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Athletes proudly represent FSM in front of an audience of millions

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

August 19, 2016

FSM—The 2016 Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil are over and done with. The FSM athletes, their coaches and support staff have already begun making their long journey back to their regular lives amongst the coconut trees and taro here in the FSM.

By now, the results of the history making events have been highly publicized but the stellar athletes of the FSM deserve a front page to arrive home to even after having been in the international spotlight even if just for a short while. We are proud of what they accomplished both personally and for themselves, and they did it in front of millions of spectators both in the stadium and around the world.

Swimmer Dionisio Augustine was the first FSM athlete to compete at the games. At 1:00 on August 11 the winner of five medals during the recent Micronesia Games swam his heart out and won the third heat of the men's 50 meter free style preliminaries. There were a total of 10 heats and there were 8 swimmers in his heat. Though his time wasn't fast enough to move to the semi-finals he beat all of the other swimmers in his heat and swam a personal best time of 26.17. His previous fastest time was 26.92. It was Dionisio's first time to compete in the Olympic Games.

On the next day it was veteran FSM swimmer Debra Daniel's third time to compete in the Olympics. She has said that Rio 2016 may well be her last Olympic competition. She plans to take time off from international competition to complete her Masters degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Her personal best time in the 50 meter free style race was 30.48. Her heat was very fast but she swam a respectable time of 30.83 seconds.

Lerissa Henry is a 16 year old High School student at PICS. She was the next FSM athlete to compete at the Olympics. Her competition was the 100 meter race on the Olympic track. She went into the competition with a personal best time of 13.12 seconds. Though she came in 19th of 24 in the preliminaries she also ran a respectable time of 13.53 seconds, more than half a second faster than her performance at the last Micronesia Games.

Kitson Kapiriel raced the 100 meter race on August 13. His personal best time for the race is 10.87 seconds, set during the 2015 Micronesia Games. It took 11.42 seconds for him to reach the finish line after the gun went off at Rio 2016. FSM's fastest man came in 5th in his heat.

Boxer Jennifer Chieng of Yap was the flag bearer for the FSM delegation. It was a good choice for the FSM. Her gritty duel with Team USA's Mikaela Mayer won her the admiration of the fans in the stadium who shouted her name in excitement as she landed blow after blow and dodged the long arms of US's reigning female boxing

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IN THIS ISSUE

Pohnpei Port Authority blocks FSM Immigration officials from entering airport

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 18, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Early last week, Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) officials attempted to block entry to FSM Immigration officials who arrived to clear arriving passengers at the Pohnpei International Airport.

The move resulted in the arrest by FSM National Police of Airport Manager Ron Reyes and security head Jason Ringlen for obstruction of officers to perform their duties which is prohibited by FSM Code Title 11 section 501.

After the arrest, FSM Immigration Officers entered the area where they conducted business as usual, clearing arriving passengers.

This afternoon, Glenn Harris of the Civil Aviation section of FSM's Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure said that the problem was a matter of identification badges and what kind of identification badge was acceptable for entry into secure areas of the airport.

PPA issues passes for personnel to enter secure areas. Immigration personnel did not have a PPA issued pass but one issued by the National Government. On that day, PPA officials refused to recognize the pass issued by the National Government.

Harris was quick to say that since the incident neither side has said that the other is wrong. He said that FSM President Peter Christian has mandated that Immigration, TC&I, and PPA should sit down and discuss whatever controversies there might be and work them out "Pohnpei Style".

The FSM Department of Justice has not yet filed formal charges against Reyes or Ringlen. It remains to be seen if they will do so in the future.

Despite multiple attempts to contact PPA officials by email, phone, and in person since we learned of the event, no one at PPA could be reached for comment, though we assured assistants who took our messages that we were merely after the facts of the heavily rumored incident.

Pohnpei juvenile accused of breaking into Chinese Embassy complex

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 15, 2016

Palikir, Pohnpei—Preliminary matters and pre-trial release conditions have been established for a juvenile accused of a middle of the night break in at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Palikir. He is being charged with trespassing, which the FSM Department of Justice says can carry a sentence of up to three years if he is convicted.

The affidavit by the National Police investigating officer that accompanied the filing charges said on the morning of June 5, Mr. Jiangang Zhao along with two other Chinese men from the Embassy came to the FSM National Police office. They reported that a young boy of about 14 years of age with a blond streak in his hair had broken into the apartments at the Embassy at about 4:00 in the morning. They brought with them several items of clothing, a small flash light, and a pink disposable razor that they said they found inside their apartment building at the compound.

Mr. Zhao reported that he saw that the light in his bedroom was turned on and he saw a man looking at him. He said that after a short period of time the intruder approached him wearing only his underwear and said that he was just looking for a place to sleep. When Zhao threatened to call police the young man quickly ran away.

The Embassy personnel reported that the intruder had entered all three rooms in the apartment, took a bite of an apple, and drank a can of beer and a carton of milk from the refrigerator inside one of the rooms that belongs to Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Li Cuiying.

A surveillance camera mounted on the stairs inside the building captured a male wearing red boxer shorts, who was skinny and had hair that was partially blond on the top of his head.

Several witnesses in the area said that earlier that night they observed that the suspect and three others were apparently under the influence of alcohol. They also identified the person in the surveillance video as the suspect who is now accused of the crime.

The suspect was taken into Police headquarters for questioning. After he was informed of his rights in the Pohnpeian language, he confessed to having entered the apartment building through a second floor window sometime between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning. He said that he was alone when he entered the building and described the confrontation between Mr. Zhao and himself.

At a ceremony on Friday night we noticed workmen on the property of the Chinese Embassy installing more surveillance cameras.



The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Pohnpei Liberation Day games continue

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 17, 2016
Pohnpei, FSM—Each year Pohnpei celebrates the day that US Naval Forces accepted the surrender of Japanese forces in Pohnpei—September 11, 1945. For many years Pohnpei has celebrated with a series of sporting events leading up to the September 11 celebration.

This year is no different. Events have been happening for several weeks now: Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Basketball, Va'a (rowing), Micro-All Around, Athletics, and likely, other events as well though KPress has not been privy to those events. A Facebook posting this afternoon said that Boxing will be included for the first time as well.

This evening was the fast pitch softball championship. As the event occurred on our deadline day we were only able to attend and photograph a few innings of the men's event. The competition was fierce in that game and the game could easily have gone either way, but ultimately the Kolonia team defeated the Madolenihmw team in a score of 10 to 8.

Earlier in the evening, U's women beat the women of Nett 12 to 7.



FSM AG suspends Immigration Chief and another for fight

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 18, 2016
Pohnpei, FSM—The FSM Secretary of the Department of Justice has indefinitely suspended two members of the FSM Department of Immigration over a physical altercation that allegedly occurred at the Immigration office in Palikir.

Josés Gallen, FSM Secretary for the Department of Justice has indefinitely suspended Ricky Falcam, Chief of Immigration and David Wolphagen, also of the FSM Department of Immigration due to a physical altercation between the two in the Office of Immigration at the National Government complex.

Witnesses have speculated that the fight had to do with overtime issues for Immigration officers.

Glayne Franklin is currently serving as the Acting Chief of the Department of Immigration.

College of Micronesia FSM graduates 10 students from Trial Counselor's program

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 12, 2016
Palikir, Pohnpei—Ten students of the College of Micronesia's FSM's Trial Counselor program received their certificates of graduation today in the FSM Supreme Court chambers.

Michael Alexander, Charlottes Eperiam, Billy Joe Hairens, Justin Jano, Mark Jones, LillyAnn Mauricio, Senioreen Nickolas, Junida Redes, Robinson Rodriguez, and Marcar Subido all completed the ten courses in the program. The courses in the program are Legal Research and Writing, Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, Torts, Contracts, Evidence, Constitutional Law, Appellate and Civil Procedure Jurisdiction, Real Property, and a Trial Practice Internship.

After Wanparon Bruce Robert gave the opening prayer, Karen Simion, COM's Vice President for Instructional Affairs gave opening remarks. She mentioned that several of the students in the program have already been accepted to colleges in the United States and the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. One of the students was awarded a full ride scholarship from the government of the People's Republic of China to study International Law in China.

Daniel Rescue, Jr. who is an attorney at the FSM Supreme Court was the special guest speaker. He took several of the COM's Trial Counselor courses at the Chuuk Campus several years ago and is also a faculty member of the degree program. He said that he left the program after taking only half of the courses in order to pursue a law degree at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan but that the courses at COM set him in the right frame of mind for success in obtaining a Juris Doctor degree in 2009.

He mentioned that he has since worked for three of his instructors. He worked at the FSM Department of Justice under Maketo Robert. He currently works for Chief Justice Dennis K. Yamase who was one of his instructors. Larry Wentworth, who was recently confirmed as an Associate Justice at the FSM Supreme Court was another one of his instructors.

Rescue spoke for at least 15 minutes on the value of the

education the students had received and challenged the students to use their experience as a springboard to their future. He also challenged the students to be aware that their value as people comes not from money or things but in a life well lived.

Delihna Ehmes, Chairperson of the Social Sciences Division gave a brief history of the program after which the certificates were presented to the successful students.

FSM'S Chief Justice Dennis K. Yamase gave the closing remarks, also challenging the students to continue on in their studies for their own good and for the good of the FSM.



PATA Chairman addresses Micronesia Chapter – “Doing good is good business”

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 17, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Micronesia Chapter held its Second Tri-Annual meeting in Pohnpei at the Mangrove Bay Hotel on Wednesday, August 17. The meeting was chaired by Pilar Laguana, PATA chairwoman.

The last meeting was held in Saipan in April.

“Founded in 1951, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) is a not-for profit association that is internationally acclaimed for acting as a catalyst for the responsible development of travel and tourism to, from and within the Asia Pacific region. The Association provides aligned advocacy, insightful research and innovative events to its member organizations, comprising 95 government, state and city tourism bodies, 29 international airlines, airports and cruise lines, 63 educational institutions, and hundreds of travel industry companies in Asia Pacific and beyond,” the PATA website says.

PATA Chairman Andrew Jones was the featured guest speaker for the meeting in Pohnpei. That’s no small thing. PATA is an international organization and as he said during his speech, it is becoming increasingly global. He has amassed more

than 40 years of experience in the hotel and resort business in London, Bermuda, Canada, and several countries in Asia. He grew up in a “hotel family” in the United Kingdom. In 1996 Jones started a new journey when he founded and became Guardian of “Sanctuary Resorts”, a company that offers responsible and sustainable tourism experiences where people can balance their body, mind and spirit in an environmentally sustainable space.

He believes in tourism operations giving back to the community in which they operate and has demonstrated that belief in numerous projects that he has run and others on which he has consulted in the Asia Pacific region.

Jones has an impressive list of credentials regarding sustainable tourism, too numerous to list in a short article. Suffice it to say that when Andrew Jones spoke to the members of Micronesia Chapter, they knew that they were listening to an expert.

During his speech which he entitled “Doing Well and Doing Good-Tourism and Community”, he challenged his audience to think of the future as a new frontier rather than a re-working of the past.

30 years ago no one would have imagined that the IT manager in a hotel chain might become one of the most important people in the business. “Sometimes it’s a matter of unlearning the past in order to move

forward,” he said.

“Organizations should always respect the past but look to the future,” he said.

Not everyone in his audience was old enough to remember the Kevin Costner movie, “Field of Dreams” that he used as an illustration to his speech but he explained the basic premise. The central line in the movie was “If you build it they will come”. Costner’s character thought that if he built a baseball field in the corn field of his family’s failing farm, people would come, and they did, by the thousands.

Jones said that he has witnessed many projects where that is the basic philosophy—“If we build it they will come,” and people often do. But he said that when he left the theater after seeing Costner’s movie, he worried about what those people would do once they did come. How would they feed them? Where would they go to the bathroom? After all there was only one simple farm house on the property. Where would they park? Dozens of other questions entered his head but the movie was over and those questions were never answered.

All too often those questions are never answered on tourism projects either. “If you build it they may come,” he said, “but what will you do with them when they do come?” It’s an important question to ask and to have answered.

He talked about several projects that he had either directly been involved in building or had consulted on. Central to his talk was the idea of operating projects in a sustainable way and giving back to the community.

Giving back to the community includes the idea of hiring local people and enabling them with ownership. He said that his operations have hired people with the right attitudes even if they didn’t yet have the skills. “With the right attitude any skill can be learned,” he said.

When he worked to open a high end hotel in Vietnam, the company hired people with the right attitude. He said that most of the people

they hired had never even seen a hotel, but they had the right attitude and were trainable and the management took the time to properly train them in every aspect of their job.

Jones said that some former employees of resorts he has been involved in establishing have ended up owning their own successful resorts or hotels.

Some less experienced hospitality business owners often think that the sole value of their business is the attractiveness of their locations and their facilities and that their employees don’t matter. To their detriment, they sometimes miss the fact that their employees are the faces of their business and so treat them as expendable commodities with a long line of potential replacements behind them. They don’t take the time to enable employees with good attitudes.

A hospitality operation in the best of locations with the nicest of facilities that has disgruntled employees will not attract or keep customers for long.

In the Philippines, Cebu was struck by Typhoon Haiyan before a five star hotel project Jones was working on opened. He said that before they repaired the damage on the hotel they had nearly completely, they paid attention to the community by feeding and housing the people as many as they could.

He said that he was consulting on a project in India on a tea plantation. As he and the potential owner were surveying the land they saw hundreds of children walking through the plantation in the early morning. Jones asked what was happening. The potential resort owner said that the children were walking to school. It was several hours walk to and from school each day.

At the end of the day, when the potential resort owner asked Jones what the first thing he should do for his potential resort should be, Jones exclaimed, “Build a school!”

He said that in India, the cost of building a school is small but the community members’ feelings for the resort would guarantee protection for the resort operation for generations to come.

“Doing good is good business”, Jones told the members of the PATA Micronesia chapter.



China awards “full ride” scholarships to 20 FSM students

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 15, 2016

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Embassy of the People’s Republic of China has awarded full scholarships to 20 students. The Embassy hosted an orientation and farewell reception at the Embassy on the evening of August 15 for the 14 students from Pohnpei who were chosen as scholarship students. Four students were also chosen from Yap, and two from Kosrae but they were not present in Pohnpei for the reception.

Mr. Dequin Song, who was in charge of coordinating the scholarship program said that the Embassy chose 32 of 69 applicants to personally interview for the scholarships for what was originally supposed to have been only eight available spaces. He said that they found such qualified students that they asked for additional spots and were able to get permission to expand the number this year to 20. He said that since 1992, China has provided scholarships to study in China to 161 students.

Mr. Song gave an overview of the highly competitive educational environment in China. He said that of the 9.4 million high school students, perhaps only 40% reach college level education in one of China’s 1100 Universities. He said that Chinese students are very diligent and competitive and that it will take a lot to keep up, especially with also having to learn a very difficult language.

Ambassador Li said that the scholarship program was a part of a commitment that China had made in 2014 to provide 2000 scholarships to Pacific Islanders within five years. He also provided his own example and the example of his son, both of whom studied abroad when they were in college. He said that they survived by making many new friends from all over the world.

Some of the previous scholarship recipients, both current students and students who have already completed their study, were at the reception to share their experiences of studying in China. They each spoke and most began with statements made in fluent Chinese—or at least that is what the hosts said.

One of the graduates challenged to students to keep their full five year commitment though it will be difficult. He said that he never left China during the entire five years of his commitment and he was often homesick. He saw several FSM students drop out of the program due to homesickness. He echoed Ambassador Li Jie’s statement by suggesting that

the scholarship winners should make as many friends as they possibly could to ease homesickness. He said that he personally met his wife in China. She was an international student from Russia. They now have two children and live in Pohnpei.

Another graduate also challenged the students to keep their entire five year commitment and most importantly to go to class. He said that China pays for everything—books, housing, food, and living expenses unless they don’t go to class. If they don’t go to class, he told the students that they would quickly find themselves in financial trouble and in addition, they would miss out on the education they are in China to get.

Some of the scholarship recipients particularly needed to hear that message, especially those who arrived more than an hour late with no explanation.

The only thing that the Chinese government is not providing for the students is the cost of international airfare to and from China. Everything else is covered, including health insurance. On top of that, each student will receive a 2500 RMB living allowance each month.

Pohnpei’s Governor Marcelo Peterson said that he was very proud that 14 of the 20 scholarship recipients were from Pohnpei. He challenged the students to always remember while they are in China that they are representing more than just themselves.

“Follow your passion and work hard to be great leaders,” said FSM’s Acting Secretary for the Department of Education.

“If you do good, we’ll know. If you do bad, we’ll know”, said Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Samson Pretrick.

Joe Daisy, President of the College of Micronesia FSM quoted Winston Churchill, “Never give up! Never give up! Never give up!”

“One standard for a Pohnpeian is that we are always proud of our culture no matter where we are,” said Senator McGarry Miguel who is also the Vice President of the Micronesia China Friendship Association. He challenged the students to “share the message of Pohnpei” wherever they are.

Students will spend the first year learning the Chinese language and then will spend the remaining years studying for their particular disciplines, usually at another university and often in another city. The FSM students will attend separate universities in 10 different cities in China from Beijing to Xi-an.

FSM’s scholarship students are:

Kosrae:

Linus Linus Sasak will ultimately study Political Science and Administration in Shanghai. Debra Kensey Melander will study Applied Psychology in Hangzhou.

Yap:

Constantine Tiyrad will study International Economy and Trade in Beijing. Gabriel Alfonso will study Architecture in Xi’an. Stacey Gurlee will study Agricultural Resources and Environment in Nanjing. Mark Moonfell Ngaden Davilliami will study Clinical Medicine in Xi’an.

Pohnpei:

Shania David will study International Politics in Shenyang. Leslie Edward will study Hotel Management in Huangshan. Charlotte Eperiam will study Law in Beijing. Meraiel Andon will study Nursing in Changsha. Lovelynn Edgar will also study Nursing but in Jinan. Jessica Abraham will study Economics in Wuhan. Acer Apis will study Civil Engineering in Beijing. Daisy Paul will study Oral Medicine in Beijing. Crisintia Hellan will study Tourism Management in Hangzhou. Lolalinda Raymond will study Public Finance in Beijing. Yoki Lohn will study Wildlife and Nature Management in Beijing. Larson Abraham will study Public Security in Shanghai. Hainrick Talley will study Electronic Science and Technology in Chengdu. Mark Jones will study Law in Beijing.

Though some of the scholarship recipients will be going to the same cities in China, most will be studying at different universities.

Carl Apis, FSM’s Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China also spoke at the reception and reminded the scholarship recipients that the FSM Embassy is available to them.

Madame Le Cuiying, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The program itself was nearly two hours long after which all of the participants enjoyed Chinese food.



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Update on Micronesia Challenge's FSM Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

To sustain the island biodiversity of Micronesia in order to ensure a healthy future for their people, protect their unique island cultures, and sustain the livelihoods of their island communities, the Chief Executives of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Republic of Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) launched the Micronesia Challenge.

The Terrestrial Monitoring Program of the Micronesia Challenge is focusing on collecting baseline forest monitoring assessments across participating islands by installing permanent FIA plots. These assessments will monitor indicators such as native forest cover and health, species diversity, abundance, forest structure, human disturbance, bird diversity, and invasive species and pests/diseases to detect changes in biodiversity over time. Understanding how the forests are changing over time allows forest managers to more effectively care for the forests and its many resources. Using the FIA sampling design and protocols allows the data to be compared to other, similar forests in the region in order to provide a better gauge of forest health in the state of Pohnpei.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the USDA Forest Service is responsible for forest inventory and monitoring work in the US and the US affiliated Pacific Islands. The first FIA plots in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) were installed in 2005 as part of an overall Pacific Island inventory including Hawaii, American Samoa, Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and Guam. This year will be the first plot re-measurement in FSM on a 10-year cycle. Working with local foresters, the FIA crew will survey 47 plots on Pohnpei, and an additional 40 plots in the other FSM states. At each of these plots forest composition and structure will be assessed.

This includes measurements of tree and understory species composition as well as documenting the presence of invasive plants, tree pathogens, and other disturbances. This large scale assessment will provide valuable information about the health of the forests in FSM at a local and regional scale. The data collected from these efforts can be used by local land managers in FSM to make informed decisions about how to manage forest resources on Pohnpei.

After 53 days (Phase II) of field work in Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap, the Micronesia Conservation Trust and its local partners issued an update on the 2016 Micronesia Challenge (MC) Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) work in the Federated States of Micronesia.

In Pohnpei, 15 additional MC FIA plots were successfully established with 12 already established plots from Phase I. The team was able to establish 4 MC FIA plots in Enipein, 8 on Ant atoll, 1 in Pwudoi, 1 on Sapwitik and 1 on Dehphek/ Takaieu. MCT and local partners in Pohnpei, namely the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, the Nahnpei Family (Rohsa Kitti) and the MPA communities of Pohnpei, were responsible for these new plots. With the support from our Pohnpei partners, a total of 27 plots were visited and established.

In Kosrae 14 MC plots were successfully established during Phase II between May 23-June 1, 2016 (3 plots in Olum/Malem area, 4 in Yela, 2 in Walung, and 5 in UBR) along with the 4 plots established during phase 1. Again, thanks to the continued support and hard work of our local partners - KCSO, DREA, YELA and DT&I. Along with previous work with KIRMA and with support of the Kosrae State, all the MC FIA plots for Kosrae have been successfully established. With the Kosrae State support,



the MC FIA team was able to visit and establish a total of 18 MC FIA plots on Kosrae.

In Chuuk the establishment of the 2 remaining MC FIA plots (in FaiChuuk - Polle) was successfully completed on June 14, 2016. Thanks to Chuuk Conservation Society and Chuuk Women's Council for the continued support in the field work. A total number of 10 plots were visited and established for Chuuk State.

In Yap, on June 19, a meeting was held between the MC FIA team, YapCAP, MCRO and community reps to plan out the Phase II work on Yap proper and the outer islands of Fais and Ulithi. On June 22 a meeting with Yap partners was conducted at the Governor's Office between YapCAP, Yap Agriculture, Yap Forestry, MCRO and relevant stakeholders. The Team garnered support and was able to visit and establish 8 of the remaining MC plots on Yap proper

during Phase II.

A meeting was conducted on June 23 with the Council of Tomol in order to get approval and support to visit and establish MC plots on Fais and Ulithi. With the full support of the Council of Tomol, the team was able to visit and establish 4 MC Plots on Fais and 6 on Ulithi. A total of 27 MC Plots were successfully established for Yap State.

The MC team is looking forward to the implementation of Phase 3 of the MC FIA project out on the Outer Islands of Woleai, Sorol, Elato/ Lamotrek, Fachaulap and Ifaluk in September 2016. In the mean time the team is working closely with the USFS on the Quality Assurance process.

If you want to learn more about the Forest Inventory Analysis in the FSM, please contact Roseo Marquez at the Micronesia Conservation Trust at 320-5670 or via email at sgo@ourmicronesia.org.

Federated States of Micronesia pursue a common approach between disaster risk and climate change

15 August 2016

Weno, FSM – A joint Environment Summit and Disaster Risk Management Platform will be held to address challenges related to the impacts of disasters throughout the Federated States of Micronesia this week (15-19 August) in Weno, Chuuk.

The Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) will lead the event, joining these critical topics together to ensure a common focus and agreement is made on a way forward to address the vulnerabilities communities face in terms of disaster.

This timely national event is supported by the European Union's €19.37million

Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project (BSRP) implemented by the Pacific Community along with OEEM (acronym is fine) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

This Summit is the culmination of years of work beginning with a National Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change policy, adopted in 2013. This was followed by a Joint State Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change developed by the four states of FSM.

This is the first real opportunity to bring together all the key stakeholders from all states including representatives from the

national and state governments, international and regional organizations, development partners, and civil society organisations such as the women associations and persons with disabilities ensuring the way forward is diverse and inclusive of all sectors of the community.

OEEM Director, Mr Andrew Yatilman said that the FSM Government is committed to address the impacts of climate change and disasters to minimize hardship at community level. He further thanked the partners for their continued support in this important conference.

The Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific,

Christoph Wagner said, "This event will lead to clear and inclusive plans on how to reduce the negative impact of disaster and climate change on communities. "The EU commends the work of the FSM government for leading the way in creating a diverse and long-term plan that will lead to safer and more resilient communities in FSM," he said.

The Pacific Community's (SPC) Noa Tokavou will help facilitate the event and said "this is a momentous occasion for the government, community of FSM and the partners involved as it directly supports the long-term prosperity of the country for its people against the risk of disaster into the future".

...FSM in Olympics

Continued from front page

champion. Mayer is fully six inches taller than the scrappy little woman from Yap who has only been boxing for three years.

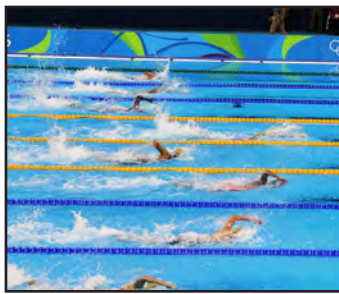
The judges for the match must have had some hard decisions to make. To an onlooker it seemed that some points were awarded to Mayer that should have gone to Chieng. Ultimately the judges awarded the win to Mayer with judge's scores of 35-40, 35-40, 37-39, very tight scores for four rounds of boxing.

The FSM National Olympic Committee Facebook page said of Jennifer's performance, "The intense training, the many sacrifices, and the journey it took to become an Olympian were not all for naught, Jennifer made history today as becoming the first FSM boxer to compete in the Olympic Games. The FSM flag hung proudly alongside the other countries for the first time in history and the crowds who shouted in unison, 'Jennifer! Jennifer!,' left with a memory of FSM's Jennifer Chieng and her fighting spirit. Chieng delivered the performance of a lifetime and left everything out in that ring, while representing the small nation of the Federated States of Micronesia, and for that we tip our hats to you."

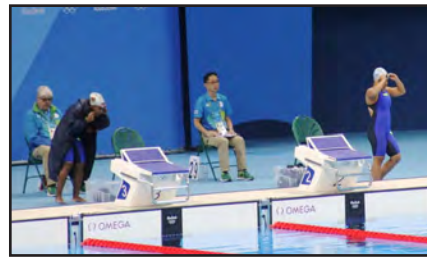
The Kaselehlie Press and all of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia tip our collective hats to all of the FSM athletes who represented the FSM so very well at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. You are our heroes!!



Opening Ceremony FSM & USA Flag Bearers (Michael Phelps is Team USA Flagbearer)



50m freestyle preliminary - Daniel FSM lane 2



Pre-start 50m Freestyle women preliminary - Daniel FSM swimmer lane 2



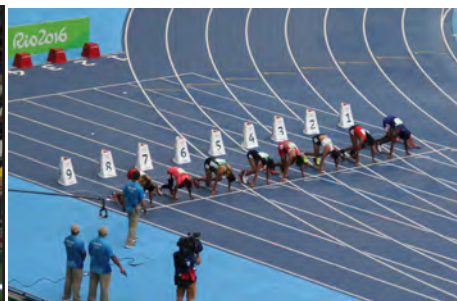
FSM swimmer on giant pool scoreboard as winner of heat 3



100m finish heat 3 women - Henry FSM lane 4



USA boxer award decision vs FSM boxer Chieng



Start 100m preliminaries Women Rio 2016 - Henry FSM lane 4



FSM boxer vs USA boxer - Rio 2016



FSM swimmer Dionisio exiting pool after winner heat 3 - Rio 2016

Repatriation of Nepalese and Indian Nationals from the FSM

FSM Department of Justice

August 9 2016

Yap, FSM—National Police Force Officers escorted Five Nepalese out of Pohnpei to their country of origin on 1 August 2016. The Nepalese were part of a boat involving 36 undocumented persons, being transported by two Indonesian nationals seeking refuge in Australia and United States. They entered Yap harbor on 18 November 2014 to seek aid.

Since arrival of the "green boat" with the 36 undocumented persons in the FSM in November 2014, the Government had been in contact with authorities of Nepal and India to arrange repatriation of these foreign nationals to their country of origin. The captain of the "green boat" had been jailed, tried, and convicted of entering the FSM jurisdiction illegally in violation of immigration laws and human smuggling. Under negotiated agreement with Jakarta, the two Indonesian nationals were returned to Indonesia. In June 2016, 7 Nepalese were repatriated to Nepal.

In July 2016, Yap State Government informed the National Government that it could no longer afford to host the remaining "green boat" persons. The remaining 27 were transferred to Pohnpei State where the FSM National Government is located. On 1 August 2016, 5 out of 27 persons were repatriated through an organized escort departure involving the National Police.

Of the "green boat" people, 4 have been screened by the United Nations Refugee authorities as meeting the eligibility criteria for refugee status, and are currently awaiting transfer to a third country. The FSM Government has indicated its desire that the refugees be relocated elsewhere at the earliest possible time.

18 Indian nationals, still awaiting travel documents from their government are scheduled to be repatriated within the next two weeks, and will be escorted by members of the National Police force when travel arrangements are confirmed.

COM-FSM accreditation reaffirmed

College of Micronesia FSM

COM-FSM has received an Action Letter (July 8, 2016) from ACCJC announcing reaffirmation of accreditation for 18 months with a Follow-Up Report to address two recommendations and three standards. The Commission's decision was informed by:

- The college's Self Evaluation Report (December 15, 2015);
- Supplemental Report to the Commission (May 2016);
- Testimony provided by President Daisy, Board Chair Dr. Tulensru Waguk, Vice President/ALO Dr. Frankie Harriss, and the visiting team chair, Dr. Rachel Rosenthal (June 8, 2016);
- External Evaluation Report (July 8, 2016) of a March 2016 visiting team; and
- Written responses to the evaluation team report.

Reaffirmation for eighteen months indicates that the Commission has determined that COM-FSM is in substantial compliance with Accreditation Standards.

The March 2016 Visiting Team found that the college's Self Evaluation Report was well organized and thorough, providing appropriate and sufficient information for the team to begin its review. The accreditation team found COM-FSM to be exceptionally well prepared for the team's visit and provided extraordinary logistical support both before and during the visit.

The importance of accreditation is to provide assurance to the public that COM-FSM meets the Standards; the education earned at COM-FSM is of value to the student who earned it; and employers, trade or profession-related licensing agencies, and other colleges and universities can accept a student's credential at COM-FSM to be legitimate, and enables students to be eligible and apply for federal grants/scholarships. (ACCJC website).

Below are the visiting team's general observations for each of the accreditation Standards, which can be read in more detail in the External Evaluation Report.

Standard I. Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness, and Integrity

Standard I.A. Mission

"COM-FSM has a mission statement that meets the accreditation criteria in that it defines the institution's broad educational purposes, its intended populations, the types of degrees it offers, and its commitment to student learning and student achievement.... All programs articulate how they align to the mission statement. Furthermore, the mission statement is widely distributed, read at Board of Regents meetings, and published in various locations including the college's website, on all institutional documents, and is posted in classrooms and meeting rooms at all sites" (p.17).

Standard I. B. Assuring Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness

"COM-FSM demonstrates a substantive and collegial dialogue about student outcomes, academic quality, institutional effectiveness, and continuous improvement of student learning and achievement. COM-FSM assesses all outcomes every semester, and has institutional, program, and course outcomes as well as administrative unit objectives. Program reviews is used to evaluate courses, programs, certificates, and degrees and these evaluations allow for academic integrity review, discussion on whether program should be discontinued, and how embedded outcomes assessment results can guide refinement of teaching and learning to improve student success" (p.20).

Standard I. C. Institutional Integrity

"The college's catalog provides students and prospective students with accurate and current information... Regular review of institutional policies, procedures, and publications is required to ensure they are in accordance with the mission, programs, and services" (p.25).

Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Support Services

Standard II.A. Instructional Programs

"The college developed a strongly integrated approach to assessment of student learning, program review, and curriculum development...Each program is clearly linked to its program review, course SLO assessment data summary, program SLO assessment, and a data sheet for analysis. COM-FSM's Curriculum and Assessment Handbook provides clear and thorough guidelines for course and program development, assessment of the full spectrum of student learning outcomes, and review of their programs to ensure they are effective and assist their students in reaching their educational goals" (p.30).

"The college's facilities, including classrooms, labs, offices, services, infrastructure, and grounds, are well maintained, appropriately constructed, and designed in such a manner as to support the instructional programs of the institution... The visiting team mentioned that the learning environment at COM-FSM is quite similar to what would be experienced in comparable classrooms in USA" (p.30).

Standard II.B. Library and Learning Support Services

"The college library provides an array of library resources, equipment, and services to meet the educational needs of students at all campuses... Students at any campus can search the online catalog for the National Campus and request materials from this collection. In some cases, the physical item is delivered to the student, but often a scanned copy can be created and delivered electronically instead...In addition to the general collections, the National Campus

holds a substantial number of items in the Pacific Collection, including many archival materials from the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) era, and has a substantial government documents collection... All of the libraries provide computers for students to access library resources and to do other educationally related work" (p.40-41).

Standard II. C. Student Support Services

"The college uses annual assessments, biennial program reviews and surveys to assess student services, which have seven areas. These seven areas are (1) admissions, registration, and records, (2) financial aid, work-study, and scholarships, (3) guidance and peer counseling including tutoring services, (4) health services, (5) sports and recreation, (6) residence halls, and (7) student activities, clubs and organizations. The student services surveys show that a vast majority of the students are satisfied with the student services available to them" (p.45).

Standard III: Resources

Standard III.A. Human Resources

"There are 42 administrators, 99 faculty members and 299 staff serving a student body of 2,344 at six campus sites. The college has made significant progress in establishing written Board human resources policies. A comprehensive Human Resource Manual will be completed in 2016" (p.48).

Standard III.B. Physical Resources

"Since the last full accreditation visit the college has made substantial strides in facilities planning, developing a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan and establishing five-year plans for major repairs and renovation as well as regular schedules for preventative maintenance. Student facilities fee has been implemented to help offset facilities total cost of ownership" (p.53).

Standard III.C. Technology Resources

"The college has made significant improvements since its 2010 Comprehensive Visit. Transformational efforts in its planning process since 2012 have addressed significant accreditation deficiencies. The Integrated Educational Master Plan includes Tech Plan and resource allocation processes that have assisted the college in addressing its planning and appropriate allocation of resources" (p.55).

Standard III.D. Financial Resources Planning

"Since its 2010 Comprehensive Visit, the college has made significant improvements. Transformational efforts in its planning process since 2012 have addressed significant accreditation deficiencies...Budget and Financial information is routinely shared with the college community through open forums and through the Finance Committee. The 2017 Budget includes a request for increased funding from the national

government so the college can address the total cost of ownership, increased funding for urgently needed utility and maintenance costs" (p.58).

Standard IV: Leadership and Governance

Standard IV.A. Decision-Making Roles and Processes

"The college has made tremendous strides in ensuring that administrators, faculty, staff, and students have substantial roles to play in decision-making and proposing changes to policies and procedures, as they are clearly defined in the college policy and procedure for participating in the decision-making processes of the college. The board policies and administrative procedures on governance structures and shared governance now include greater detail about the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the campus community... Governance processes, particularly the effectiveness of the various committees, undergo annual self-assessments" (p.63).

Standard IV.B. Chief Executive Officer

"The current president has overseen vast changes in the operations of the college, including the development of a range of documents regarding planning, fiscal matters, and long-range facilities projects, most notably the Integrated Educational Master Plan. He has worked closely with the revised administrative structure to involve greater numbers of the campus community in the governance and decision-making processes. Given the geographical challenges of serving as president of six campuses located on four different island states, he has also established a series of methods for communicating with the wider Federated States of Micronesia community" (p.66).

Standard IV.C. Governing Board

"The president and the Accreditation Liaison Officer have focused on accreditation matters at a majority of the meetings of the Board of Regents in order to improve the board's understanding of proposed and revised policies...All of the current regents have passed the accreditation course. The board has shown a commitment to board development as evidenced by the hiring of an external consultant, Sandy Pond Associates, beginning in August 2012 and continuing to 2017" (p.70).

For detailed information, please read the reports in bold which can be retrieved on the college's website under "Accreditation" which is located in the tab called "Reports Archive".

COM-FSM is grateful to the students, faculty, staff, and the Board of Regents who worked to achieve Reaffirmation of Accreditation. The college continues to be driven by its mission, comply with the Accreditation Standards, Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and U.S. Department of Education regulations.

US Ambassador Robert Annan Riley III presents credentials to President Christian

On August 16, Robert Annan Riley Baghdad, Iraq (2005-2006). He also III presented his credentials to FSM served as Financial Management Officer President Peter M. Christian at the at U.S. Embassy Madrid, Spain (1998-FSM National Government in Palikir, 2002), U.S. Embassy Abidjan, Cote Pohnpei. Ambassador Riley is the tenth d'Ivoire (1995-1998), and U.S. Embassy Ambassador to the Federated States of Lilongwe, Malawi (1993-1995). Before joining the Foreign Service, he worked as Regional Administrator for West Africa, of the Senior Foreign Service, class of (1992-1993).

Minister-Counselor, and now is currently

Earlier in his career, he served in the Peace Corps, serving as Chief Administrative Officer, Africa Region, Washington, D.C. (1988-1992), Administrative Officer in Mali (1986-1988) and Gabon (1983-1986), Volunteer Leader/Logistics Coordinator, Gabon (1981-1983), and Volunteer, Gabon (1979-1981).

Mr. Riley is recognized as an effective negotiator and team leader who has successfully coordinated a broad range of mission-wide programs. His strong mentoring skills and background as a former Peace Corps volunteer suits him well for Micronesia, which has a strong Peace Corps presence. As Management Counselor in Manila, Mr. Riley extensively supported the mission in Micronesia, which is a background that will serve him well as Chief of Mission here.

Previously, he served as Management Counselor at U.S. Embassy Manila, Philippines (2009-2013), U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Vietnam (2007-2009), and U.S. Embassy Islamabad, Pakistan (2006-2007). Before that, Mr. Riley served as Senior Financial Management Officer, U.S. Embassy Paris, France (2002-2006) during which he served on a detail appointment to U.S. Embassy

Mr. Riley earned a B.A. from Yale University in 1979 and has received numerous Department performance awards. He speaks French and Spanish. During the brief ceremony Ambassador Riley expressed his utmost respect and gratitude to be able to represent the leaders and people of the United States of America here in the Federated States of Micronesia. He looks forward to working constructively with the government of the FSM and also to travelling to the other beautiful islands of the FSM in the near future.





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The first standing meeting of Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

have participated and contributed to RAMSI.

A key objective of the meeting was to build on the work already done by the Forum Officials Committee and the Specialist Sub Committee on Regionalism to present a streamlined and prioritised agenda for Forum Leaders that supports the objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

Foreign Ministers described the meeting as a way of bringing greater focus to the topics that require genuine regional action and integration and expressed a desire to help shape the regional political agenda.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
Improving and increasing regional cooperation around disaster risk management and responding to the adverse effects of climate change were a central area of discussion, as was simplified access to climate finance.

Ministers reflected on the successful efforts in Paris at the UNFCCC COP 21 in December 2015 as a clear example of the power of cooperation and what can be achieved when Forum countries work together. They agreed that ratification of the Paris Agreement, and prioritising the implementation of key obligations under the Agreement, are two objectives that Pacific countries must continue to push for both within the region and internationally. They also reiterated the need for a united Pacific voice at the upcoming UNFCCC COP 22 negotiations to be held in Marrakesh in November.

There was agreement on the need for coordinated regional actions on climate change and disaster risk management to ensure resilient sustainable development. Ministers encouraged Leaders to endorse the draft Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP): an integrated approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

There was broad recognition of the need for an effective and engaged Pacific Resilience Partnership to be established as climate resilient growth becomes an important area of focus.

Ministers observed that a positive shift had occurred, with the business sector now being more engaged, and pointed out that business will be a powerful driver of success in this area into the future.

RAMSI

The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) which will conclude by 30th June 2017 was acknowledged as a shining example of Pacific diplomacy and cooperation. Ministers congratulated the Government and people of Solomon Islands on the hard work and the achievements over the last thirteen years, and thanked all who

Partnerships

The need for genuine and durable partnerships was discussed by Ministers who acknowledged that having a unified Pacific voice at international gatherings would further develop opportunities for the greater good of the region.

Regionalism Priorities

Ministers noted that the recommendations of the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR) to Leaders consisted of a combination of existing and expanded 2015 priorities, as well as three new initiatives identified through the 2016 call for submissions - relating to regional mobility and harmonisation of business practice, coastal fisheries, and a framework for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Foreign Ministers discussed progress that has been made in implementing the 2015 Leaders' decisions around increasing the economic benefits of fisheries, engaging with Indonesia over allegations of human rights violations, reducing the burden of cervical cancer, and effectively coordinating ICT services.

Fisheries

Ministers commended the work done on the Economic Returns Work Programme for Fisheries and on the Monitoring Control and Surveillance Evaluation Report and were pleased to refer them onto Leaders for endorsement.

West Papua (Papua)

Ministers discussed the proposals tabled through the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism around West Papua (Papua). They reiterated the importance of upholding human rights across the region and also the need for continued engagement with Indonesia on this issue.

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Cervical Cancer

Ministers agreed on the importance of high level visibility noting the advances that have been made since they began advocating for action around it last year. They agreed that Health Ministers should now take carriage of national policies relating to reducing the burden of cervical cancer and encouraged Members to avail themselves of the existing bulk procurement programme managed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in order to facilitate equitable access and benefits across the Region.

ICT

Ministers supported the idea of the relevant

national ministers taking control of level policy responses around ICT and encouraged closer work with the expanded ICT Regional Working Group.

There was heartfelt appreciation expressed to the Government of Fiji for the hospitality accorded to the meeting and congratulations were warmly offered to Fiji on winning a gold medal in rugby 7s at the 2016 Olympic Games.

Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum will meet in Pohnpei, in the Federated States of Micronesia between the 7th and 11th of September.





COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat About the Opportunity

The Pacific Islands Forum was founded in August 1971 and currently comprises 16 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific. Forum Leaders meet annually to develop collective responses to regional issues.

The Forum's administrative arm is the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva, Fiji. It acts as the Secretariat for Forum-related events, implements decisions by the Leaders, facilitates the delivery of development assistance to member states, and undertakes the political and legal mandates of Forum meetings. The Forum Secretariat is also mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer

An exciting opportunity exists for a Communications Officer to join the Secretariat. This job exists to execute and strengthen the Forum Secretariat's public affairs and communications strategies to build stakeholder understanding and support, and maintain a positive public image for the Forum and the Forum Secretariat.

Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Developing and maintaining of the Secretariat's Communications Calendar;
- Managing production and dissemination of PIFS communications material;
- Devising and implementing strategy for efficient and sustainable maintenance of Forum Secretariat website;
- Supporting the achievement

of results outlined by the FJD84,120. For non-Fijian nationals, Communications Strategy. this salary may be tax-free.

Applicants should have a graduate degree, preferably in the fields of media, communications, arts, or languages with at least 5 years relevant work experience in Pacific media and communications, institutions and processes. He/she must also be an excellent communicator and strong analyst and have experience in writing and editing of speeches and press statements. Applicants with experience also in working with InDesign, Photoshop and other visual design software would have an added advantage. Applicants should have strong interpersonal skills and an ability to work across cultures.

To be eligible for this positions, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 19 September 2016.

About the Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance, education for dependants, and housing assistance. The starting salary will be in the range of SDR25,408 to SDR28,584 per annum. At the 1 July 2016 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD74,773 to

* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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“Fishing Together for a Pacific Free of Corruption and Poverty”

PASAI

August 5

Pohnpei FSM - Delegates from 19 Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) member countries were welcomed by Governor Marcelino Peterson to the State of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia for the 19th PASAI Congress held on 2-5 August, 2016. Signs at the international airport and on the streets signalled the importance of this occasion, which saw development partners NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and INTOSAI Donor Secretariat (IDI, Brazil office) attend, as well as stakeholders from the World Bank and Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, and observers from the US Department of Interior (DOI) and the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Congress was opened by keynote speaker, His Excellency, President Peter M. Christian, followed by Ms Mary Kendall, Deputy Inspector General, US Department of Interior who gave special remarks. Both speakers emphasised the values of integrity, strength of character, trust and relationships as being key to the role of Auditors.

Ms Lyn Provost, PASAI Secretary General and Auditor General of NZ gave the keynote address, presenting her report on “Reflections from our audits: Governance and Accountability”. Eight elements of good governance was the focus of her address and sharing the journey of PASAI. Ms Provost completes her seven year term this year and SAI heads acknowledged with great appreciation the remarkable work and esteemed leadership she has provided as Secretary General of PASAI for the past six years.

Fighting corruption and poverty was the theme of the Congress. SAI Heads discussed the challenges and successes of their roles in combating these prevalent issues in the Pacific. Key solutions considered were advocating for legislative changes, working more closely with other government agencies, increasing public awareness of the issues and engaging them in the fight against corruption and poverty. The international attendance beyond the Pacific at this year’s Congress signalled the growing value PASAI is having on the global auditing stage.

SAI Samoa was nominated as the new PASAI member on the INTOSAI governing board. Regionally, the Chairmanship of PASAI was handed over by John Path, Auditor General of Vanuatu to Ihlen Joseph, Auditor General of Pohnpei FSM.

Participants enjoyed the generous hospitality of the SAI Pohnpei and their staff. A cultural reception and day excursions ensured delegates experienced the beauty and uniqueness of

Pohnpei. SAI heads conveyed their vote of thanks to the development partners, stakeholders, observers and hosting SAI for their invaluable contributions to the 19th PASAI Congress. A copy of the PASAI Communique is attached.

The 20th PASAI Congress will be hosted in Tuvalu in 2017.



Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

Conflicting Values and Pohnpei Studies

A Short Story

The Father was well aware of the term Transitional Economics and the problems that go with it. After all he had been to college and earned his degree in accounting. So there was no doubt he knew about one thing well—money! He knew about revenues and expenses and profits and losses. Around the office he was the one that “kept the books” as they said. With his degree he secured employment and received a bi-weekly salary that was pretty good but his “take home” pay was not. After allotments for a housing loan and one for the new/used SRV, 1/3 of his check was gone. There just never seemed to be enough cash at home for a two week period. After store-bought foods, PUC, Telecom, gas and kerosene there were always school supplies, zorries and other family needs. He was good at “keeping the books” at the office but not too successful at home. At the office it was numbers on paper and the computer. Expenses were known and office expenses were “in the budget”. At home it was real cash money not numbers on paper—and he never knew what his expenses might be during any period of time. There always seemed to be more expenses than incomes and cash disappeared quickly. This was real—at the office it was just numbers for the books. At home could never predict his cultural obligations and he

felt the constant pressure to donate. Never in his lifetime had he seen so many fundraisers.

Therefore, he found himself living in two worlds. After work and on the weekends he tended to his Sakau en Pohnpei, his yams and the family fed the pigs. However he often he bought pig food to supplement the coconut, banana and when in season breadfruit mix he liked boiled up from resources on his own land. The father barely had time to tend to sakau and yams and do his 40 hour per week job. And while he liked his job and was good at it he felt additional pressure there are well. Last year an Aunt, an Uncle and the Father’s 1st Cousin had passed away within ten days of each other. Luckily he was fine with his sakau, yams and he did have six (6) pigs in the pen at that time—but there were still items to be purchased and he had fished at the fish market on three separate occasions and that was an expense the Father could not plan for.

Moreover, he lived in a different work world where missing many hours at work for funerals and feasts was beginning to be frowned upon. When someone at the office was gone for several days for funerals there was talk of missing too much work. God forbid the Father should ever lose his office job due to absences. But perhaps even worse yet he had missed two burials when important office meetings had been scheduled at work. Father must choose and he chose the office over the burials. He felt the conflict inside. He

had heard that people were asking why he was not there for the burials. As a Pohnpeian Man he did not openly complain but inside it was different. After he prayed for a cousin in the hospital to recover he silently hoped that if it was God’s will to take his cousin—it would be closer to payday. Living in the New World and the Old World at the same time was a real conflict for him. In his world there were more wants than needs—and more needs than his resources could provide

Nevertheless, the father was determined to have his children aware of the two worlds—the old ways and the ways that required money so he decided upon with the idea of an allowance. His American friend at work said it was a good way to teach young people about money. He told the father it would link work to money—like a paycheck. Also the boy would begin learning about spending money and making choices about responsible spending. He would learn that he would have to prioritize—decide upon what was most important to buy. So the Father began to pay his 14 year old son \$5.00 per week on Fridays. It was paid when he completed all of his household chores including caring for the pigs and boiling up the coconut/banana/breadfruit gruel. The son showed Father a checklist of completed chores and he was paid his work. Happily Father soon noticed a nice reduction at the store for bags of pig food. Everything was going smoothly. The son was working and learning the value of a dollar. And Father

was always fast to say “In today’s world the use of money may be the most important skill of all.”

Then one Saturday morning Father said, “Son I was just by Nohnno Bea’s house and it is getting overgrown with weeds and needs some trash picked up and a general cleaning. Why don’t you go over and lend a hand to Nohnno as she has been ill lately and not able to get around too well.”

“Of course Father”, said the boy. “I really love Nohnno Bea and I want her little place to look nice when people pass by. But I do have one question—How much money should I ask Nohnno for?”

The readers can imagine the Father’s reaction—it was the same as all of you might have had. It was anger mixed with sadness. The lesson had not gone as smoothly as Father had imagined! Something went wrong. Something went wrong when the value of money clouded the boys own values. The year before the young boy would have gone over to Nohnno’s with no thought of money and happy to help out.

This composite story is only one example of challenges facing the community as they become the major teachers of the Pohnpei Studies Curriculum in the schools. Womackandassociates765@gmail.com

Ambassador Horie hosted a ceremonial luncheon to celebrate Nan Madol as World Heritage Site

Embassy of Japan

On August 1, Ambassador Horie hosted a luncheon at his residence to celebrate Nan Nadol located in Pohnpei, which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on July 15.

The guests for the luncheon were His Majesty Nanmwariiki of Madolenihmw and his spouse, the Hon. Governor Marcelo Peterson, Director for FSM National Archive, Culture and Historic Preservation Dr. Rufino Mauricio, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Dept. Foreign Affairs Mr. Brendy Carl, Director for Dept. of Land and Natural Resources Mr. Nelson Pelep, Anthropologist for Pohnpei Historic Preservation Ms.

Emelighter Kihleng, Pohnpei State Tourism Officer for Office of Tourism Ms. Clara Halverson, and FSM Historic Preservation Officer Mr. Augustine Kohler.

Ambassador Horie made a welcome and congratulatory remark for the memorable occasion. In return, the Hon. Governor Peterson, Mr. Pelep and Mr. Kohler expressed their deep gratitude to Ambassador Horie for holding the ceremonial luncheon, and mentioned that with over years of consultations among various stake holders such as Federal and State governments and land owners on the Nan Madol site, the Nan Madol ruins have been finally inscribed on the list of UNESCO World Heritage. They

also stated that Japan is the country which has supported the ruins to be on the World Heritage list since the first step of the process and conveyed deep appreciation for the continuous support. Forthcoming plans and actions to preserve and promote the site were discussed on the course of the gala occasion.

The Nan Madol ruins of a megalithic culture are composed of about 90 artificial islets off the shore of Pohnpei island. On July 15, during its 40th session, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee inscribed the site of Nan Madol both on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, which is expected to raise awareness among citizens and governments for heritage preservation.

FSM and JICA aims for the promotion of solid waste management

JICA

The Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (JPRISM II) is once again underway for the Federated States of Micronesia. The overall goal is "Sustainable management of solid waste in the Pacific region is enhanced based on Pacific Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025(Cleaner Pacific 2015)", which was adopted by the 26th SPREP Meeting in September 2015.

The first delegation of a Basic Design Team on JPRISM II headed by Mr. Junji Ishizuka from Global Environmental Department of JICA Headquarters along with three consultants from EX Research Institute, Ltd., and KOKUSAI KOGYO CO., LTD visited each State in the FSM from June 8th to July 4th, 2016 to discuss on the Project contents for working out the framework of the Project with related authorities from the National and State departments such as Office of Environment & Emergency Management (OEEM), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Pohnpei, Chuuk, & Yap, Yap Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T), Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DT&I) of Pohnpei and Chuuk, Pohnpei Waste Management Services (PWMS), and Kosrae Island Resource Management (KIRMA). On 11th Aug, the second Basic Design Team on JPRISM II mission, headed by Mr. Mimpei Ito, held a final consultation meeting along with invited representatives from counterpart agencies of Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and SPREP, in which they concluded the contents of the Project Design Matrix (PDM), Plan of Operation (PO), and the draft Record of Discussion (R/D).

Through the assistance of JPRISM II, each state will revise the current State Solid Waste Management Strategy (SSWMS) in line with the Cleaner Pacific (2016-2015). Good practices of solid waste management/3R in country and the region will be also promoted during the phase II. OEEM will also support those activities. Furthermore, improvement of waste collection in Yap and Kosrae is expected during the project.

The project expects to commence at the end of this year 2016.

Ulithians Celebrate New Homes After Maysak

USAID

Though Eastern Micronesia was spared the worst of Super Typhoon Maysak in Spring of 2015, the Western states of Chuuk and Yap are still recovering from the devastating storm. One of the hardest-hit areas in the whole of the FSM was the Ulithi Atoll, in the state of Yap. The island of Falalop was leveled, destroying houses, crops, school buildings, and meeting houses. To add to the hardship, the islanders' rebuilding efforts were hampered by a hot and dry El Niño season, which caused drought and a food shortage.

During the week of July 25th, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), USAID handed over the first of close to 100 houses being built on the Ulithi Atoll in Yap. The Agnes Rat family from Falalop became the first to receive a house: "I'm excited," states Rat, "my grandchildren and I have been staying next door, but now we have a place of our own." Dozens of other houses are also nearing completion and will be handed over in the coming months.

Quality construction materials and sound engineering, along with community empowerment are important aspects to the reconstruction efforts. Members of the local communities were hired and trained by IOM and USAID engineers and builders. Skilled local workers lead teams which specialize in various aspects of the house building process. Meanwhile, IOM engineers reside on Falalop to oversee operations and provide guidance to the workers. The new houses are equipped with a water catchment system, wired for electricity and built to withstand winds of at least 95 mph.

For IOM's Steve Hutcheson, the manager of the reconstruction projects, it was important to hire locals for rebuilding efforts: "Working with the local communities, we are giving people in the villages the skills and knowledge to rebuild houses in response to future disasters."

The Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project is a multi-sectoral initiative designed to help Maysak-affected communities in the FSM rebuild following the devastating storm and help restore critical public infrastructure and utilities, rebuild homes, and strengthen communities. In response to Typhoon Maysak, the US Government is expected to provide \$45 million in humanitarian assistance to the FSM in the form of agricultural initiatives, logistics support and relief commodities, shelter coordination, and reconstruction efforts.



Pohnpei Youth Council sponsors art contest on UN SDGs

Pohnpei Youth Council

August 11, 2016

On August 12, the whole world celebrates International Youth Day. This year, to join in the celebrations, the Pohnpei Youth Council has organized a set of artistic contests revolving around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students are asked to choose an SDG that is most relevant and/or has a direct impact on our youth, and then choose an artistic area to create their work focusing on that SDG.

The official launch date of the contests is August 19, 2016 and will close for submissions on September 30, 2016. The contests are open to all high schools and both college campuses here in Pohnpei. There will be 4 different contests: a poetry contest, a songwriting contest, an art contest open to the high schools only. The essay contest will only be open to the college students. Each contest

will have a first prize, second prize, third prize, and 2 honorable mentions. Because of the sponsorship of the UNDP and the Office of Social Affairs, there will be hundreds of dollars available in prizes. All awards will be in the form of gift certificates.

Entries can be sent via email to pnuiyouthcouncil@gmail.com or hand-delivered to the Office of Social Affairs. Song entries can be posted on FB with hashtags #pohnpeiyoungday2016 or #pyc2016. All winners will be awarded at a special Awards Ceremony on October 24, United Nations Day.

The SDGs are a set of 17 focused goals that world leaders adopted in 2015 to tackle key issues we are facing today. They cover a wide range of areas to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a better future. This certainly includes the youth and the need for

the youth to step up and take action is great. The Youth Council hopes that as many young people will enter as this is an opportune time to expand our understanding and promotion of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals towards the fulfillment of these worldwide goals.

The Youth Council wishes to recognize and thank the Micronesian Productions for their collaboration and promotion, through the assistance of a partial grant from the Government of Canada, of the International Youth Day activities and the UNDP and the State Office of Social Affairs for their generous support and contribution to the contests.

For further information or inquiries, please contact the Pohnpei Youth Council president Stephanie Edward at 925-7111 or Micronesian Productions at 320-6505.

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Opinion Editorial

You're here but are you here?

The Awakening

It is Friday. The light of the atmosphere wears the beautiful end-of-the-day golden hue. The air is tainted by the scent of gas from cars racing home to begin the tantalizing task of unwrapping the weekend. Everyone wears that special Friday look—joking over the roofs of their cars with their co-workers or friends, paychecks in hand. They have the fresh imprint of tiredness just under their eyes but they also wear smiles that promise that they have anything but rest on their mind for the evening.

My Friday was similar. I laughed at the giggles of my nephew, Jaden—so free so young. I heard the screeching of chairs and tables being arranged outside the house for the night's sakau session—or “committee” as they called it. An uneventful hour went by and six month old Jaden was fast asleep. As I focused on the moment I noticed that the far away barks of the neighbors' dogs prompted small twitches from the beautiful bundle under the Sponge-Bob blankets. At times like those I feel I need my tablet in hand to write what I am thinking..

I stepped out onto the terrace of the house and found the “committee” squinting at their cell-phones and tablets, the square lights illuminating their faces—grasping their attention like deer in the headlights. I thought about the group outside as I returned to Jaden, I wondered what was so disconcerting about the scene.

It only took a moment or two of reflection but it was a moment of awakening for me. The members of the “committee” outside were sharing the same physical space but they weren't actually “together”. Even in Pohnpei social media has defeated physical, face-to-face social interaction. It squeezes away the attention and awareness of what is there and redirects them to places where their presence is

not always necessary.

Don't get me wrong, it matters to keep connections, but to spend hours of your day inside of a screen as life passes by is nothing less than sad. I am just one of many who have taken the time to actually stand back and to see this problem under a serene light to discover the true calamity that it is.

Cultural Clash

Culture is weaved finely and knitted together by physical social interaction. . Social media is a fairly new wave but quite a powerful one none the less. It's the form of communication that is on my mind now.. The crucial act of simply speaking to each other in order to have formal understanding and ultimately building a mutual connection, is lost in wires and screens. Our small utterances of “Kaselehlie” and “Ihieng” are replaced by a nod and a swift return to finish off a facebook status on the device in our hand.

Communication is a vital route for conveying our cultural beliefs. If that route is blocked by foreign information from foreign media then our culture is polluted by needless information and tainted by unnecessary forms of communication.

Others might argue that is it part of modernization and a necessary change. Medicine—was an important change, formal education was an important change. Duck faces and status updates on what you had for lunch are not. From what I have seen, sharing of information is powerful and not everyone understands the magnitude of the issues that can stem from misinformation. That power, in the wrong hands can create rifts among families or friends. Inevitably it can damage our own culture because it disrupts the tight bond we pride ourselves on as islanders.

Social Plague

Right now, we are dealing with a social media epidemic that disguises itself as something necessary. The symptoms include loss of interest in physical surroundings and immediate relationships; delusions that one must constantly update others with redundant information; or an incessant itch to constantly remind others of one's own existence by changing one's own profile picture every five minutes.

It's is an addiction. The last time I checked, we do not have a “social network addict anonymous” group.

We do, however, have the community.

The Road Not Taken

I ask that we urge the young people's involvement in more of all that their lives have to offer. See the world, understand it—grow a passion geared towards fixing it. Entice yourself into the ecstasy of living in the moment, screen-free. Embrace once more, our humble culture and leave it up to your actions to convey your character. What people see of you is more likely what they will remember—not a facebook status you made about what you could have done.

If the first example is what is required then I strive to be that. I am making a commitment to allocate my time so that I spend less of it on social media and more of it actually socializing. I feel as though I am taking the road less traveled and am promptly reminded of that poem by Robert Frost a kind natured U.S. Peace Corps teacher named Greg once made us read in our senior year in high-school . The last five lines read:

*“I shall be telling this with a sigh,
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”*



BIO: Erika Emily Billen, is a college student at COM FSM pursuing her second degree in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management. She was born and raised in Pohnpei. She grew up in Kolonia “playing barefoot with the neighborhood kids of Kumwunlaid. Today, running on dreams and yesterday's coffee, I am like many other college students who simply want to earn a bright future.” She has spent twenty one years “surviving life, and is just about ready to grab it by the reins and ride off in a storm.” She intends to utilize any ability she has to tell the world about Pohnpei. “Since I have always enjoyed writing, I figured I might as well use that to pixelate my vision of my beautiful home for far eyes,” she says.

As she has opportunity, Emily will be doing just that for The Kaselehlie Press. After we read her article on Nan Madol for the Pohnpei Storytellers project we knew she had a talent that needed to be fostered and asked her to join us as she has time. Welcome to Erika Emily Billen!

Women and youth workshops in Pohnpei and Chuuk

By: Christina Monroe, Leadership Education Specialist at East-West Center

The North Pacific Women's Action Program, funded by the New Zealand Consulate of Hawaii and hosted by the East-West Center, launched with two events in FSM – last week in Chuuk and this week in Pohnpei. In each location, a core group of 10 women participated in a two-day train-the-trainer workshop then adapted the tools to host their own Community Women's Action Program on the third day. Sixty attendees came to the two events. These local women facilitated exercises that, among other things, had participants state their values and goals for their community and generate future scenarios for Micronesia based on trends in health, youth empowerment, women's equity, cultural preservation, and climate change.

One of the local women facilitators said, “I know a lot of the women have never been to a workshop like this before. They are already asking when we can do another one. The fire is lit we just need to spread it now and I think it's going to happen.”

The range of ages was unique to the workshop with both elders and youth fully engaging. As one participant said, “I wasn't really expecting very vocal responses because Pohnpei woman are usually in the background. It was refreshing, especially for the older woman, because they feel passionate about issues but they don't have many opportunities to share. I'm glad they felt safe enough to share in this space.”

An attending youth commented, “These women are very active. For us, younger generation, it was enlightening to hear the elder women talk about their experiences.”

Regardless of age, the participants appreciated the network and broad concern of others. A facilitator commented, “It got them talking about all the support they can get from local champions for their cause. One of the ladies first said ‘there's no one



to help me'. But when they started talking she realized there's support. It's important for the women to know they have backup support for their causes.”

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