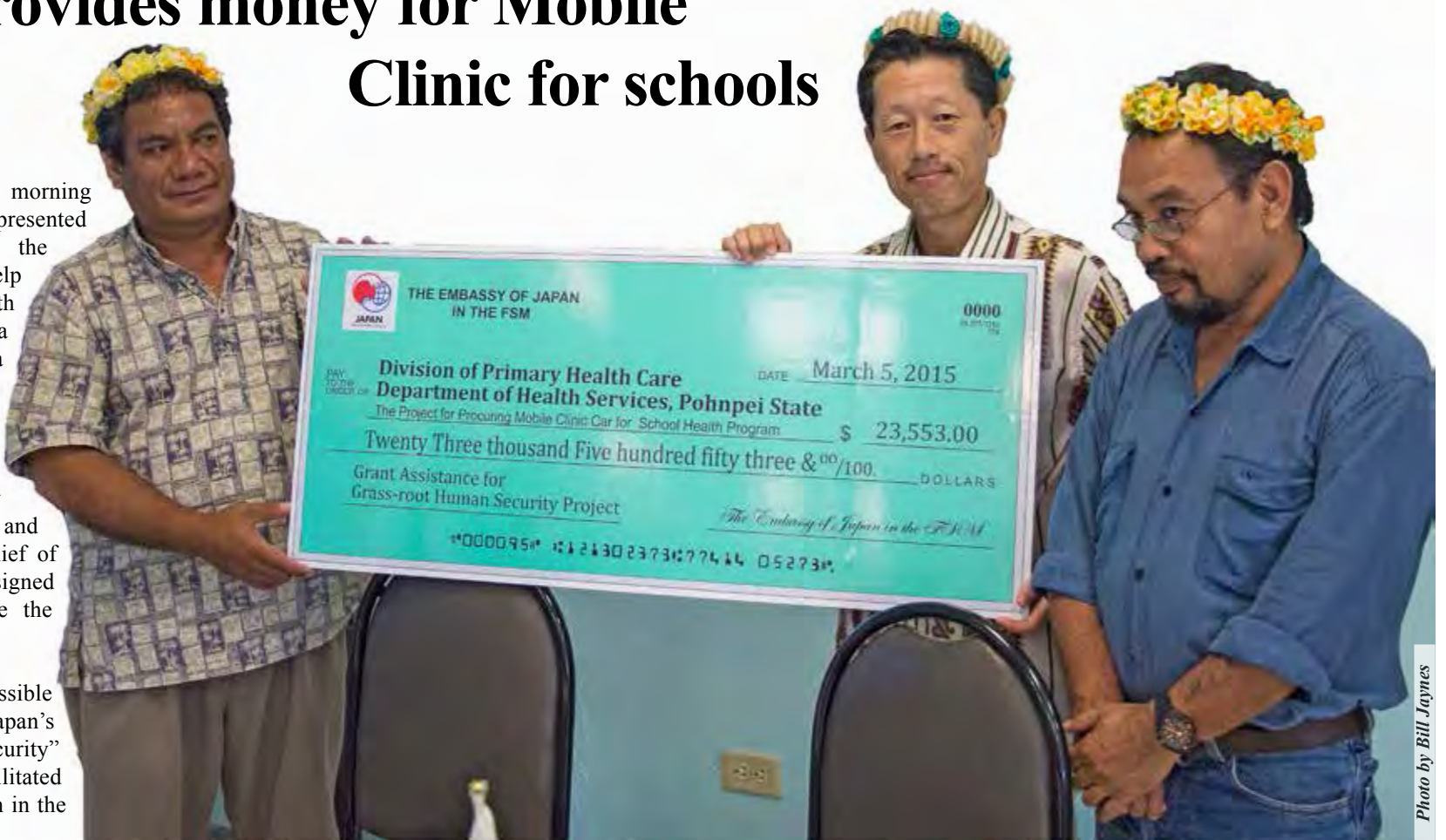


Photo by Bill Jaynes

The Mobile Clinic will help Public Health to carry out its School Health Program.

"(The School Health Program's) primary goal is to ensure that children grow and develop normally in a school environment," said Dr. Eliaser Johnson, Chief of Primary Health Care. "To achieve this goal, we have to physically go out to the schools and conduct "PE" or screening and referral when necessary."

He said that due to limited transportation the program has been experiencing difficulties in reaching school children. "For a long time, we've been relying on the immunization program's vehicle to do our school health activities but this vehicle is always busy and we're not consistent and sometimes our objectives are not met," he said.

He thanked the people of Japan for making the project possible.

In his response, DCM Higashimoto said that the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services is no stranger to Japan's assistance including the assistance of JICA volunteers.

"The purpose of aid this time, I am aware, is to ensure strong mobility for State run Health Services for the wide community in Pohnpei State," he said. "I hope that this vehicle will be a very rewarding and useful asset for building up the department's capacity to address community health challenges...to the edge of the community."


Mr. Higashimoto challenged Health Services to maintain whatever vehicle is purchased. "We Japanese people see anything provided to our friends through official development assistance not as a gift free of charge but common property between us," he said. "It will have been

our sincere hope for you, Department of Health to treat the Clinic Vehicle as your own property and to treat that with great fondness like you treat your own family property."

"My Embassy, together with (your

newly elected representatives, would like to continue its mission in taking care of any possible assistance for community benefits, especially in health and medical service, education, and environmental issues," he said.

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DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Zeid calls on States to go “beyond lip-service, towards gender equality” for International Women’s Day, 8 March 2015

UN Human Rights Office

5 March 2015

GENEVA – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein today highlighted “the pressing need for women to participate in all discussions of strategic responses to extremist violence, to discrimination, and to deprivation of all kinds.”

“This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action. States can seize this opportunity to go beyond lip-service and towards gender equality – genuinely challenging and dismantling the power structures and dynamics which perpetuate discrimination against women,” he said.

“In every part of the world, more can be done to safeguard and support women’s rights, access to employment, health – and their ability to take control of decisions that affect any aspect of their lives.”

Zeid paid tribute to women human rights defenders everywhere, hailing their courage in the face of tremendous obstacles.

“Real change does not happen unless women and men fight for these rights – and at the forefront of this fight are women human rights defenders,” he said. “All of us, together: men, women, boys, girls – we all have to do this to eradicate gender discrimination. Let us make it happen.”

Watch the High Commissioner’s video on women human rights defenders:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gchsVUZ5GOg>

Join the UN Human Rights Office’s #reflect2protect campaign by taking a mirror selfie and posting it on social media with the above hashtag. See the video launching the campaign: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xrHxAaTw7w&t=103>

World Cancer Day

FSM Information Services

March 11, 2015

With banners waving and flyers posted, on February 04, 2015, the FSM Department Health and Social Affairs sponsored a fun-filled and educational day in observance of World Cancer Day. The global theme in commemorating the day was “Cancer is not beyond us”. Mr. Marcus Samo, the acting Secretary for the Department of Health reemphasized the theme in his opening statement and further pushed his talking points on healthy living lifestyles and getting early screening.

Mrs. Mona Tara, from IFCP (Island Food Community of Pohnpei) presented a demonstration on healthy local food options such a fruit salad made with local fruits and vegetables which highlighted the refreshments of the day.

Presentations continued with updates on the nation’s NCD status, current cancer data and the risk factors of cancer. NCD, Cancer and Tobacco Factsheets were disseminated throughout the day to the participants.

Highlighting the World Cancer Day activities, was a Zumba stretching exercise conducted by Mrs. Mayce Donre, Mrs Fancy Solomon and Mrs Norlynn Oliver, all administrative staff

for the FSM National Department of Health. All attendees and participants joined in the exercise prior to commemorating the day with a mini-walkathon.

Participants consisted mostly of FSM National Government employees but included individuals from the Palikir community as well as individuals from the Kolonia Community.

“We have more participants this year than we did last year...” Mrs. Melsi Artui, the administrative assistant and one of the day’s coordinators expressed.

The day continued with mini-games (i.e musical chairs) with prizes and a friendly inter-department competition of badminton. Mr. Roldan Laguerda, from the College of Micronesia -National Campus conducted a crash course introduction to badminton. “This (badminton) is a great sport for the working adult here (at the National level), because it is easy on the joints at the same time a great cardio workout”. He continued, “plus it lots of fun”.

Overall, the day concluded with attendees and participants wearing the support of the cause in spirit and literally on their shirts. World Cancer Day 2015, Cancer is not beyond us!

College welcomes new regents

The College of Micronesia-FSM welcomes two new members to its Board of Regents. The board is the governing body for the general management and control of the college. There are five members, one representative from each of the states and the national government. Members are appointed by the FSM President with the advice and consent of the Congress and may serve two three-year terms.

The new regents are Dr. Tulensru E. Waguk from Kosrae and Mr. Jess Salalu from Yap. Dr. Waguk is the principal of Utwe Elementary School, a position he has held for the past four years. Prior to this, he served 24 years as an education specialist, teacher trainer, and elementary school teacher. He is an alumnus of the college receiving both an AA in liberal arts and a third-year certificate of achievement in teacher education from the then Community College of Micronesia. Since then, he has earned his BA in elementary education from the University of Guam and his MEd in education and PhD in education administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Waguk replaces Lyndon Cornelius, who has completed two terms, as the regent from Kosrae.

Mr. Salalu is currently the Yap Department of Education Bridging Gaps Outreach Education Specialist. He, too, has a long history in education serving 34 years in education administration and as an elementary school teacher. He is also an alumnus of the college’s third-year certificate program in elementary education. Prior to that, he received an AA in sociology from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania. He later earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from the University of Guam. Mr. Salalu replaces Mary B. Figir, who also has completed two terms, as the regent from Yap.

During its recent February 19-20 meeting in Yap, the Board of Regents elected the following officers for the year: Churchill Edward as chairman, Tulensru Waguk as vice chairman, and Jesse Salalu as secretary-treasurer. The board also approved revisions to the participatory governance policy, policy on policies, academic program requirements, roles of board officers, and a new policy on incentives for securing grant funding. In addition, the board passed resolutions acknowledging the services of Mr. Cornelius and Mrs. Figir.



AUSTRALIAN AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP (AAS) INTAKE YEAR 2016

Opening Date: 01 February 2015
Closing Date: 30 April 2015

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2016 for full time post-graduate study in Australia. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Have completed a Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent;
- Be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau or the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- Be willing to return to work in their country for no less than two years after completion of their degree.

Application instructions and guidelines are available on the Australian Embassy website: www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

All completed applications should be submitted online.

If you have any questions please contact Caroline Adams at caroline.adams@dfat.gov.au or +691 320.5448 ext. 107



... Election

Continued from front page

the seat he won after Vice President Alik Alik was selected for a second term as Vice President of the FSM. George won the Kosrae At-Large seat by 643 votes over Alik. George had nearly 58 percent of the 4127 votes cast in the Kosrae election.

Incumbent Peter Christian had 9,093 of 15,261 votes for Pohnpei's At-Large seat. The nearest comer in that race was Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa who had a total of 3,545 votes, roughly 23 percent of the vote. Dionisio Saimon was next with 1,579 votes, 10 percent of total votes cast. Dion Neth garnered five percent of the votes and Selestino Marquez had two percent.

Berney Martin will be returned to his seat with 56 percent of the votes cast.

David Panuelo was unopposed.

Yap's Senator Joseph Urusemal and Senator Isaac Figir were also unopposed.

Eperiam said that the election cost \$376,000.

The members of the next Congress which will be seated in May are:

Chuuk:

- Florencio Singkoro Harper
- Victor (Vicky) Goulard
- Bonsiano Fasi Nethon
- Tiwiter Aritos
- Robson U Romolou
- Wesley Simina

Kosrae:

- Yosiwo George
- Paliknoa Welly

Pohnpei

- Peter M. Christian
- Ferney Perman
- Berney Martin
- David Panuelo

Yap

- Joseph Urusemal
- Isaac Figir

The next FSM President and Vice President will be selected from the At-Large Senators elect which are Wesley Simina, Yosiwo George, Peter M. Christian, and Joseph Urusemal.

**Editor's note: In our coverage of preparation for the upcoming election we inexplicably named the Acting Director of the FSM National Election office as Emeliano Abraham. We apologize for our error.*

MRA-sponsored 4th clean-up a success

On February 28 early at 8 am that sunny Saturday morning, twelve (12) volunteers congregated at the airport causeway for the 4th monthly MRA's sponsored clean-up of the causeway. We had volunteers from Micronesia Registration Advisors, Inc., the FSM Post Office, Ramp/Mida Law Firm, FSM Public Auditor, UN Development Program and the Registrar of Corporation.

While the turn-out could have been better, it was another successful outing for the volunteers. The group was able to dispose of 18 large trash bags at the government's dump site by the airport. Trash collected were mostly bottles, plastic and glass, plastic shopping bags, foam lunch containers, rubber sandals and the like. As usual, volunteers picked up trash along the road sides as well as along the causeway shorelines.

As usual, MRA provided drinking water, trash bags and plastic gloves for the volunteers. The next clean-up is scheduled for March 28 at 8 am, and we hope to see more volunteers. MRA would like to take this opportunity to thank those who showed up the last time.



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The FSM Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation (NACH) is proud to present the official launching of the book on

Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom

Themes from the Pacific Islands

*Monday,
March 23rd
9 AM*
-
*at the
Central Facility
Building
in Palikir, Pohnpei*



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ichcap

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

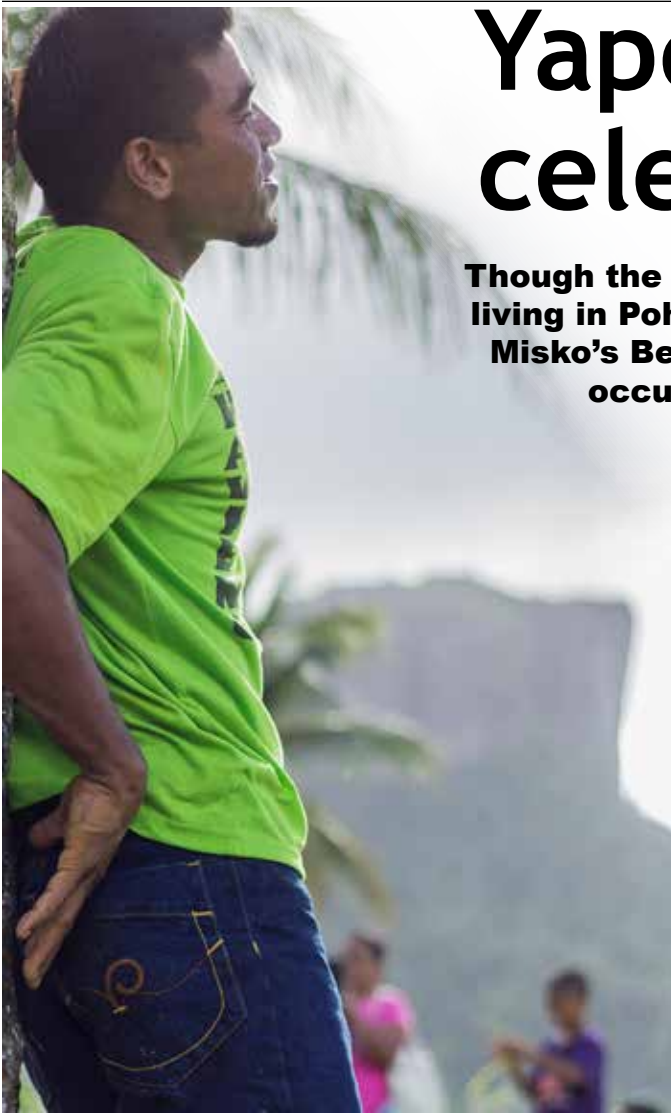
International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO

-
A 2-year collaborative effort brings this wonderful book together featuring the FSM, Fiji, Palau, PNG, Tonga, and Vanuatu
-

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Yapese in Pohnpei celebrate Yap Day

Though the celebration was a bit early, Yapese citizens living in Pohnpei celebrated Yap Day on February 28 at Misko's Beach. March 2 is Yap Day and celebrations occurred in several places where Yapese communities exist.



For a bright future of Solid Waste Management in Pohnpei State

Japan International Cooperation Agency

Pohnpei State Environment Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), hosted the fourth State Level Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting of the Japan Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in the Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM) on February 27, 2015 at the EPA Conference Room.

In his opening remarks, EPA's Acting Director Mr. Henry Susaia welcomed and acknowledged the presence of Kolonia Town Mayor Cassiano Shoniber, representatives from Sokehs and Kitti municipality, representative from Dept. of T&I and Pohnpei Waste Management Services (PWMS), and other members. He stated the purpose of the meeting is to review the strategic action plans that have been implemented so far in the J-PRISM Project, which is supported by JICA. He further mentioned that the Pohnpei State Solid Waste Management Plan (2014-2018) was endorsed by EPA and signed by Governor last year. Few of the goals of the Plan are 30% reduction recycle rate by 2018, 50% reduction of waste to dumpsite, and to provide 50% of Pohnpei's population with once a week trash collection.

Representatives from Kolonia Town Government, Sokehs, Kitti, and PWMS also provided their inputs regarding the plans of improvement of the waste collection system from their respective municipalities and improvement of landfill site. Mr. Shoniber displayed a sample of a green 10gal plastic bag which will be distributed and sold to the public. He mentioned the bag system will replace the drum system due to health issues. Mr. McVey from PWMS briefly presented on the future design at the landfill site in which has been initiated but needs funding to complete the project. Mr. Akira Haseyama, JICA Expert in Solid Waste Management, highlighted that funding is not the main issue for the projects but its priority. If the State would prioritize solid waste management, then the funding for its projects would not be a big issue.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the waste collection improvement concluded the three hours meeting. Signing the MOU were Mr. Shoniber from Kolonia Town Government, Mr. Susaia from Pohnpei EPA, and the representatives from Sokehs and Kitti municipality. In addition, the Minutes of Meeting was signed by JICA, EPA and T&I.



Main participants at the 4th State Level Joint Coordinating Committee of J-PRISM

President Mori vetoes \$2.8 million public project funding due to weak planning

FSM Information Services

Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori has vetoed Congressional Act No. 18-123 that would allocate funds to more public projects throughout the FSM.

Congressional Act No. 18-123 is "ANACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,800,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING PUBLIC PROJECTS AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS FOR THE PEOPLE IN EACH OF THE FOUR STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

In his veto message to Speaker Dohsis Halbert, President Mori noted that Congress appropriated the sum of \$2,800,000 for public projects and social programs without

a public hearing and consultation prior to its enactment. There has been no committee report that provides the rationale behind the appropriations and no record that contains any information on why it was withdrawn from the assigned committee.

In numerous separate, but similar communications with Congress, President Mori consistently expressed his support for Public Projects and their value and importance to the Nation's continued economic growth. However, he has also consistently re-iterated the need for transparency, comprehensive project planning and improvements in the accountability process of the Public's limited fiscal resources. A recently released Public Auditors report similarly outlines and identifies problems in the accountability process and the credibility of expenditure reports from previous Congressional appropriations.

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Teachers matter

The International Organization for Migration

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Education (CADRE) program team has provided training for over 400 teachers, including pre-service third year education majors at the College of Micronesia, Teacher Corps; Peace Corps volunteers, Peace Corps



PNA goal: Enhance capacity of the Parties

28 February 2015

Majuro, Marshall Islands — Actions taken by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) since establishment of its office in Majuro in 2010 have resulted in quadrupling of revenue to the eight member nations, and implementation of numerous innovative conservation and management measures impacting giving PNA Parties greater control of the US\$6 billion fishery in the central and western Pacific.

Yet despite the PNA's development as a significant regional force in fisheries conservation and management, the size of the PNA Office (PNAO) has remained modest — only six full-time staff, with five based on Majuro. This reflects PNAO's focus on involving fisheries officials from the eight member nations in all aspects of the PNA program to develop capacity and keep office staff to a minimum. "This is our operating plan," said PNA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Transform Aqorau. "In this way, the size of the PNAO can be maintained at a minimum, while Parties themselves assume increasing ownership and role in the administration of PNA initiatives."

Dr. Aqorau said this philosophy of building capacity within the Parties is crucial to the next phase of PNA development, which is focused on "consolidation, planning, and augmentation of administrative structures" to continue advancing the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) and other fisheries initiatives. "We should be continually be looking to have a mixed operation, relying on our own initiative and innovation, external contractors and consultation, and a core pool of technical personnel, while at the same time getting our own people involved with our external consultants and technical personnel," said Dr. Aqorau. This can be achieved by "getting our people to be members of working groups, chairing working groups, and even spending time at the PNAO on secondment to special assignments," said Dr. Aqorau.

This is increasingly important because the VDS is a vehicle that represents a large and growing revenue source that needs to be managed both at PNAO and the national level by the Parties. But the VDS for purse seiners is only one component of PNA management of the fisheries. Registration and monitoring of the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) will be launched in 2016, PNA's Pacific tuna label in conjunction with the Marine Stewardship Council certification of free school caught skipjack is poised for expansion and further development in European markets, ongoing development of a PNA Economic Model that governs rent streams paid for fishing access, and a new VDS for longliners are among major initiatives of the PNA. These will be among major issues

local counterparts, and other in-service teachers. Activities have also included fire extinguisher training for Pohnpei elementary school teachers. Venues have included: the Pohnpei Annual Teacher Forum (2014 & 2015), COM-FSM Chuuk campus, Micronesian Teachers Education Conference (MTEC), RMI Ministry of Education (MOE) week long science teacher training, RMI MOE summer education conference, and both Chuuk state & RMI WorldTeach Orientation. Twenty outstanding science teachers across the FSM and RMI have been recognized for excellence with a special certificate of appreciation issued by IOM.

Kate McDermott, the education officer of the CADRE program, affirmed a strong belief that providing support to teachers is critical for sustainable development: "The greatest asset of any school is its people. Many teachers choose their job because they want to make a difference. Research overwhelmingly supports the fact that teacher knowledge and skills are the most important factors influencing student learning — the impact of quality teachers is even more significant for children from disadvantaged backgrounds or other troubled home environments. Quality teachers not only make a difference in student achievement, they ARE the difference."

The IOM implemented, Australian funded CADRE program is active in 50 schools and communities in the FSM and RMI. IOM trainers visit 8th grade science

being addressed at the annual meeting of the PNA taking place in Yap from March 3-13, 2015.

Dr. Aqorau sees "working groups" comprised of representatives from PNA member nations, PNAO staff and technical consultants as key to advancing PNA initiatives. "This way, Parties can be closely involved in the work and design the initiatives in ways that reflect their needs," he said.

A core administrative feature of the purse seine VDS is managing and using the large volume of data submitted by onboard fisheries observers. This is increasingly being done electronically, as the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) moves from trial stage to full implementation. Dr. Aqorau sees the benefits of rotating VDS Officers from the Parties to the PNAO to assist with processing observer data. "This would enhance their skills, while spreading the responsibility across the Parties with the PNAO providing oversight responsibility," Dr. Aqorau said.

It will develop both capacity and greater cooperation among the Parties. All of these initiatives support maintaining a relatively small number of staff at the PNAO, while engaging the Parties in the rollout and administration of PNA initiatives.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) are eight Pacific Island countries



classrooms in the FSM and 9th grade science classrooms in the RMI. They visit each school for about two weeks to share the CADRE module of lessons. The CADRE module of lessons was field tested and proven effective with over 2,000 students and teachers before being finalized into a professional set consisting of 5 hazard specific comic books, a student workbook, and a teacher handbook.

that control the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery supplying 50 percent of the world's skipjack tuna (a popular tuna for canned products). They are Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

PNA has been a champion for marine conservation and management, taking unilateral action to conserve overfished bigeye tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, including closures of high seas pockets, seasonal bans on use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD), satellite tracking of boats, in port transshipment, 100 percent observer coverage of purse seiners, closed areas for conservation, mesh size regulations, tuna catch retention requirements, hard limits on fishing effort, prohibitions against targeting whale sharks, shark action plans, and other conservation measures to protect the marine ecosystem.

New Principal appointed at Ohwa International Christian Academy

Ohwa, Madolenihmw-Mr. Penitala Sopepa, who was born in Tuvalu and grew up in Fiji became a teacher at Ohwa International Christian Academy- formerly Ohwa Christian High School. Recently he was appointed by the school board to become the new Principal effective at the beginning of this spring semester after the former Principal Rev. Erlinso Alex decided not to return to school for health reasons.

According to Administrator Rev. Etlor Joseph, the entire School Board expressed their debt of gratitude to Rev. Alex for his tenure as Principal.

SPC sustainable energy partnership brings light and livelihoods

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) project partners on 7 March 2015.

Thursday 12 March 2015,

Suva, Fiji –Two villages in the Oro Province of Papua New Guinea, home to some 1200 people, began to enjoy the benefits of electricity over the weekend, thanks to their partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

Melanesia's Million Miracle Partnership (M3P) is a launching pad for partnerships between community-based NGOs, government energy offices and local communities, especially women's groups, to bring electricity to one million people in Melanesia (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) by 2020.

For Papua New Guinea, M3P aims to provide electricity to 82,500 households or 495,000 people by 2020. As an M3P partner, SPC sent a team from its Energy Programme to Papua New Guinea from 28 February to 13 March to install and commission a 12 Volt DC off-grid solar photovoltaic (PV) charging system for Kou Kou and Gorari villages. This, with 200 Solar Pico lanterns, will bring electricity to both villages, which are located along the Kokoda Track.

The project is a collaboration of the Government of Australia and SPC working in partnership with the Kokoda Track Foundation (KTF) and the two communities. It was jointly commissioned by SPC and its

One of the community leaders said, "My people are appreciative of SPC's support and its partnership with KTF to bring this project to my community; this will provide solar lights right at the doorstep of my people. In the past we normally use firewood for cooking and also lights in the night. With the Solar Pico lanterns, we will have access to good quality lights and improve the livelihoods of my people."

This partnership serves to empower the women's groups in Kou Kou and Gorari villages to effectively manage community-based micro businesses. They will run solar shops that serve as charging stations for the Solar Pico lanterns.

The women leaders from both villages showed their appreciation. "This project is a blessing to the women; we will be able to earn money from the sale of solar lanterns and charging of the lanterns and also learn important business skills to operate the solar shop successfully. The project will improve the livelihoods of our families and empower the women in the area to run a small community business. The lights will improve the security of our families and also help our children complete their homework and study at night."

Kuini Rabo, officer in charge of M3P, said, "We are pleased to empower the women of Kou Kou and Gorari on the eve of the International Women's Day. The M3P

partnership was designed to empower women because we strongly believe in this year's theme – Make it Happen – and no doubt these women's groups will make it happen."

The women will receive basic business and technical training from SPC and KTF staff.

Similar projects are planned for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in the coming months, and a hydro-electricity power supply project for 215 households in Papua New Guinea is in the pipeline



Charging station at Kou Kou Village

Free airport wifi boosts visitor experience and the Yap Visitor Survey

Yap (YVB) — Yap Visitors Bureau has established a free wifi network in the Departure Lounge at Yap International Airport. YVB, in conjunction with the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, established the free network as part of its on-going Visitor Survey.

The network is available for an hour or two before flights depart. Those wanting to use the system are simply asked to provide an email address. The address is then used once only to send visitors a link to the survey. Don Evans, General Manager of YVB noted that "this wifi network will improve the visitor experience at the airport

and will lead to more people having the chance to complete this important survey".

Professor Simon Milne from NZTRI commented: "this is the first time a free wifi network has been linked to visitor survey research in this region—it is a very innovative approach and I am sure others will be observing with interest".

For more information or clarifications, contact YVB at Tel: (691)350-2298 during normal working hours. More information on YVB is also available on their new website: www.visit Yap.com.

Celebrating Women's Day in the markets of Fiji

Tomoko Kashiwazaki/UNDP

More than 90 women market vendors in Rakiraki and 25 in Tavua celebrated International Women's Day, and renewed their knowledge and skills of financial management for their market business through the training sessions, Financial First Steps.

International Women's Day, held on 8 March every year is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities, such as women market vendors at local markets.

Celebration of International Women's Day this year in Fiji coincided with the training sessions for market vendors in Rakiraki, Tavua and Ba.

Financial First Steps, the first of five topics to be delivered as part of Continuing Market Business Education programme under the Markets for Change project, which aims at improving and strengthening the financial literacy and business practice and competency of market vendors especially women market vendors.

The training sessions were conducted in the

two vernacular languages, Fijian and Hindi, and attended by women market vendors from both ethnic backgrounds.

The training was organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment the Town Councils, Market Vendors Associations and the Westpac Banking Corporation.

"Empower women! Whether her family is doing well or not depends on women," Ms Sharda Devi, 54 year-old market vendor for 25 years at Rakiraki market, shared her message to her co-workers/participants. Her group performed a song about women's empowerment at the opening of the training session in Rakiraki.

"The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was signed by 189 Governments 20 years ago. More women have been elected to public office – about 21 percent of the world's parliamentarians are women, up from about 11 percent in 1995. We saw good progress in Fiji, which has seven women parliamentarians elected through the election last year," said UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative for Fiji, Akiko Fujii while launching the training in Tavua yesterday. She will also deliver the opening speech in Ba today.

"I enjoyed the training and learned new things like saving and budgeting. I've started my market business for three months

now. I buy vegetables around Tavua and sell them at the market. I wanted to learn many things for my business, said Titilia Lagivala, 32 year-old market vendor at Tavua market.

A banner on which women market vendors in Rakiraki wrote "Empower Women" in three languages was handed over to participants in Tavua as a symbol of solidarity and encouragement. It will be relayed to women market vendors in Ba, today.

"You will be the change agents for family, community and society. We hope this training will contribute to economic empowerment of women market vendors," Ms Fujii concluded.

Prominent women in Tavua, Maria Keavali, District Officer, Temalesi Henfiro, Town Council CEO, Sereani Kafoa, Sub-divisional Health Sister, Talei Tamaka, Sub-divisional Medical Officer and Markereta Taoi, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, had an opportunity to gather at the training and celebrated the Women's Day with Ms Fujii.



The Markets for Change project is a six-year, multi-country initiative that aims to ensure marketplaces in rural and urban areas of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. A UN Women project, Markets for Change is implemented in partnership with UNDP and principally funded by the Australian Government.

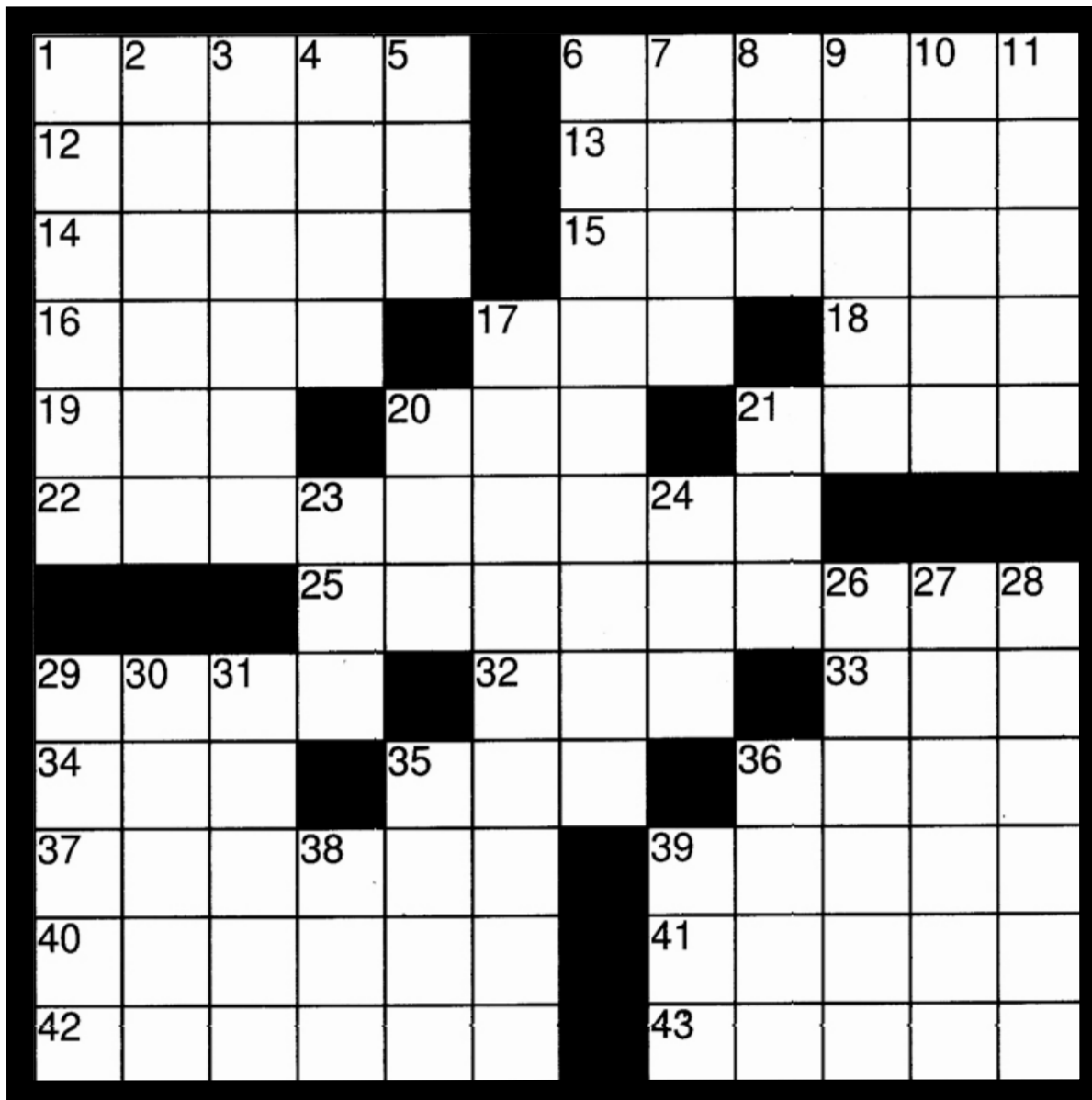
Crossword - It's Round

ACROSS

1. Like some vines
6. The ___ Game
12. Lunar lander
13. Got away from
14. Perk
15. Go around
16. Bush appointee of 2002
17. Busy one
18. Generation ___
19. Toothpaste form
20. Reading spot
21. Bombard
22. Local law
25. Change
29. Seek guidance
32. Dapper fellow
33. Cry about
34. Little boy
35. I will, shortly
36. Here or there
37. Broken apart
39. Played freeze tag
40. Maneuvers
41. More than good
42. Multitudes
43. Artificial

DOWN

1. Unhands
2. Hard worker
3. Ancient
4. Mistake
5. Thus far
6. Flower type
7. Red ender
8. Overhang
9. Maxim
10. Cold spot to not lick
11. Capable
17. Like the good Spock
20. Trial test?
21. caress
23. Creepy me
24. Knows how
26. Van Gogh work
27. Beat at the buffet
28. Record player
29. Opulent
30. Totaled
31. Type of snake
35. About
36. Tab, for one
38. Big reference, for short
39. Gladys Knight associate



HOT...!

Here's a puzzle to cool your heels with while you sit at the picnic table and munch on a HOT DOG or HAMBURGER. Each of the 34 words hidden in the puzzle below is the name of a food or beverage that is consumed hot.

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

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| APPLE PIE | PANCAKE |
| BACON | PEPPER |
| BROTH | PIZZA |
| BURRITO | POTATO |
| CALZONE | ROAST |
| CHICKEN | SAUSAGE |
| CHILI | SOUP |
| COCOA | STEW |
| COFFEE | STIR FRY |
| FRENCH FRY | STUFFING |
| GRAVY | TACO |
| HAMBURGER | TAMMALE |
| HOT DOG | TEA |
| LASAGNA | TOAST |
| OATMEAL | TODDY |
| OMELET | WAFFLE |
| ONION RING | WINGS |

Palau High School Mock Congress trains future leaders

Island Times/PIR

March 09, 2015

KOROR, Palau — With the aim of teaching future leaders for Palau, the High School Mock Congress started [March 8] with the participants divided into three groups and had their initial proposals of bills that they would like to enact.

In an interview with Senator J. Uduch Sengebau-Senior yesterday at the old OEK Building, she explained that the students decide among themselves the bills that they wish to propose at the Mock Congress which is slated for March 17 and 18.

"They will be assisted by three lawyers Aaron Esty and David O'Brien of the Senate Legal Counsel and Melissa Simonsen, the legal counsel from Koror State legislature. The students will be working with the lawyers just like how we lawmakers enact a bill. In this way the students will get an idea on how to put their idea on paper and expanding it to become a proposed legislation," Senior said.

She added that the lawyers will draft the bills for consideration at the Mock Congress. The students had their brainstorming and working session yesterday at the old OEK with the venue of the Mock Congress to be announced.

The students also decided on who will be their officers for the Mock Congress with Warang Polloi of Palau Mission Academy as President and Kersten Dismas of Palau High School as Vice President and Kederang Tellei of Mindszenty High School as Floor Leader.

Among the bills that the students will work

on include, "The Student Reinvestment Act"; "No Student Left Behind"; and "The Prevention of Environmental Hazard Act."

Participants of the Third Senate Mock Congress are Kersten Dismas, Maya Iyechad and Rosania Olegeriil from Palau High School; Sydney Ngiraidong and Kederang Tellei of Mindszenty High School; Eoghan Olkeriil Ngrudelsang and Garry Boisek Tellames Jr. of Emmaus High School; La-yeav Ngemaes and Meilin Chin of Bethania High School; Ives Rdialul and Natasha Etor Oiterong of Belau Modekngai School; and Balang Skey and Warang Polloi of Palau Mission Academy.

"This is a good program and it is important for students to learn their own government and the process of how a bill becomes a law of the Republic. They are the future leaders of Palau and this Mock Congress is a good opportunity to encourage them to become leaders of Palau someday," Senior stressed.

As the preparation of the 3rd Mock Congress progresses with the students, a snag on the logistics threatens to derail the program. In the earlier preparation meeting with principals of various schools, the request to use the Senate Chamber as venue for the Mock Congress was approved by Senate President Chin. Last week, a letter was received from President Chin informing the schools that he cannot allow the use the Senate Chambers as venue for Mock Congress due to possible sessions for supplemental budget. Regular sessions will start in April and during this March, special sessions will only take place only at the call of the President.

Pacific officials prepare for Leaders Meeting with Japan

Yap State News Brief

FIJI, Oceania — Senior officials from all Member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Forum Secretariat met with their counterparts from the Government of Japan to prepare for the 7th Pacific Leaders' Meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan, known as PALM 7. PALM 7 will be held in Iwaki-city, Fukushima, Japan on 22 and 23 May 2015.

At the pre-PALM Senior Officials' Meeting, held on 4 March in Tokyo, Forum Member officials took the opportunity to emphasize key concerns for the Pacific region, including the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as the important reforms to regional decision-making introduced by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

Endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2014, the Framework establishes a new political process to drive regional cooperation and integration and will be an important reference point for the Pacific's engagement with development partners, such as Japan.

The Senior Officials' Meeting also provided

a valuable opportunity for Forum Members and the Government of Japan to reflect on the progress and successes of the Pacific Environment Community (PEC) Fund, a US\$66million initiative of PALM 5 in 2009.

Under the PEC Fund, which is coordinated and managed by the Forum Secretariat, the 14 Forum Island Countries have been allocated US\$4 million each to support projects in either solar power generation or sea water desalination. Eight countries have completed their projects, while the remaining six Forum Island countries are making rapid progress in implementing their projects.

The Pacific Leaders' Meeting was initiated by Japan in 1997 to strengthen relations with Pacific Island Forum countries and work jointly towards the development of the Pacific region. Through the PALM process, Japan and Pacific Island Forum countries have an opportunity to enhance cooperation and strengthen relations.

PALM meetings are held every 3 years, with the last meeting, PALM 6, held in May 2012 in Okinawa.

Youth meet with UN Joint Presence Office Rep

COLONIA, Yap (OurYAP) — In the afternoon of Tuesday, March 10, 2015, members of Yap's youth umbrella organization—OurYAP—and officials of the Division of Youth Services met with the visiting Country Development Manager of the United Nations Joint Presence Office in Pohnpei, FSM.

Mr. O'Kean Ehmes explained the role of his office and the UN agencies the "joint

presence" represented—UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women—in the FSM. He also explained the areas applicable to the youth, such as the GEF small grants program of UNDP, and health programs under UNFPA related to STI and other youth-related issues.

Mr. Ehmes distributed his business cards and urged OurYAP to freely contact him on any issues they feel applied to his office. After the brief discussion

News bits from Island Food Community of Pohnpei

On February 26, IFCP hosted two important events:

1. Food Safety and Security Workshop. Topics and presenters: Importance of Local Food crops to our Culture, Health, Economy, Environment and Food Security (CHEEF) presented by Mrs. Emihner Johnson; Food Processing – making flour from giant taro presented by Mrs. Mona J. Tara; Food Safety presented by EPA and FSM Food Inspectors Joseph Victor, Alfred David and Wiriell Dewy. Food Security topics presented by Board of Directors Chairman Deacon Adelino Lorens and CES representative Rev. Engily Ioanis. A total of 42 PWAC members and resource people were in attendance.
2. A group of 24 students from COM – FSM visited IFCP to learn more about the importance of local food to our CHEEF benefits.



Taro drying under the sun for taro flour

BYU-Hawaii, PIU, & OTC education partnership MOU

Ohwa, Madolenihmw, Pohnpei- Brigham Young University-Hawaii and Ohwa Theological College of Ohwa International Christian Academy signed the educational advancement partnership on January 16, 2015. Signing on behalf of BYU-Hawaii was President Steven C. Wheelwright and Board Chairman, Ohwa Theological College, according to Rev. Etler Joseph, Administrator, Board Campus Residence.

This university degree bound program included teacher certification, associate of applied degrees, bachelor, master, and doctorate degrees in the field of education, liberal arts, business management, theology and more if there is demand said Principal Penitala Sopepa.

This partnership already started toward Associate of Applied Arts degrees in theology and liberal arts. Beginning this summer of 2015, special classes will be offered for teachers trying to obtain their associate degrees or teachers' certificate as required of JEMCO for all interested public school teachers in Early Childhood Education (ECE), Elementary Education and Bachelor Degrees for High School. The students will be eligible for Pell Grant like COM-FSM if they will be full-time.

Before the month of May this year, Ohwa Theological College under the umbrella of Ohwa International Christian Academy

is expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pacific Islands University main campus in Guam. This to provide additional choices of Universities for the FSM, in particular Pohnpeian students interested in pursuing their college/university post-secondary education degrees in Associate, Bachelor, Master, or Doctorate degrees according to Board of Trustees of Ohwa Theological College, Rev. Paulino David-Vice Chairman, Rev. Etler Joseph-Secretary, Mrs. Fasi Jimmy-Treasurer, and Rev. Kaius Nemuel under the able leadership of Honorable Rev. Bethwel Henry, President, Honorable Rev. Midion Neth-Vice President, and Rev. Raynold Jack, Chairman of Education Committee of United Church of Christ-Pohnpei Council (UCCP Church Council).

Board of Trustees went on to comment that due to current economic crisis and very low per capita income, the students residing in Madolenihmw, U, and Kitti the farthest geographical distance away from COM-FSM campus cannot afford to travel daily to COM-FSM or Pohnpei Campus, can simply commute to BYU-Hawaii and PIU-Guam Ohwa campus to obtain their post-secondary needs. BYU-Hawaii and PIU-Guam are both U.S. WASC Accreditation. This arrangement will compliment Ohwa International Christian Academy high graduates, Board of Trustees and the UCCP Church Council Leadership concluded.

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 15-01

The U.S. Embassy in Kolonia is seeking an individual for the position of Security Guard in the Post Security Office (PSO).

OPEN TO: All Interested Candidates/All Sources
POSITION: Security Guard LES-2; FP-CC*
OPENING DATE: March 13, 2015
CLOSING DATE: March 27, 2015
WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week (including night and weekend hours)
SALARY: \$ 5,731 USD p.a. (Starting salary) (Position Grade: LES-2)

NOTE:

ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT (OR) APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

The incumbent provides security services to safeguard U.S. Government personnel, facilities and property. The employee provides access control and screens of all visitors and vehicles entering U.S. Government facilities. The incumbent provides fixed post security and conduct roving patrols on the Mission chancery and residential compounds.

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

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