

The **KASELEHLIE PRESS**

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Congress and President



working to sort differences

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By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 6, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—Members of the 18th FSM Congress and President Mori have been trying to resolve a conflict that has had the FSM Legislative and Executive branches at loggerheads for some weeks now. The controversy seems to be rooted in both branches' interpretations of the laws regarding allotments, appropriations, and public projects and social programs bills.

A press release by President Mori's Public Information Office that came out this evening may not do much to resolve the conflict. It discloses that President Mori "froze action" on appropriations "pending the improvement of the process involved in formulating public projects, and the strengthening of the Project Control Document (PCD)—the document that should control the implementation of project(s) based on the law itself."

From the Congress point of view, it is precisely the presidential "freezing" of action on the Congress' appropriation bill that is at the core of the controversy between the Executive and Legislative Branches.

From press releases and from the President's transmittal letters to Congress the President has a long list of problems with the process of public projects legislation.

While President Mori's Public Information Office has been publishing press releases (<http://myfsm.blogspot.com>) subtly lambasting Congress for its public projects bills, Congress has not issued any press releases of its own in order to explain its position.

"We need to move this government forward and move on to more important priorities," said Speaker Dohsis Halbert who made space in his schedule for an interview when we stopped by unannounced. He said that he wants to handle things the Micronesian way by talking them out after tempers have cooled.

He implored us not to sensationalize the problems between the branches.

Through his Public Information Office, President Mori said that he is willing to talk with us but that the pressures of the office precluded the possibility of an interview before deadline time.

Congress and the President had two closed door meetings to try to work out their differences and to move forward. Speaker Halbert said that the President was disappointed that Congress had not passed a bill to provide the Executive Branch with a large "set aside" fund that his branch could use to fund projects. He said that Congress decided against the requested "set aside" fund and opted for the public programs bill that they passed. He said that during the first meeting the two branches discussed that state of affairs and that President Mori agreed to "let the \$4.9 million projects bill" go. A few days later he vetoed it.

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FSM President and Congress held meetings to resolve issues surrounding the process of legislating and implementing public projects

[Note: Provided here in its entirety is the January 27 meeting note taken by Secretary of Justice April Dawn Skilling and shared with the President and Congress on January 28.]

to move ahead with implementation of recently approved laws, for various reasons, Congress was unable to meet until the proposed date of January 27, 2014.

The January 27th meeting was scheduled to be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Presidential Conference Room to: (1) discuss and work out problems with the Project Control Document (PCD) and the appropriation process by Congress as they relate to the ability of the Executive Branch to implement public projects; and, (2) to stop ongoing violations of the Udot case, which case defines the Constitutional powers of Congress to appropriate public funds and the Executive to fully execute and implement all national laws.

Summary:

The meeting started at 2:05 p.m. after the location for the meeting was changed by Congress to the Congressional chambers in the Central Facility. Congressional members present included Speaker Halbert, Chairman George, and Chairman Simina. Missing were Chairman Urusemal and Chairman Christian. No Congressional staff attended. Executive members present included President Mori,

Secretary Ikosia, Secretary Itimai, Secretary April Skilling, AAG Atanraoi-Reim, Esiri Edward, Molina Seneres, Sohs John, Marcellus Akapito, and Karnim Judah. Missing were Vice President Alik and Director Adolph.

The President noted that no staff attended on behalf of Congress and expressed his disappointment that without staff, the discussion would only be one-sided and that there would be no one (on the Congressional side) to take notes with staff input into the discussion, and no one on Congress' side to reduce the outcome of the meeting to a written agreement.

Speaker Halbert responded that he did not believe this meeting was for mid-level staff and that not having so many people would make it easier to get things done. Chairman George stated that they (Congress) believed the President had analyzed the problems and was present to share with Congress ideas to improve; therefore no Congressional staff was present. "I thought this would be time to dialogue and share information to improve."

The President emphasized that while the PCD is within the jurisdiction of the Executive, it cannot work well without the Congressional part improving, too. And, that he did not just want to "talk, talk, talk" but to come to an agreement with Congress about needed improvements. Speaker Halbert responded that talking is very important and that "talking is the Micronesian way." President Mori agreed stating but added that "beyond talking, there must be action to follow up." President Mori additionally pointed out that if there were continued violations of law, there would really be a problem.

Chairman Simina asked what problems the President had with P.L. 18-35?

President Mori outlined one of the problems in Chairman Christian's portion of the bill noting that there was no breakdown and that it must be specific enough so that Congress does not get involved in it after the appropriation was completed. An example the President gave was in the line item "leadership travel." How does that help us on the Executive side, President Mori asked. Once the money for the projects is appropriated, there should be no coaching by or deciding by Congress on how the money should be spent. But the appropriation example given does not say who is travelling, where, for what purpose, etc. Therefore, in the absence of public hearings or Committee Reports, the Executive must go back to Congress to get clarification. This slows down the process when pre-appropriation discussions, public hearings, and Committee Reports on the part of Congress could resolve the problem.

Chairman Simina asked if it was just specificity that President Mori was seeking, and President Mori responded that there should be "at least guidelines." Chairman George asked why not use the PCD to disapprove projects on the basis of no guidelines, purpose, etc.? President Mori stated that the Executive is trying to improve the PCD, but that the appropriation process for public funds, according to Chairman Christian, was "just the nature of the beast." Chairman George followed up stating that (1) the

Executive could first line item veto any public project that did not contain enough specificity, and (2) that when the PCD was submitted, if the Executive (as allottee) was not satisfied, it could stop there.

President Mori responded that he had already been accused, as the Allottee, of failing to comply with the requirements of the PCD (involving the thickness of a public project road). (Note: this is the complaint that brought the entire process of public project appropriations, the implementation process, the deficiencies of the PCD, and the Udot case, to the forefront). President Mori then stated "we are ready to correct our side; what are you (Congress) ready to correct?"

Speaker Halbert stated that he had worked with Secretary Itimai to assist him. "We agreed to help him. He asked us to complete the PCD and then he (TC&I) would check them." This process had been ongoing since 2010. "I know we are not supposed to be involved. But every year I ask (Secretary Itimai), are you ready to take over?"

President Mori stated that the Constitution is very clear. Congress cannot get involved after the law is passed, and added that there must be consultations with constituents ahead of time, public hearings, and Committee Reports. President Mori emphasized that "we want to stop the abuse." Furthermore, President Mori stated that we must start linking projects to the issue of economic growth in order to prepare for 2023. President Mori admitted that when he was in Congress, he did the same thing as what is currently happening, unaware of the dictates of the Udot case. But now that he read and understands the Udot case and has raised his hand to uphold the law as President, he understands that things must change.

President Mori went on to say that there must be attachments provided to the Executive regarding public projects such as documentation of meeting with constituents ahead of time. "Rather than clarify the PCD after the fact, there should be meetings with constituents, public hearings, and Committee Reports," which documentation could then be in the bill itself or attached to the PCD for clarification and inclusion of technical requirements/aspects without having to return to Congress.

Chairman Simina said that after legislation is passed and money appropriated, then the allottee must enforce it through the PCD. "I thought generic details allowed more flexibility to implement the project," he stated. Chairman George also agreed that general terms allowed for more flexibility. President Mori responded that the Executive should be guided by public hearings and Committee Reports, and that the PCD should reflect it. "Without that part, it is just guesswork," President Mori remarked. An example of one of the problems with the language being too general included an appropriation for repatriation of remains. President Mori pointed out that this appropriation provided no guidance but left the implementer to wonder whose remains? From where? From Guam, the US, Korea? Are we even allowed to repatriate remains from another country?

See "Public Projects" on page 14



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Japan grants a gymnasium for Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School



Principal Sister Isabel Sema and Ambassador Suzuki



Students playing piano and guitar

On January 29, 2014 Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School (OLMCHS) was presented with a grant assistance of \$166,580 through the Government of Japan's Grassroots Human Security Projects to construct a gymnasium.

OLMCHS was founded in 1976 by the Mercedarian Sisters of Berriz as an all-girls vocational school. Finally in 2009 it became a co-ed, college preparatory, full-curriculum high school for grades nine through to twelve and graduated its first academic class in May 2013. Educational statistics show that students from OLMCHS were among those with the highest college entrance grades for 2013 in the FSM.

The grant will be utilized to construct a

gymnasium that will serve not only school functions but is designed to enable events to take place such as stage plays, art exhibitions and other cultural activities. In that way, this grant will encompass various objectives such as further improvement of the educational sector in the FSM, quality of education given to students, and the people to people relationship by allowing members of the community access to the gymnasium.

The Government of Japan has been a huge contributor in the assistance of various types of projects throughout the FSM not only on a national basis but down to the grassroots level as well and in his remarks, Ambassador Eiichi Suzuki stated that the Government of Japan is always pleased to be given these opportunities

to assist the FSM and encouraged the students to study hard.

The ceremony was witnessed by Judge Benjamin Rodriguez, Chief Justice of Pohnpei State, school board members, school officials, students, and staff of the Embassy.

FSM Congress overrides President Mori's veto of a \$4.9 million public project appropriation

FSM Information Services

January 14, 2014

On January 3, Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori disapproved Congressional Act No. 18-34, which would provide an amount of \$4.9 million from the general fund of the FSM for fiscal year 2014 to fund "public projects and social programs" in all the States.

The Act was passed by Congress on December 5, 2013, during its Second Special Session.

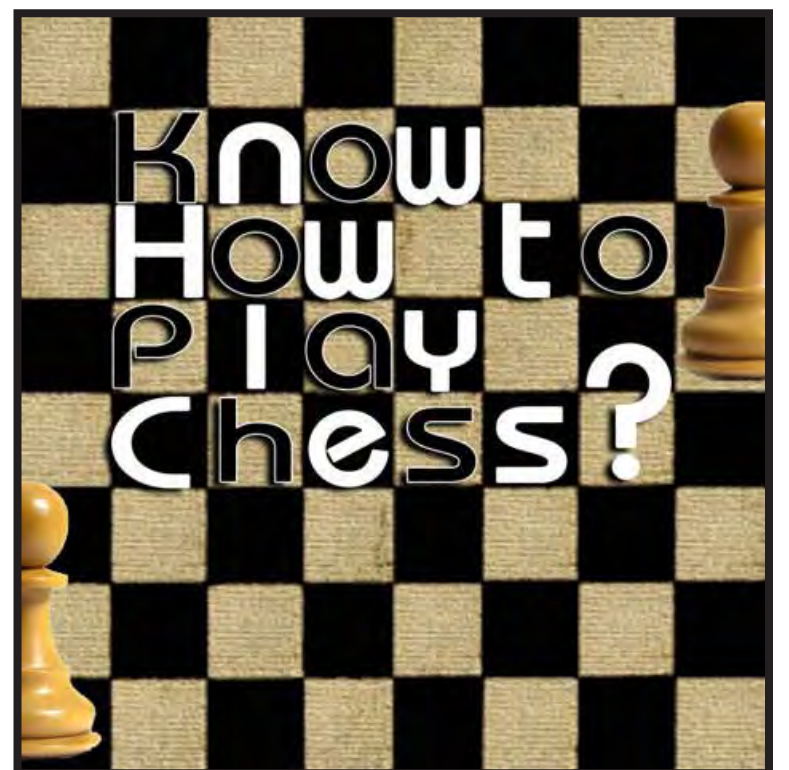
In his veto message to Speaker Dohsis Halbert, President Mori emphasized his support of public projects and programs "when conceived and implemented properly" as they contribute to basic government services and support economic growth. However, the President reiterated the need for transparency and clear guidance on the process employed in the determination and allocation of resources to projects. He further stated with regards hearing, "this is the most serious part of the process because without such public hearings, there is no opportunity for the public to have input into the process of providing public

projects and programs for their well-being".

President Mori also observed that "while revenue has continue to grow, Congress is also increasing appropriations for public projects and programs" in an unsustainable manner as the FSM moves closer to 2023, the year financial assistance from the United States under the Compact is expected to terminate.

President Mori would rather have "surplus" revenue for the Nation be allocated to "priority programs" such as the proposed Set Aside fund to help defray "anticipated shortfall of the more than \$600 million in the Trust Fund and provide funding for targeted projects", such as the "Fly Micronesia" airline project. Among other priority improvement projects, the FSM has toiled to enhance the transportation sector, including concerted efforts on a viable regionally targeted airline to strengthen the tourism industry.

During this current session, the Third Regular Session, Congress undertook to override the veto on January 13, putting in place the latest public project and social program appropriation law.



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FSM Project LIFT

Literacy Intervention for FSM leaders of Tomorrow

This month marks the kick-off for the next phase of project LIFT, a joint partnership between FSM National Department of Education, the four state departments of education, and Technical Assistance & Consulting Services (TACS)—an outreach unit within the University of Oregon's College of Education.

The LIFT project focuses on building capacity to promote and improve early literacy achievement in FSM using multi-tiered systems of support—also known as response to intervention (RtI). Key characteristics of this model include regular screening and progress monitoring, early intervention for struggling readers, differentiated instruction based on student need, and regular team meetings using data to make instructional decisions.

The initial implementation of the project will involve four pilot schools—one from each of the four state. The four pilot schools are Iras Elementary School (Chuuk), Tafunsak Elementary School (Kosrae), Sekere Elementary School (Pohnpei), and Gaanelay Elementary School (Yap).

Four teams representing each state and school, joined NDOE staff and TACS consultants on Pohnpei on January 13-17, 2014 for a five-day intensive team building, strategic planning, and skills training. The state teams included the Directors of Education, principals, administrators, staff development specialists, early childhood education teachers, special education teachers, and a designated literacy coach.

On Monday, Dr. Rufino Mauricio, FSM Secretary of Education, welcomed the group and affirmed commitment to this multi-year project. TACS director John



English presented Dr. Mauricio with a University of Oregon pen, acknowledging Dr. Mauricio's alumni status with University of Oregon. Following opening remarks, the teams engaged in a needs assessment process. Each state team shared information on their current practices for screening, assessment, and instruction. The group then reviewed current student performance data, and began formulating recommendations for short, intermediate, and long-term goals focused on improving student literacy. This was followed by a comprehensive review of evidence-based best practices in early literacy instruction. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,

participants engaged in a deep study of the essential elements of good reading instruction including language acquisition and development, phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Participants shared ideas and strategies for improving classroom learning. On Friday, the four pilot coaches accompanied TACS

consultants to Sekere Elementary School. The teams were able to meet the Acting Principal and other school staff, tour the school, and practiced some basic screening practices on a small group of 3rd grade students. The teams then met to

debrief and formulate immediate action steps for the remainder of the year. TACS consultant Elizabeth Jankowski will be making onsite visits to each of the four pilot schools to conduct deeper staff training and establish screening and data collection protocols. In addition, an online professional learning community

will be established where teams can network, and share questions, insights, successes, and challenges. Learning modules on all of the major components for multi-tiered literacy instruction will be created and made available online to the project teams so as to ensure sustained capacity building and further scale-up of the project.

The teams departed with a high degree of enthusiasm and energy for what lies ahead. The teams discussed the fact that system changes do not happen overnight, and affirmed their commitment to this multi-year effort. The group also stressed the importance of

coherence throughout the implementation of the project. That is, the importance of coordinating with other practitioners—both internal and external—as the project moves forward so as to ensure that resources are leveraged in the most efficient manner, and that expertise is shared widely.

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...Congress*Continued from front page*

Speaker Halbert said that the second meeting was held in order to discuss problems with Project Control Documents on the implementation of projects, and the President's problems with the lack of committee reports and transparency in the selection of projects. He said that when the designated Senators arrived at the meeting, the President was highly agitated that Congress had decided not to send any staff members to the meeting saying that nothing official could be accomplished without staff members present to record agreements. The President's press release later said Congress had made no concessions on the matter.

On January 31, the President sent a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the Speaker for his signature. The document Halbert was asked to sign listed the Congressional role in bettering the public projects process as:

- 1) Pre-passage consultations with constituents to ensure a transparent process in formulating public projects and social programs;
- 2) Public hearings to solicit views from recipients of the projects and from the allottees who will be charged in implementing them; and
- 3) Production of Committee Reports with the results attached to the PCD for clarification, eliminating the need to return to Congress or have Congress violate the Udot case by having to become involved and decide how funds were to be spent or who would be the recipients.

The MOU said that the Executive would streamline the PCD process and make it more understandable to the agency and personnel responsible for its preparation, and would simplify the PCD for itself so that people involved in the projects would not get confused as to the intent of the project or program funded by Congress.

Speaker Halbert said that he could not obligate the entire Congress to the MOU and had sent a copy to each of the members for discussion.

Meanwhile, the President announced in this evening's press release that he would release the public projects money but future projects would "become subject to an improved, modified, and more transparent and comprehensive process currently being drafted by the Executive branch".

By Speaker Halbert's reckoning, the first signs of conflict arose shortly after President Mori line item vetoed \$895,000 of a \$1.13 million public projects bill that Congress had designated to pay the principle on delinquent Social Security payments for some unspecified Pohnpei employers. The conflict did not

stem from the line item veto itself and Congress did not override it. However, the executive branch allotted the money to Pohnpei State anyway based on what President Mori said was an erroneous reading by SBOC budget office of a legal opinion issued by the Secretary of Justice.

In a letter to Senator Peter Christian dated January 16, President Mori wrote that bad decision making and failure to follow proper procedure were behind the erroneously disbursed funds. "The responsible individual has been formally counseled and disciplined in response to this unfortunate breach of proper process, and lack of judgment," he wrote. He also said that immediately following the discovery of the error he directed his staff to begin the process of de-allotment of the funds and that by the date of the letter that process had been completed.

Lt. Governor Marcelo Peterson said that before the Executive Branch decided to de-allot the funds Pohnpei had already received over \$600 thousand from SBOC. He said that so far none of that money has been spent but the uses for the money had already been decided. He said that as he was aware the national government had not asked for that money back.

Lt. Governor Peterson was unaware of an amendment to the special projects bill (CA 18-42) that was just sent to the President for consideration. The amendment, if it passes Presidential scrutiny re-appropriates \$1 million dollars to be used for Pohnpei State roads improvement, provided that the money will "not be allotted until Congress is officially advised that funds improperly disbursed as a result of the line item veto...are collected."

The President is free to line item veto any item on an appropriations bill and could exercise that power on the projects bill that has been engrossed for transmission to his office.

The Director of SBOC was suspended without pay over the incident but was called back to work before serving the entire suspension period.

The Department of Justice legal opinion of October 8 concluded "that the item veto on Public Law No. 18-11 does not reduce the overall apportionment of fund appropriated for Pohnpei State. The effect of the item veto is to disallow the appropriated funds to be used to cover the principal amount owed by Pohnpei employers to Social Security." Secretary Skilling explained that the "appropriation is complete because the purpose of the appropriation was clear in the bill, ('to assist the States of Pohnpei and Yap in retiring debts and covering budget shortfalls'). Viewed in that light, the veto does not affect the overall apportionment of funds as stated in the appropriations," it says.

SBOC's Director said that DOJ has since explained that though the legal opinion

appeared to be saying that the remaining \$895,000 should be allotted to Pohnpei State to retire debts and cover budget shortfalls that wasn't exactly what it meant. She said that the explanation was very complex but that she understood it and is moving on.

The President's public information office did not issue any press releases about the erroneous disbursement of funds to Pohnpei State.

Speaker Halbert read a statement on the Rule of Law into the Congressional Journal during the third regular session. He said that trust is necessary and respect for intentions rather than the invention of "ingenious loopholes and technicalities".

"In implementing a piece of legislation, especially a line-item vetoed legislation, that respect is even more necessary. A veto should be in the nature of a respectful disagreement. It should not be used as a license to completely ignore the Congress. To do so is entering very dangerous grounds which lead to breakdown of trust. I hope for all our sake that we do not go very far along that path," the Speaker said.

As to the conflict regarding public projects, on January 3, the President sent Congressional Act 18-34, a \$4.9 million dollar public projects and social programs bill back to Congress. In his explanation of his veto of the bill he said that while he supports public projects because they "do contribute to basic services and economic growth, which are the essential function of government", the current system is "defective and deficient because the process lacks transparency." He also pointed out that there are no public hearings on the proposed projects and programs. "Furthermore, failure to clearly identify the needs of the public without public input leads to repetitive changes, sometimes resulting in as many as 10 to 11 amendments."

He also said that he felt that problems with the format of Project Control Documents (PCDs) make it difficult for the Executive Branch to properly

implement public projects and programs.

Lastly he said that he had vetoed the bill because he felt that Congress had been increasing appropriations for public projects and programs in a way that would not be sustainable after 2023 when the financial provisions of the Compact of Free Association as amended come to an end.

Congress overrode the President's veto during the third regular session. The President signed the bill and sent it back to Congress as Public Law 18-35. His transmittal letter that accompanied the new appropriations law brought up what Speaker Halbert said was a new objection to the public projects law—the Udot ruling.

Halbert said during our interview that the President had not mentioned the Udot case as one of his reasons for vetoing the bill and that it seemed disingenuous to have done so after Congress overturned the veto.

In fact, the President did mention the Udot ruling in his transmittal letter that accompanied the vetoed public projects bill but it was in a different context. His veto letter says that he wrote a formal letter to the Speaker under separate cover to further explain his thinking in regards to Udot. The Speaker did not provide a copy of that letter to us.

Under the Udot ruling, a legislator's role in public programs is strictly that of a lawmaker. A lawmaker is barred under the law from any involvement in the implementation of a public project. That role belongs to the allottee. In the case of Congressional public projects the allottee is the President.

Speaker Halbert said that under the FSM Constitution, the role of Congress is to legislate and the role of the President is to enforce the law. He intimated that there is no provision in the Constitution that requires the President to like the law that he is charged to enforce.

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Solar comes to Faichuk

The Cuthbert Project

The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon is working with Rotary Clubs in Japan on a project to bring digital education to the 12 elementary schools in Faichuk, which is made up of 4 islands located within the Truk Lagoon of Chuuk State. Currently the elementary schools have no power, no internet, no telephone service, no running water and no cel service.

This first phase of this project, which was completed last week, was the delivery of 12 each stand alone photovoltaic (solar) systems with batteries. Matson Navigation donated the container, and the

shipping, which delivered the container load of panels, wiring, inverters and parts to Weno. At Weno the contents of the container were off-loaded onto a motor vessel and delivered to the island of Tol, part of the Faichuk group. At Tol, small boats were used to transport the materials from the motor vessel to the shore where they were assembled and stored. When completely assembled the photovoltaics systems will have the capacity to produce about 60 Kilowatt hours per day. Pacific Solar & Photovoltaics of Guam supplied the 48 solar modules, 24 large batteries, 12 charge controllers and 12 inverters along with all necessary mounting and wiring delivered.



A technician from Pacific Solar & Photovoltaics accompanied the delivery and trained a number of young people on Tol how to properly wire up the inverters, panels, batteries and properly test the systems at every phase of the assembly. These trained individuals will be responsible for setting up the photovoltaic systems at remote schools around the Faichuk Islands. The power produced will be used to enhance Faichuk's education.

Phase 2 of this project will be the delivery of digital projection and sound equipment to display English Language educational programs to the youth of

Faichuk. Again, selected young people from Faichuk will be trained to set up the screen, speakers and projector and operate the installed digital equipment which is expected to be delivered in the next several months. Currently there is a search underway for the proper digital educational programs so that a proper curriculum can be developed and installed into the digital projectors. If anyone would like to assist in the curriculum or digital educational content they can contact Bill Hagen of The Cuthbert Project at thecuthbertproject@hotmail.com

FSM National Police conduct law enforcement training for COM-FSM Security Officers

Secretary April Dawn M. Skilling, FSM Department of Justice.

The training was designed to enhance law enforcement skills and knowledge of the participants in dealing with the community, students, staff, and those that commit crimes within the compound of the two College Campuses.

The participants were taught ethics, basic policing techniques, crime prevention, report writing, interview techniques, basic investigation, basic intelligence techniques, and crime scene preservation. The team of instructors concluded their presentation by a presentation on Trafficking in Person followed by 2 video clips, one on sex trafficking and the final one was on labor trafficking.

At the closing of the training, the Acting Chief of FSM National Police conveyed Secretary Skilling's appreciation to the President of the College of Micronesia for his keen interest in having the FSM National Police deliver a training that will improve work performance by members of the COM Security Officers.

Acting President Joe Habuchmai in his closing remarks thanked the Chief of Police and his staff for executing a training that he believes will improve the working relationship between the COM Security Officers and Officers of the FSM National Police.

FSM Information Services

January 16, 2014

College of Micronesia National Campus and Pohnpei State Campus Security Officers proudly displayed their certificate awards after completing a four day Basic Law Enforcement Training which was hosted and delivered by the senior staff of the FSM National Police. The training was coordinated between President Joseph Daisy, College of Micronesia, and

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SAMARI W. SUTA
NATIONAL REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS

Micronesian Productions strengthens its capacity through an Australian DAP grant

Micronesian Productions, one of the newest FSM registered NGO's in Pohnpei, has successfully received a Direct Aid Program (DAP) grant from the Australian Embassy. The grant will be used to purchase videography equipment to assist Micronesian Productions in meeting its objectives of conducting community education programs and public awareness activities in the Federated States of Micronesia in the areas of education, health, environment, and economic development.

President of the Micronesian Productions Board, Mr. Patrick Blank, accepted the cheque from the new Australian Ambassador, H.E. Terry Beven at their office, which is located in the old Micronesian Seminar building. Blank explained to Ambassador Beven that Micronesian Productions produces video and radio programs and creates print materials to assist government and non-government organizations get their public awareness messages out and can assist with community education campaigns. "We did a leprosy awareness project with Pohnpei

Public Health last year and are looking forward to doing projects on alcohol and tobacco usage prevention in youths, anti-human trafficking community education, and a video on the history of how Kolonia Town was formed. As a new NGO, it is a struggle to get a program going, but this grant from Australia will really help us get some new equipment so we can expand our services and do more projects."

Although located in Pohnpei, Micronesian Productions is focused on working with all four FSM States and in producing materials in local languages so that they have greater impact in the village communities. Radio and video programs are provided to the TV and radio stations free of charge so that our public awareness messages reach the most people. Anyone interested in working for or with Micronesian Productions should contact them at 320-6505 or email micronesianproductions@gmail.com. You can also visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Micronesian-Productions/1419320248312367>



Australian Ambassador H.E. Terry Beven and Micronesian Productions President Patrick Blank discuss critical project areas that need public education in FSM

Utwe Seattle opens in King County Washington

By John B. Benjamin

January 24, 2014

Seattle, Washington—Utwe Seattle Organization, dba USO Association, is a non-profit organization registered in King County, Washington that has immediate access to resources and is capable of providing the social services and economic support that the people of Micronesia desperately need. USO Association has the advantage of location, a strategic plan, and the leadership to provide help to the low-income population and support to the FSM government in fighting poverty.

USO Association is seeking financial support from the private and public sectors to launch its services and start helping the low income population in Micronesia.

For more information, or to support our cause, please email jbbenjamin-usoa@live.com. Thank you.

John B. Benjamin
Chairman, Board of Directors
USO Association

President Mori appoints Ambassador Takesy as Ambassador to the Government of Israel

FSM Information Services

January 31, 2014

FSM President Manny Mori has appointed Mr. Asterio Takesy, FSM Ambassador to the United States, as his representative and representative of the FSM Government to the State of Israel.

In his communication to His Excellency Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel, President Mori states:

"Desiring to maintain and promote the relations of special friendship and good accord which happily exist between the Federated States of Micronesia and the State of Israel, I have appointed

Mr. Asterio Takesy to represent me before your Government as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federated States of Micronesia to the State of Israel, with residence in Washington D.C."

Ambassador Takesy has been appointed to a post also previously held by his predecessor who is now a Member of the FSM Congress, Ambassador Yosiwo George.

The letter to President Peres requests for the credence to all that Mr. Takesy will undertake in the name of the President and the Government of the FSM.

President Mori nominates Mr. W-One Williander as FSM Election Commissioner for the State of Chuuk

FSM Information Services

January 31, 2014

On January 29, the nomination for Mr. W-One Williander to be the National Election Commissioner for the State of Chuuk was transmitted to the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

As shown on President Manny Mori's communication to Congress regarding the nomination, Mr. Williander had been a member of the Chuuk State Legislature from 1997 to 2013, representing the Tolensom Municipality. He also had served as a member of the Tolensom Municipal Council for four years and as the Principal of the Nechocho

Elementary School on Tolensom from 1989 to 1997 prior to becoming a State Legislator.

Information provided by the nominee shows that Mr. Williander has an A.S. in Education from the Eastern Arizona College in the U.S.

According to Congress staff, Congress deferred action on the nomination to its next session to be able to seek for more information regarding the nominee.

The post had been previously held by Mr. Necksin Bossy from the Island of Weno in the Northern Namoneas Region.

Eighteenth FSM Congress extends Third Regular Session to February 1

FSM Information Services

January 30, 2014

The 18th FSM Congress has extended its Third Regular Session through the adoption of Congressional Resolution No. 18-126 on January 29.

The session was scheduled to adjourn on January 29, but Congress felt it needed additional time "to consider a number of important issues that remain pending before it", as the resolution states.

One of the items in front of Congress is the supplemental budget request of \$12,430,305 requested by President Manny Mori on January 20. Some of these request were submitted to

Congress during the November 2013 session but were not approved, now resubmitted for reconsideration.

Some of these budget item requests include the \$5million Set Aside Fund; \$3.2 million for FSM Telecom project; operation funding for the Project Management Unit (PMU); About \$71 thousand for the implementation of the recently adopted Overseas Development Assistance Policy (ODA); and the 3rd and 4th Quarter operation budget for the Department of Education, among others.

A more detail breakdown on the items requested under "supplemental budget request" will be available soon.



College of Micronesia-FSM Entrance Test

COMET is the **College of Micronesia-FSM's Entrance Test**. It is a three-section test given to high school seniors, high school graduates, and General Educational Development (GED) holders who want to enroll at COM-FSM and who have not attended college previously.

The purpose of the COMET is to assist the college in making decisions about admitting students to the college and allow the college to gather some information about how well prepared and "college-ready" prospective students are in English writing and reading, and in mathematics.

The COMET is also used to place students who are admitted into an appropriate COMFSM academic degree, developmental educational courses, and vocational and technical certificate programs.

COMET dates is from February 3-18, 2014.

What are the parts of the COMET?

The COMET has three sections: (a) the essay, (b) the reading comprehension, and (c) the math sections.

The Essay Section

This section takes 40 minutes and the test taker is given a writing task and asked to write an essay of at least 250 words that includes an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.

The Reading Comprehension Section

The reading comprehension section of the COMET is the Nelson-Denny Reading Test (NDRT) which has a vocabulary section and separate comprehension section.

The NDRT vocabulary section has 80 items and students are given 24 minutes using the extended time for ESL students.

The NDRT reading comprehension section is seven reading passages with 38 questions. Students are given 32 minutes to complete the comprehension section using the extended time for ESL students.

The Math Section

The math section is a one hour test and includes 40 items with multiple choice answers. The math section tests basic math, algebra, geometry, and problem solving.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must meet the following admission requirements to be matriculated into a degree program:

- Have graduated or will graduate from high school at the end of the current school year, or have a General Educational Development (GED) certificate;
- Have a minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 measured on a 4.0 scale, or a minimal score of 35 on each section and an average score of 45 for all five sections of the GED test; and
- Be accepted by the Committee on Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention.

Admissions Procedure

- Take the COMET and be placed into a program at the college. A test fee of \$5.00 will be collected. The COMET is administered in November at the State campuses for Spring admission, and in February to March at all high schools and in the State campuses for Fall admission.
- Obtain an Application for Admission from a high school counselor, COM-FSM State Campus Dean, or the COM-FSM Office of Admissions, Records and Retention. Printable Application for Admission form may be downloaded from the college's website: (http://www.comfsm.fm/dev/oar_forms/Application_for_Admission.pdf).
- Complete the Application for Admission, and mail it with the \$10.00 application fee to:
 - Office of Admissions, Records and Retention*
 - College of Micronesia-FSM*
 - P.O. Box 159*
 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941*
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the FAFSA renewal, and mail it to the address indicated.
- Request that all official high school transcripts or General Educational Development (GED) scores are sent to the Office of Admissions, Records, and Retention (OARR). High school seniors should submit a seven-semester transcript. College transfer students must also submit official transcripts from all colleges previously attended.

What are the COMET main and alternate criteria?

The main criteria for each level at the college is:

Degree Level

Essay ≥ 34 , and reading comprehension ≥ 9 th grade

Achieving College Excellence (ACE)Essay \geq 28, and reading comprehension \geq 7th grade**Certificate (ACE)**Essay \geq 20, and reading comprehension \geq 5th grade

A set of **alternate criteria** was also established since some students may have good reading comprehension scores and math scores, but an essay or reading score that is a little low. This alternate criteria is implemented after the first set of criteria is applied.

1. Alternate criteria applied to those students who placed into ACE after the main criteria.

This is used to recommend advancing ACE level student to degree level.

- Reading comprehension \geq 10th grade
- Essay \geq 28, and reading comprehension \geq 8th grade, and MS \geq 096
- Essay \geq 42, and reading comprehension \geq 6th grade, and MS \geq 096

2. Alternate criteria applied to those students who placed as Certificate after the main criteria. This is used to recommend advancing a certificate level student to ACE level.

- Reading comprehension \geq 10th grade
- Essay \geq 36 and reading comprehension \geq 6th grade, and MS \geq 096

3. Alternate criteria applied to those students who placed as non-admit after the main criteria. This is used to recommend advancing non-admit student to certificate level.

- Reading comprehension \geq 10th grade
- Essay \geq 20, and reading comprehension \geq 4th grade, and MS \geq 096

Schedule of the COMET and Recruitment

Pohnpei State				
Date	Time	School	School Acronym	School Code
February 3-5, 2014	8:30 AM	Pohnpei Islands Central School	PICS	40
February 6, 2014	8:30 AM	Nanpei Memorial High School	NMHS	44
February 6, 2014	8:30 AM	Calvary Christian Academy	CCA	42
February 7, 2014	8:30 AM	Madolenihmw High School	PMHS	43
February 7, 2014	8:30 AM	Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School	OLMCHS	47
February 11, 2014	8:30 AM	Ohwa Christian High School	OCHS	45
February 13, 2014	8:30 AM	Pohnpei Seventh Day Adventist School	PSDA	41
February 13-14, 2014	8:30 AM	COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus	PC	46
Chuuk State				
Date	Time	School	School Acronym	School Code
February 10, 2014	8:30 AM	Chuuk Seventh Day Adventist School	CSDA	18
February 10, 2014	1:00 PM	Mizpah High School	Mizpah	15
February 11, 2014	8:30 AM	Southern Namoneas High School-Tonoas	SNHS-Tonoas	24
February 11, 2014	8:30 AM	Nukuno Christian High School	Nukuno	14
February 11, 2014	1:00 PM	Xavier High School	XHS	10
February 12, 2014	8:30 AM	Faichuuk High School	FHS	19
February 13, 2014	8:30 AM	Saramen Chuuk Academy	SCA	13
February 13, 2014	8:30 AM	Southern Namoneas High School-Fefan	SNHS-Fefan	24
February 13, 2014	1:00 AM	Berea Christian High School	BCS	11
February 14, 2014	8:30 AM	Chuuk High School	CHS	12
February 14, 2014	1:00 PM	Pentecostal Lighthouse Academy	PLHA	17
February 15, 2014	8:30 AM	COM-FSM Chuuk Campus	CC	21
Yap State				
Date	Time	School	School Acronym	School Code
February 17, 2014	8:30 AM	Yap Catholic High School	YCHS	66
February 17, 2014	8:30 AM	Outer Island High School (Ulithi)	OIHS	63
February 17, 2014	8:30 AM	Yap Seventh Day Adventist School	YSDA	61
February 17, 2014	1:00 P.M.	COM-FSM Yap Campus	YC	64
February 18, 2014	8:30 A.M.	Yap High School	YHS	60
Kosrae State				
Date	Time	School	School Acronym	School Code
February 17, 2014	8:30 AM	Kosrae High School	KHS	30
February 17, 2014	1:00 P.M.	COM-FSM Kosrae Campus	KC	31

**For the high schools of the outer islands of Chuuk, testing will be scheduled based on the availability of the ship.

For More Information Contact:

Office of Admissions, Records and Retention
College of Micronesia-FSM
P.O. Box 159
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
Telephone: (691) 320-2480
Email: oar@comfsm.fm

The Student Services Coordinator
College of Micronesia-FSM
Pohnpei Campus
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
Phone: (691) 320-3795
Email: jeffarnold@comfsm.fm

The Student Services Coordinator
College of Micronesia-FSM
Kosrae Campus
Tofol, Kosrae FM 96944
Phone: (691) 370-3191
Email: ajonas@comfsm.fm

The Student Services Coordinator
College of Micronesia-FSM
Chuuk Campus
Weno, Chuuk, FM 96942
Phone: (691) 330-2689
Email: myesiki@comfsm.fm

The Student Services Coordinator
College of Micronesia-FSM
Yap Campus
Colonia, Yap FM 96943
Phone: (691) 350-5244
Email: cdibay@comfsm.fm

World Cancer Day 2014 pulls together a handful of FSM National Government employees for reflection and activities

FSM Information Services

February 6, 2014

The World Cancer Day celebration at the Federated States of Micronesia National Capitol brought together a handful of employees from the National Government offices who took the time to participate in the informative and fun learning and sport activities for the half-day event.

The event opened with remarks by Mr. Kerio Walliby, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Coordinator, who encouraged the participants to make use of the opportunity to learn more about cancer in the FSM, its trend, and the ongoing efforts to curb its spread.

Mr. X-ner Luther, National Comprehensive Cancer Coalition Program Coordinator for the FSM, led the discussion session with assistance from Mr. Felix

Pelep, NCCCP data specialist, and staff from the Tobacco Control Coalition Program and the Non-Communicable Disease Program. Mr. Richard Moufa, representing the World Health Organization Office in the FSM, shared some information and encouraged the cancer coalition to network with their national partners with the aim to put in place a nationwide surveillance system to help improve health service deliveries for the disease down the years.

During the discussions, the most prevalent types of cancer in the FSM were highlighted including the cancers of the lungs, cervix uteri, prostate, breast, and liver. It was also mentioned that mouth cancer is "on the rise" in the FSM as a whole. Prevalence for the different types of cancer varies from State to State, according to Mr. Luther.

The half-day event also included a healthy snack demonstration,

a 3-kilometer race-walking around the Palikir loop, and some "ball-games" on the basketball court outside the Transnational Crime Unit Office. Participants were grouped into three teams from the Department of Health and Social Affairs, the Department of Finance and the Office of the President. Mrs. Melsiher Artui from the NDC Program won the race walking. However, the Office of the President won the most point after the ball-games scores were tallied.

In closing, the participants agreed to make the event better next year, aiming to broaden participation to include other departments and interested community folks. It was also generally agreed that the cancer coalition should work with small "sharing groups" who should serve as partners with the coalition in raising awareness in the neighboring communities of Palikir and among national employees through more regular small-scale activities and support the general efforts in dealing with cancer and other preventable illnesses.



FSM Government-accessing climate change adaptation funding



The FSM, like many small island countries, has limited resources to adapt to the serious impacts of climate change.

As impacts become more pronounced and adaptation requirements continue to extend beyond national resources, external funding will be even more critical to addressing such requirements.

Global funding for climate change adaptation has increased over the past few years and yet these resources continue to elude small countries like FSM. It is the aim of a partnership between FSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) under an EU-funded project to build capacity of stakeholders in FSM to better access climate adaptation funding.

National, State Government officials and NGO representatives gathered in Pohnpeithis week, February 3-6, 2014 to participate in the first of a series of project proposal writing workshops being held in each of the four States of the FSM. The workshops objective is to increase participants' ability to secure project funding and raise awareness on climate change issues in the local communities as well as improve their skills in project proposal identification, writing and project management. "Skills in writing proposals are among the top areas that FSM is lacking," says Andrew Yatilman, Director of OEEM.

These workshops are part of the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) Project that is being implemented by the Government of FSM and eight other Pacific Island Countries with the assistance of SPC and funded by the European Union.

More specifically, the workshops are introducing the logical framework approach to project proposal development and management. This project methodology is commonly used and encouraged by development partners.

NCDs – prioritizing a preventable epidemic

The health of humans worldwide is undergoing a drastic shift. For the first time in our history, more people are afflicted with noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) than infectious diseases. This universal trend hold true for our nation where NCDs are rampant, and account for over half of all deaths and disabilities among Micronesians. Major NCDs such as heart disease and stroke, cancer, diabetes, and chronic lung disease are among the leading cause of death globally making them a public health priority.

NCDs or chronic diseases are not passed from person to person, and are often characterized by long duration and slow progression. They affect people of all age groups, especially elderly, and both sexes equally. The increased prevalence of NCDs in our community is closely linked to our lifestyle choices, socio-economic conditions, cultural practices, and environment among other factors. Common, yet important and modifiable risk factors that increase our risk for NCDs include tobacco and alcohol use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and high blood pressure and cholesterol. However, it is well-established that NCDs can be effectively prevented and controlled. Thus, individual and community wide steps taken to reduce these risk factors would prevent NCDs and significantly improve the overall health and well-being of our people.

At the community level, several steps have been undertaken to address this alarming NCD crisis. Primarily, a state-wide NCD emergency declaration was proclaimed by Governor, John Ehsa, on November 14, 2013. The declaration highlighted the gravity of the NCD epidemic in our state and articulated the need for a collaborative response effort. Secondly, the Division of

Public Health in Pohnpei has come together with state coalitions for cancer, tobacco, diabetes, and mental health along with NGOs such as the Sports Federation and Island Food Community, and other concerned citizens to form an umbrella of stakeholder coalition. A unified task force known as the State Emergency Response Team (SNERT) has been established and is charged with NCD prevention and control activities. Thirdly, members of the SNERT have identified the objectives and activities, which include advocacy for evidence-based practices and health promotional activities, to combat NCDs in our community.

At an individual level, we can take small, but significant steps which can effectively reduce our risk of getting NCDs. For instance, increasing physical activity on a regular basis through exercise, sports, and other fitness actions is an important antidote to NCDs. In addition, a balanced diet inclusive of fruits and vegetables and with reduced salt and saturated fat intake is recommended for disease prevention. Lastly, reducing tobacco and alcohol consumption cuts your risk for over 50 different diseases and injuries. Following these three simple steps and engaging in healthy behaviors greatly reduces the risk for illness and death due to NCDs.

Although NCDs are among the most common and costly health problems in our community, they are also among the most preventable. Adopting healthy lifestyle choices at an individual level, coupled with access to, and participation in, community based prevention and control programs can effectively address the NCD epidemic, and improve the health and well-being of our citizens.

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The World Health Organization
Office for the South Pacific, Suva

Invites applications for a
Coordinator (SSA) for
Health Systems Strengthening

For a short term contract to be based in
WHO/CLO Office in Palikir, FSM
(Initial one year contract may be extended
based on satisfactory performance and
availability of funds)



World Health
Organization

Post Summary

The Health Systems Strengthening Office Coordinator (SSA) will be posted in WHO/CLO for Northern Micronesia located in Palikir, FSM and will be responsible for managing the activities of health systems in the Northern Micronesia (FSM, RMI and ROP).

Qualifications:

The person selected shall have strong program management skills; effective coordination and communication skills; good computer literacy in MS Office programs; and shall be an effective team player, able to work productively with health professionals in the Northern Micronesia Departments of Health and with other relevant stakeholders.

Requirements

- Diploma or training in health, communication, health systems or related field (Equivalent work experience will be considered);
- Successful experience in the effectively working with Governments and partners;
- 1-3 years experience working as a team member in a multicultural setting;
- 1-3 years experience in health systems strengthening work;
- Fluency in written and spoken English, knowledge of local language is an advantage;
- Valid passport and driving license;
- Ability to travel by car or public transportation to various sites;
- Eligibility to work in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Coordinator/SSA will be supervised directly by the WHO/CLO for the Northern Micronesia (FSM, RMI & ROP) and will work closely with the Department of Health's health systems focal points and as well as with the technical officers in the World Health Organisation office in the South Pacific, WPRO & HQ to organise and coordinate resources to support activities, collaborate with DOH and WHO staff, consultants and partners to implement culturally appropriate health systems activities, including reporting on health systems development issues and priorities.

Job Duties will include the followings:

- Focal person on health systems activities
- Collect, analyse and provide reports on health systems work areas
- Dialogue and Collaborate with DOH on relevant issues and challenges
- Managing health systems programs
- Provide assistance towards the implementation of the joint DOH and WHO country planned activities
- Coordinate all health systems training provided by WHO
- Monitor and ensure efficient utilization of resources
- Marketing and advocating for universal health coverage and primary health care
- Disseminate information on UHC and PHC
- Update stakeholders on health systems
- Perform other related duties as required or assigned

APPLICATIONS must include Curriculum Vitae with full contact details of three referees and is to be submitted by latest 5pm February 24, 2014:

Vacancy: To email: rmoufa@fsmhealth.fm
Health Systems or Hand Deliver to
Coordinator for WHO/CLO Office
Northern Capitol Suites and Offices
Micronesia RM 201
Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia

Only candidates meeting the above qualification will be short-listed for interview.

Closing Date for applications: February 24, 20

POHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY
P. O. Box 1150
Dekehtik, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia, FM 96941
Phone: (691)-320-2793 Fax: (691)-320-2798


Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting proposal from Business or Individual interested in leasing one or all the two warehouses located at Dekehtik next to the airport terminal.

The following are the dimensions of the two warehouses:

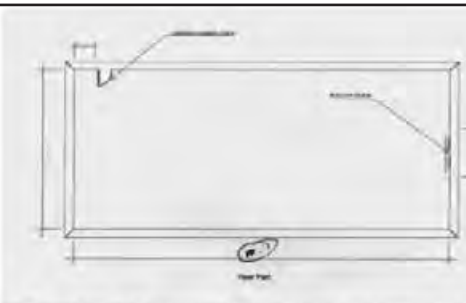
1. Warehouse No: 1 is 80' X 40' or 3,200 square feet.
2. Warehouse No 2 is also 80'X 40' or 3,200 square feet.

Proposal will be accepted from January 31, 2014 to February 28,2014 no later than 5:00PM.

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposal received in connection with the above subject proposal solicitation. Additional information regarding this request proposal can be obtained from the office of the General Manger or the Marketing division of Pohnpei Port Authority, Dekehtik, Pohnpei State, telephone No; 320-2793/2682 or by email netse@mail.fm or freelabraham@yahoo.com.

Neiperson Etse
 General Manager
 Pohnpei Port Authority



PROJECT	STEEL FRAME WAREHOUSE	APPROVED BY	GENERAL MANAGER, PPHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY	PAGE
LOCATION	DEKEHTIK	REVIEWED BY	SEAPORT MANAGER, PPHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY	3 OF 3
DATE	YEAR 2013	PREPARED BY	PHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY	



SMART AND TRENDY

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BUD LIGHT

POHNPEI 5K FUN WALK/RUN

Pohnpei Rotary Club Scholarship Fundraiser
2014

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15th
 START - 7:00 AM

START/FINISH – PALM TERRACE

\$5.00 REGISTRATION FEE
 T-SHIRT TO ALL

For information contact FSMNOC Office
 (located at Pohnpei Swimming Pool Complex)
 For information call 320-8914/15

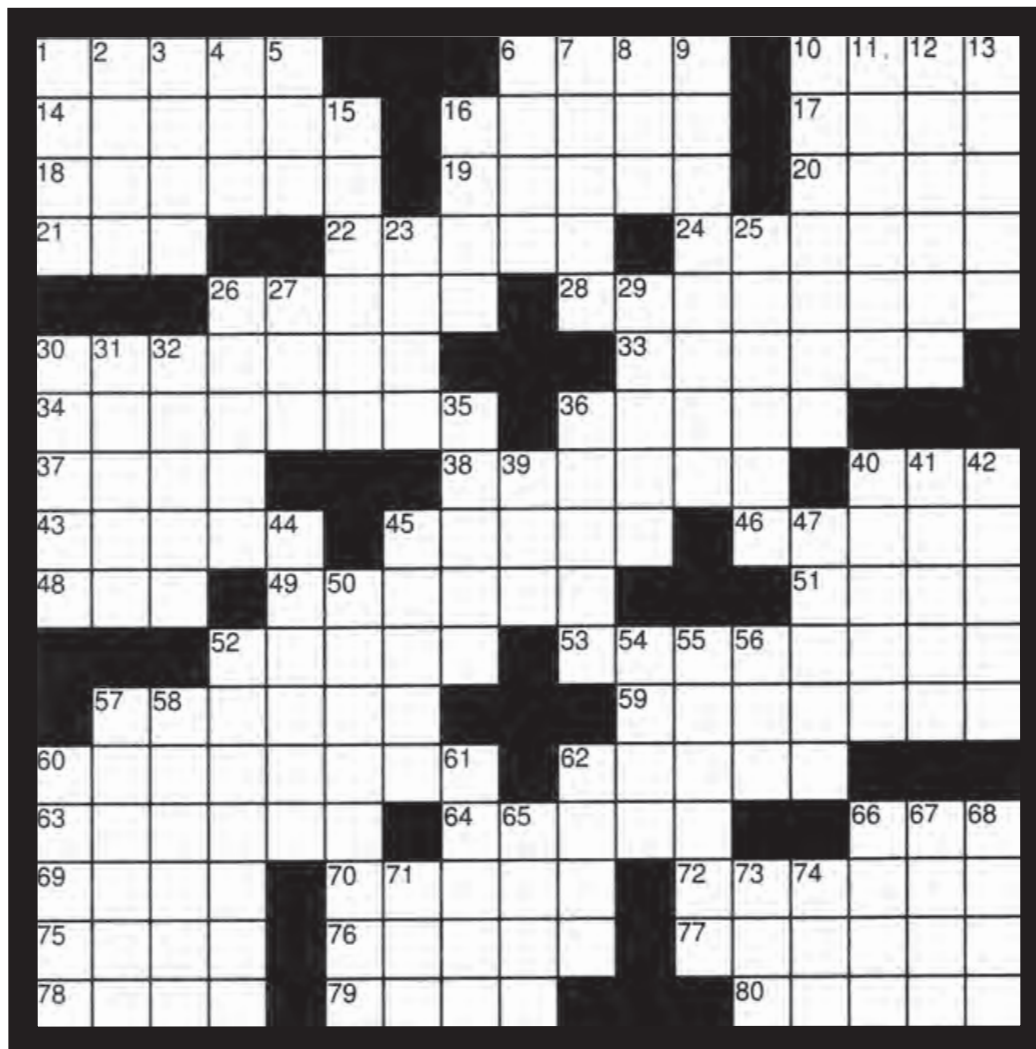
Crossword - It Ripped

ACROSS

1. Kind of campaign
6. Obsessed one
10. Middle ____
14. Qantas critters
16. Get away from
17. Zola portrayer
18. Let 'er rip!
19. Odin or Thor
20. Kerplunk
21. Common title starter
22. Paint the town red
24. Tuck and others
26. Burger for the grill
28. Start of a Linus poster
30. Like some nights
33. They take your car
34. Tile alternative
36. Ten-speeds
37. Granola bits
38. Deli device
40. Skedaddled
43. Best of ____
45. Take in
46. Tea treat
48. Gloomy
49. Clicker
51. Massive
52. Write-ups of hits
53. Talked to a secretary
57. Intensify
59. Clouseau portrayer
60. They go nowhere
62. Talent
63. Take in
64. Leaves out
66. Chem. or Bio.
69. Clinton opponent
70. Ill-suited
72. Time manager?
75. List entry
76. Wane
77. Moolah
78. Monster home?
79. Final
80. Hangs open

DOWN

1. Revue segment
2. Wool eater
3. Lessen
4. Food preposition
5. Item for a maid
6. Liniment ingredient
7. Tosses
8. Want ____
9. Studly one
10. Realms
11. Coffee style
12. "Yeah, right" sounds
13. Under the influence
15. Bombing run
16. Green emotion
23. Famous last words
25. Those in charge
26. What's written on this page
27. Every
29. Sheriff's verb
30. Ones like Oscar Madison
31. Regal regalia
32. Went to pot?
35. Windows predecessor
36. It walks like a man
39. Raffle drawing
40. Path
41. It may require management
42. Special ____
44. Long curtains
45. Alter
47. Driveway drawer
50. Final
52. Cashes in
54. It ____ fair!
55. Came to an end
56. Kindness, for short
57. Signify
58. They're better than birdies
60. Offed



61. Places to relax
62. ____ a check
65. Ball catcher
66. Phase
67. Arrive
68. Pupil's place
71. Bird watchers, for short?
73. Man's best friend
74. Mad About You role

Underground

The words in this puzzle are all things that can be found underground. If you dig deeply, you will strike GOLD and unearth the 43 words buried in the puzzle.

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

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| ANT | MAGMA | SHELTER |
| BASEMENT | MINE | SILVER |
| BUG | MINERAL | SOIL |
| CABLE | MOLE | STORAGE |
| CAVE | OIL | STREAM |
| CELLAR | ORE | SUBWAY |
| COAL | PIPE | TANKS |
| CONDUIT | POTATO | TERMITE |
| FOSSIL | RAILWAY | TUNNEL |
| GAS | RHIZOME | VOLCANO |
| GOLD | RIVER | WATER |
| GOPHER | ROOT | WELL |
| GRAVEL | SEWER | WIRE |
| INSECT | SHAFT | WORM |
| IRON | | |

...Public Projects

Continued from page 2

President Mori asked why there was a double standard – one for the Operational Budget of the Executive where public hearings were held and one for Congress' public projects where no public hearings are held. Speaker Halbert asked why they should be the same stating that whereas the operational budget is something Congress must pass, there is no such requirement for public projects because public projects are not required by law. President Mori explained that both appropriations expend public funds and that the public had a right to be informed ahead of the passage of the public project appropriations so that the public could be heard on what they want, noting that the public may view the project needs differently than Congress.

President Mori asked again what Congress is willing to offer? Consultations before the bill passage; public hearings; Committee Reports? There was no response or counteroffer from the Congress members present to President Mori.

Chairman George stated that they do speak with constituents in order to determine the public projects. President Mori suggested that if public hearings were held, then the results of these meetings with constituents could be presented, which would help with the implementation process and PCD after the law was passed.

President Mori asked that both sides come to a voluntary agreement concerning the need to have pre-passage consultations with constituents, public hearings, and Committee Reports, and that the results would then be attached to the PCD for clarification, eliminating the need to return to Congress or have Congress violate the Udot case by having to become involved and decide how funds were to be spent or who would be the recipients.

Chairman George and Chairman Simina both inquired about the implementation of the \$4.9 million. President Mori responded that more guidance was needed (to implement the law). Chairman Simina asked if (in the future) it would be helpful if each state was in a separate appropriation, not lumped together. President Mori agreed it would help, especially since the state appropriations have little commonality as between states.

Speaker Halbert asked if, the way President Mori was looking at the Udot case, amendments violated Udot? President Mori explained that no, amendments did not violate the Udot case if the implementation process on a particular project had not yet begun.

Chairman George questioned how the Udot case applied to Congress as it did not involve the prosecution of Congressional members. President Mori explained that the Udot case was referenced in cases where allottees were prosecuted and that the Udot case referred to the appropriation and implementation process including Congress' role and the Executive's

role as defined in the Udot case. (Note: a copy of the Udot case was provided to Congress during the first [closed door] meeting with them on January 21st).

President Mori asked for an agreement to be reached between Congress and the Executive on improving the appropriation and implementation process.

Chairman Simina asked for a legal opinion from the FSM DOJ asking "Can this agreement between us force Congress to act in accordance with the agreement?" Chairman Simina then rephrased the question as "Can a broad understanding between Congress (those present at this meeting) and the President create a requirement on Congress to hold public hearings and produce Committee Reports on all appropriations?"

President Mori responded, "No," further stating that the Executive could not "force" anything on Congress. There should be a voluntary agreement between us to do the right thing. Congress should have meetings with constituents, hold public hearings, and produce Committee Reports" that would assist the Executive in the implementation process through the PCD with attachments. And, it would provide equal treatment whether it was for the Executive's operational budget or Congress' public projects (all involving public funds).

Chairman Simina stated that public hearings are not always necessary because they do speak to constituents, but admitted that guidelines would go a long way. Chairman George stated that from this point forward, he would hold public hearings but wasn't sure if they would translate into Committee Reports. Chairman George also stated that the location of the public hearings might be Kosrae as opposed to Pohnpei. President Mori acknowledged Chairman George's willingness to hold public hearings.

When asked again about the implementation of the \$4.9 million, President Mori said to be fair, he would move forward with implementation this time, but would hold on implementation of subsequent public projects in the future if they failed to have enough specificity, failed to state the purpose, etc., in order for the public projects to be implemented correctly by the Executive, or if the Udot case was violated.

President Mori also stated that the violations of the Udot case where Congress is hiring personnel out of its budget, but placing them under a contract signed by TC&I to implement projects, must immediately stop.

[As of print time, Congress has not come forward on what they are ready to offer in response to the President's call for improvement in legislating and implementing public project.]

Pacific Development Conservation Trust supports IFCP

By April Turner
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Island Food Community of Pohnpei has received approval to implement a "Revival of Culturally Significant Food Crops" project in Kousapw Sapwohn, Wein Sokehs. This project, funded by the Pacific Development Conservation Trust based in New Zealand, is at the stage of in-depth community participation in developing a work plan of activities that meets the community's needs.

Activities will include awareness raising and sharing of traditional knowledge on local food crops, planting local foods, genebank development, cultural fair, and food preservation workshops. This will all contribute to achieving the goal of enhancement and preservation of culturally significant island food systems for its CHEEF benefits. CHEEF being Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food security.

IFCP is focusing on local food processing for this year's projects with the aim that by showcasing food processing techniques and products to the community, government, schools, private business and cooperatives, healthy local food may become more widely available in the marketplace and in family foods, thus achieving the CHEEF benefits for Pohnpei. As always, our projects support the Pohnpei State Governor's Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Executive Directive for urgent action on the health crisis.

If you are interested in healthy, local food processing, please contact IFCP on 320-3259.

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Mexican man washes up on remote Marshall Islands atoll after more than a year adrift in Pacific

Radio Australia

(Updated 3 February 2014, 9:54 AEST); A Mexican man who claims to have spent more than a year adrift in the Pacific is on his way to the Marshall Islands capital, after washing up on a remote atoll last week.

The man, who identified himself as Jose Ivan, set sail from Mexico to El Salvador on a shark fishing expedition in late 2012.

Editor of the Marshall Islands Journal, Giff Johnson, has told Pacific Beat the man's 24-foot fibreglass boat washed onto a reef near Ebon Atoll on Thursday. He says after initial reports the man had been at sea for 16 months, it now appears he left Mexico on Christmas Eve in 2012.

"They said when he came off he was just in a ragged pair of underwear, a long beard; the boat looked like it had been in the water for a long time," he said.

Locals in Ebon have been struggling to communicate with Mr Ivan, who only speaks Spanish. Mr Johnson says there are no details at this stage of how his fishing expedition ran into trouble.

Mr Ivan was also travelling with a companion, who died at sea several months ago. He told locals he survived by eating turtles, birds and fish which he caught with his bare hands. He said he also drank turtle blood when there was no rain.

Mr Johnson says they have been providing him with food and clothing while a government boat was sent from the capital, Majuro.

"The people on the island said he looked to be malnourished," he said.

"They just started feeding him water and food, and said he was doing better, but still needed help moving around."

There are few islands in the more than 12,500 kilometres of Pacific Ocean between southern Mexico and Marshall Islands.

The Marshall Islands Government says Mexican authorities will be notified once Mr Ivan is back in Majuro and his details verified.

Japanese survivor exposed to H-Bomb test to visit Marshall Islands

Kyodo News/RMI OP Press Release

Jan. 23, 2014

FUKUSHIMA, Japan — One of the crew members of the trawler Fukuryu Maru No. 5 exposed to radioactive fallout from a 1954 U.S. hydrogen bomb test on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands said Thursday he intends to visit the Pacific nation on the 60th anniversary of the test on March 1.

"I want to call attention to the agony I experienced and the horror of nuclear (weapons) on the 60th anniversary," Matashichi Oishi, 80, told Kyodo News.

The Fukuryu Maru crew member said the nuclear issue has become increasingly serious since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster triggered by the powerful earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan's northeast on March 11, 2011.

The swimmer adrift on the open seas measures his strength, and strives with all his muscles to keep himself afloat. But what is he to do when there is no land on the horizon, and none beyond it?

Georges Duhamel

Veterinary Services will be available in Pohnpei on the following dates:

**Feb 7 - 9
April 18 - 20
July 4 - 6**

Pacific Island Veterinary Services -
Micronesia (FSM)
pacificislandvet@hotmail.co.uk



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Pacific countries prepare to enforce historic shark protections

The Pew Charitable Trusts

In seven months, more than 170 countries will start enforcing trade protections to help save several shark species from extinction. Next week, preparation in the Pacific region begins in earnest.

On Feb. 11 and 12, government representatives from 11 countries will gather in Nadi, Fiji, to discuss the implementation of international shark protections approved under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES. The workshop is hosted by the Fijian government, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Coral Reef Alliance.

Fisheries, environment, and customs officials from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu have confirmed their attendance. Intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations from throughout the Pacific have also been invited.

“It’s exciting to see so many countries across the Pacific working to save some of the most vulnerable shark species,” said Imogen Zethoven, director of global shark conservation for Pew. “These are the most significant marine protections in the 40-year history of CITES. They reflect the



Jim Abernethy for The Pew Charitable Trusts

global consensus that people need healthy oceans, and healthy oceans need sharks.”

Last March, CITES member countries granted porbeagle, oceanic whitetip, and three species of hammerhead sharks what is known as Appendix II designation. Species included on Appendix II are not yet threatened with extinction but could go in that direction if populations decline further and if trade continues at an unsustainable rate. Appendix II still allows international trade, but only if it is regulated. This action can give depleted species a chance to

recover by allowing only sustainable and legal trade through a rigorous permitting system.

The workshop is being conducted by marine biologists, conservationists, and trade experts from around the world. Demian Chapman, an assistant professor at Stony Brook University’s School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and assistant science director of the university’s Institute for Ocean Conservation Science, will demonstrate how to identify the fins of protected sharks. Stan Shea, an official with

the ocean conservation organization BLOOM, will discuss the shark trade in Hong Kong.

Through sessions such as this, Pew is working to help government officials develop the practical expertise needed to enforce CITES protections. Another workshop is being planned in Southeast Asia later this year.

“The CITES vote in March last year was historic, but in September, the real work begins,” said Nannette Malsol of Palau’s Bureau of Oceanic Fishery Management. “We’re grateful that the government of Fiji, Pew, and the Coral Reef Alliance are holding this workshop to help us implement these vital shark protections.”

Half of all observed shark and ray species are predicted to be threatened or near threatened with extinction.

Humans kill an estimated 100 million sharks every year—more than 11,000 an hour. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists scalloped hammerheads as endangered, along with giant pandas and blue whales. Other CITES-protected shark species are classified as vulnerable, on par with lions, cheetahs, and polar bears.

Pew has worked for five years with governments in the Pacific at the domestic, regional, and international levels to protect sharks from overfishing.

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