

# Miss Kitti crowned as Miss Pohnpei Liberation Day



By *Bill Jaynes*  
 The Kaselehlie Press

September 2, 2017

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**Pohnpei, FSM**--Miss Kitti, Chasity Ann Salvador has been named as Pohnpei Miss Liberation Day after a crowning ceremony held at the PICS gymnasium this evening. Miss Sokehs, Zelain Perman was the first runner up. Miss Sapwuaifik, Freida Abraham was the second runner up, and Miss Kolonia, Yasmine S. Ehpel was the third runner up.

During the crowning ceremony contestants participated in an "Urohs" (local skirt) competition during which they had to explain the significance to their culture of their elaborately embroidered skirts. They also were each asked a single question and the judges evaluated their responses as part of their

Outside of the crowning ceremony the contestants participated in a float contest and also were required to raise funds. The four contestants together raised over \$20,000 in just a few weeks. The amounts they raised were also figured into the final results of the contest. 50 percent of that money will be used to offset some of the considerable expense of the Liberation Day festivities and the sporting events leading up to it. The remaining amount will go back to the individual contestants for scholarship purposes.

Lululeen Santos said that the organizers envision a much large competition next

year with more of the municipalities participating. The dream for upcoming competitions is to establish a scholarship fund from the fund raising activities of the contestants.

She said that all of the activities the contestants participated in did figure into the final results of the pageant, it worked out through coincidence that the order of the winners followed along with the amount of money each of the contestants raised. She said the contest was not designed that way but that was the way it ended up.

See "Miss Liberation" on page 5

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# Youth shape future at International Youth Day Conference in the FSM

*Pacific Community*

*11 August, 2017*

**Chuuk, FSM** - His Excellency, Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), held a high-profile National Youth Conference from 8–10 August in the state of Chuuk to mark International Youth Day 2017. In his keynote address, the President reflected on the need to focus on peacebuilding following periods of difficulty, “It is okay to fall, but it is more important to pick yourself up afterwards.” He encouraged youth delegates to persevere for their aspirations.

The theme of International Youth Day, “Youth building peace” is a significant one for the Pacific region as it speaks to the role of young people in seeking opportunities to shape their futures and live happily in peace. The theme is also engrained in the Pacific Youth Development Framework (2014–2023), which was developed by SPC working with partners and youth. The Framework is a guide for addressing youth issues in the region through the development of programmes and policies in both the youth sector and across other development sectors. One of its strategic approaches is an inclusive rights-based approach that specifies the importance of involving young people in decision-making. When young people are included in policymaking process, leaders can make more informed and more successful policy decisions.

FSM’s National Youth Coordinator, Mr Stuard Penias emphasised the critical role of youth for the future of the entire region. “Our youth can be agents of peace,” said

Mr. Penias, “this is why we have dedicated this conference to establish the structure through which we can work together with young people to ensure that we have a peaceful and prosperous nation.”

During the conference FSM state youth councils and other youth delegates provided inputs to shape the development of the national youth policy and their own youth state action plans. These were formalised by the adoption of an outcomes statement, which included recommendations such as promoting youth entrepreneurship by utilising local resources. Youth delegates also stressed the need for stronger policy measures to prevent the scourge of non-communicable diseases (NCD) such as tax-control on alcohol and cigarettes.

The issue of gender-based and family violence was discussed at length, prompting the youth delegates to call for culturally-appropriate community-based interventions. Newly elected President of the FSM National Youth Council, Mr Timothy Ruda, remarked on the importance of discussing such issues within the context of culture saying, “Our culture is an ever-changing process, and it needs to take into account the realities of youth today and issues such as dress-code and physical punishment of children.”

The state of Kosrae in FSM also shared their innovative approach to empower young people through the 16 Remarkable Teens Programme. This initiative, implemented by the State Government and the youth-led Kosrae Youth Development Association, recognises



and supports the efforts of young people to contribute to their community in different ways. Working in partnership with young people can promote peace, can resolve intergenerational conflict, and can contribute to greater citizenry to contribute towards social and economic growth and development.

The Pacific Community has long been a strong advocate for youth issues with the subject set as a standing agenda item for the Pacific Community’s annual meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA). At the 47th CRGA, held in Nouméa from 24 to 26 July, members acknowledged the advances made in strengthening data on the situation of youth including youth entrepreneurship and the integration of youth into new sectors such as climate change. Members also applauded the efforts to strengthen youth networks and ensure that key populations of youth are better represented in decision-making processes. Particular

note was made on the need to establish a network for LGBTI youth and encourage their engagement in policy dialogues. Through a standing partnership with the Pacific Youth Council (PYC), SPC also provides administrative support, mentorship, and hosting to the PYC Secretariat. A grant has supported their governance structure and sustainability planning. This allows the PYC to provide support, in turn, to 10 National Youth Councils, providing capacity-building opportunities, advocacy and facilitated partnerships to support objectives at country level. Most significantly, the establishment of Young Entrepreneurs Councils in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Tonga now serve as networks for young entrepreneurs.

Recent progress across the region and within countries promises significant results for the future, in which youth build peace, building on significant work already being done.



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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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## MRA commemorates four years of the Center for Entrepreneurship

The Micronesian Registration Advisors, Inc. (MRA) held a small ceremony at their Kolonia office to commemorate the Center for Entrepreneurship's (Center) four years of ongoing success. The Center operates within the College of Micronesia-FSM's (COM-FSM) National Campus. Its mission is to collaborate with motivated students who want to find innovative solutions to needs within their community.

The Center was established in 2014 after MRA provided a \$250,000 gift to COM-FSM over a five-year period. The ceremony coincided with MRA's delivery of its fourth funding installment. Although the Center has won several grants for its activities, MRA remains the program's primary benefactor. MRA also connected the Center with University of Hawaii's Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship by bringing its former Executive Director, Susan Yamada, to Pohnpei in February of 2016 and provided an additional \$30,000 to allow the Center to hire an assistant.

All of this giving has added up in a big way. The Center has proudly worked alongside dozens of entrepreneurial students who have taken advantage of the Center's workshops, competitions, events, and even a small business incubator. In most cases, it is the students who drive the Center's projects by identifying community needs and finding unique solutions. Textbooks are too expensive? Students started a peer group textbook rental service. Imported produce is too expensive? Students have built hydroponic systems all over Pohnpei that can grow lettuce, tomato, and other crops. Need a website? Students have made websites for the FSM Post Office, Cliff Rainbow Hotel, and the National Fisheries Corporation. The Center was also a strong supporter of this year's Friday Food Fashion Festival (aka "F4"), which showcased dozens of student-operated businesses at the Spanish Wall baseball field in Kolonia.

MRA has said it is excited to see what COM-FSM's talented students will come up with



next. The Center recently won a \$36,000 grant from the Department of Interior's Technical Assistance Program to build two greenhouses to try out hydroponics on a commercial level. The Center has already expanded its operations to Pohnpei Campus and hopes to support students on Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae campuses as

well. As Erika Billen, a co-founder of the student-operated business Hydroponics of the Pacific stated, "I always had ideas, but the Center for Entrepreneurship gave me the resources and encouragement I needed to make it a reality. My words are now actions."

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## Vital Scholarship Program winners

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc. and Vital Petroleum wish to announce the winners of the First Annual Vital Scholarship program.

Vital is graciously funding a new scholarship for the 2017-2018 school year and has awarded four scholarships of \$5,000.00 each this first year. Vital is looking to increase its local staff and hire FSM student graduates who successfully complete their degrees in fields that are required in their business. The primary focus is on engineering and certain sciences, accounting and certain business majors, and agriculture.

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei handled the application process. Vital also donated another \$5,000.00 to the Rotary Club for the Rotary Club of Pohnpei annual scholarships. That donation was also much appreciated.

With Vital having the final approval we are proud to announce four winners.

• Pamela Fredrick	Comp. Science	E. Oregon	\$5,000.00
• Erick Paul	MBA	Chaminade U.	\$5,000.00
• Allston Abraham	Accounting	U. of Guam	\$5,000.00
• Jamilynn Mooteb	Physics	St. Josephs	\$5,000.00

Congratulations to the winners of the first annual scholarship. There were many applications and qualified applicants. It was very difficult to choose the top candidates. These winners also will be provided opportunities through Vital, giving them a step up on all the other students looking for job opportunities after graduation.

For all those who applied, we want to encourage you to re-apply next year. Please note though the focus of the scholarship is for areas of study that will provide employment opportunities at Vital.

For more information, the next application process will start in March, 2018. Contact any Rotary Club member or Vital management for details.

## Pingelap Community in Pohnpei Celebrates “Green Day”

By: Konrad Englberger, IFCP

During the “Green Day” celebration which was held on September 2, 2017 at the Botanical Garden, Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) demonstrated to a group of women how to make flour from banana, taro and Breadfruit.

Konrad Englberger, IFCP Researcher who conducted the demonstration informed the participants that local made banana, taro and breadfruit flour is very high in Dietary Fiber, Calcium, Magnesium, Protein, Iron, Potassium and Vitamins, compared to imported white flour. IFCP has given flour mills and provided training to all the Municipalities in Pohnpei and Pohnpei Outer Islands to promote locally made nutritious food. IFCP hopes that people make use of these milling machines.

One of the IFCP Goals is, that people use more locally made food and to reduce the high number of NCDs, Non-Communal Diseases.

The research work conducted at IFCP concluded that a high quality, nutrient rich flour can be produced from local products like bananas, breadfruit and swamp taro with skin and without skin for a competitive price. Food tasting with banana, taro and breadfruit flour using different recipes was of high quality and was well accepted.



# Vice Minister Zheng Zeguang of China visits FSM Congress



## FSM Congress

**Palikir, Pohnpei-** On August 16, 2017, Congressman David W. Panuelo, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Resources and Development, who was designated by Speaker Simina to appear on his behalf, welcomed a high level delegation visit from the People's Republic of China led by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Honorable Zheng Zeguang. Chairman Panuelo on behalf of the Speaker and Congress extended words of gratitude and warm welcome to the delegation and assured the delegation on the importance of China's presence in the Pacific Region, especially in the FSM. Chairman Panuelo further assured the delegation on how the FSM values China's effort in providing developmental assistance and technical cooperation to the FSM. Chairman Panuelo then highlighted the importance of the FSM Trust Fund that the government of FSM, in conjunction with the Compact Trust Fund, will rely on after the expiration of the Compact's economic assistance by the year 2023. As it stands, the FSM trust fund is at 110 million and will need to be supplemented in order to reach maturity by 2023. He also relayed the sentiments of Speaker Simina and all members of Congress that they are doing their best to build up the FSM Trust Fund and that the nation appreciates the efforts that China has helped with the FSM in its effort to achieve self-reliance. Tantamount in importance to China's developmental assistance and technical cooperation,

Chairman Panuelo stated his hope that China will consider prioritizing additional assistance to the FSM Trust Fund as it is another area of urgency to the FSM in the near future. Chairman Panuelo concluded his remarks by adding that the FSM Congress continues to recognize and is fully committed to the one-China policy.

The Vice Minister, Hon. Zheng Zeguang expressed gratitude for the opportunity given to his delegation to have the chance to meet Chairman Panuelo and hoped for further exchanges between the two legislative bodies of the FSM and China in an effort to continue to foster peace and harmony between the two countries. The Vice Minister stated that the successful historic visit by His Excellency, FSM President Peter M. Christian to China, to reaffirm and strengthen its relationship with China, will definitely benefit the FSM. In regards to the FSM Trust Fund, Vice Minister Zeguang assured Chairman Panuelo that he will seriously consider supporting it, and further added that China will continue to assist FSM with the development of transportation and infrastructure. Vice Minister Zeguang also pointed out his appreciation for the social exchange of people between our two countries evident by the recent cultural performances of Yapese dancers who visited China with other Micronesians. The Vice Minister also expressed his continuing support of the scholarship program that China has extended to the benefit of all eligible FSM students.

Chairman Panuelo and Vice Minister Zheng Zeguang concluded the meeting by exchanging mutual words of continued cooperation and better understanding between their two countries.

# ...Miss Liberation

*Continued from front page*

Miss Kitti raised over \$7500. Miss Sokehs raised over \$7000. Miss Sapwuaifik raised over \$4000, and Miss Kolonia was able to raise over \$2000.

Santos said that the idea for the competition came late for the organizing committee. Though representatives of each of Pohnpei's municipalities said they would provide contestants from their municipalities only six did. Because of the limited time to prepare contestants, two of the municipalities decided it would be best to refrain from the contest. Santos said that it was up to each of the municipalities to determine how their contestants would be selected.

Contestants had to meet certain minimum qualifications. They each had to have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. They had to be drug free and still be in school. They had to reside in the municipality they represented and they had to be willing to assist on Liberation Day.

Santos said that the committee hopes for a much larger, and more organized competition next year.

Congratulations to all of the contestants.

Liberation Day closing festivities will be at the PICS track and field beginning at 9:00 am on September 11, 2017.



# CONGRATULATIONS FSMTC SMS GAME WINNERS!

Rank 1 \$1,000 - Klaffa Sigrah, Yap  
Rank 2 \$500 - George Skilling, Pohnpei  
Rank 3 \$200 - Mariot Sitorus, Chuuk



## \$50 CASH WINNERS



Bercil Charley



Doman Daoas



Gerard Figueras



Mataichy Phillip



Trishia Yamada



Youné Aimin



Frita Irons



Hiroyuki Mori

## \$20 TOPUP WINNERS



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Jerry Irons  
Mary Margaret Laaken  
Frita Irons

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Timothy Ruda  
Redeemer Nelson  
Maria Kulee

Klaffa Sigrah  
Bundi Ted  
Marlyn Luckymis  
Paulina Yoma

George Skilling  
Mariot Sitorus  
Jerome Falsario  
Ernie Yamaguchi

# 5th Annual Matson Fishing Tournament

## Pohnpei Fishing Club

The 5th Annual Matson tourney was held on Saturday, August 26. We had 15 boats registered and it was a good day out for fishing. Sometimes a nice day is not the best for fishing, but some anglers still knew how to bring in the fish. It was a beautiful day though and all the boats had an enjoyable time.



Matson and Amcres put up \$2,000.00 in prizes. There was a lot of competitive action for these prizes.

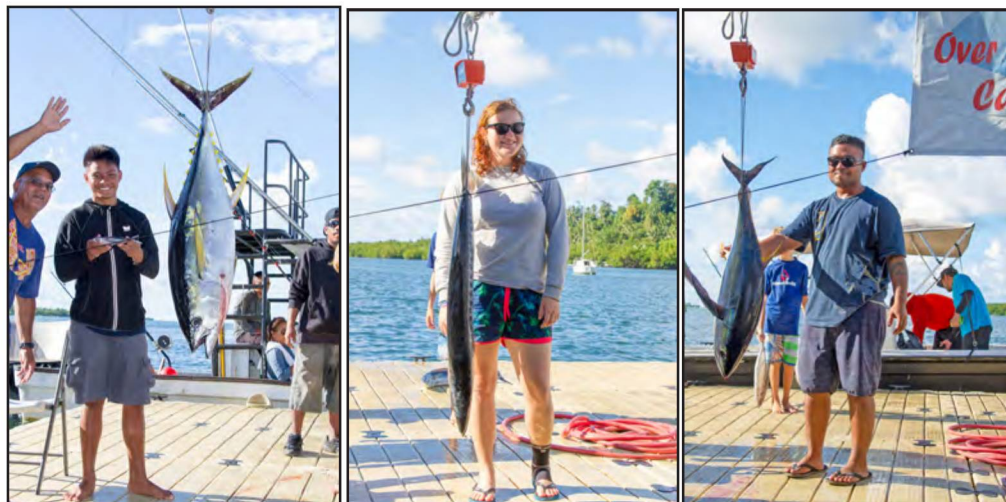
The winners are listed below:

- 1ST BIGGEST FISH \$700
  - 65lb YELLOWFIN – ISAIAH HAWLEY
- 2ND BIGGEST FISH \$400
  - 35.9lb YELLOWFIN – JEFF AINGEMEA
- 3RD BIGGEST FISH \$300
  - 23.1lb MAHI MAHI – AQUINO RINGLEN
- 4TH BIGGEST FISH \$200
  - 20.7lb MAHI MAHI – MARCUS SOHL

- SPECIES
- BIGGEST SKIP JACK \$100
  - 16.5lb WELBERT DAVID
- BIGGEST WAHOO \$100
  - 10.1lb DANE NIGHSWANDER
- BIGGEST BARRACUDA \$100
  - 19.6lb SOPHIE FINNEN
- JUNIOR ANGLER \$50
  - NICOLE PETERSON –10.6lb BARRACUDA

We want to thank Matson and Amcres for all their help in putting on a great tournament. The barbecue supported the Pohnpei Public Library, which provides much needed services to our children.

Many thanks to those who helped out, including Dr.Hedson running the weigh in, Tina, Melinda, Uta and all of Kumer's guys.



A big crowd attended the weigh in. All the winners enjoyed their prizes. The biggest fish was a 65 pound yellow fin caught by Isaiah Hawley, a really nice fish.

Thanks again to our sponsors, and we will see you at the next tournament.

# Team FSM to compete in 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan

By Jim Tobin  
FSM National Olympic Committee

The Federated States of Micronesia will now be sending 11 athletes to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to compete in the 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games. The FSM will be competing in Wrestling, Swimming and Athletics (Track and Field). Ashgabat 2017 games are from September 17-27, 2017.

The FSM sports delegation, attending the Ashgabat 2017, will include 5 wrestlers (Dukay Tairuwepij, Richard Nakasone, Thomas Wichlibuch Jr, Myron Damian and Ryan Ifamilik), 4 swimmers (Dionisio Augustine II, Kaleo Kihleng, Jourdyn Adams and Taeyanna Adams) and 2 runners/sprinters (Estanis Ikelap Jr and Alvin Martin). The coaches are Larry Uwelar (Wrestling) Sweeter Daniel

(Swimming) and Rendy Germinaro (Athletics). The FSM Chef de Mission is Ted Rutun. Welbert (Donnie) Samuel will be an administrative staff. The FSM delegation will be led by Berney Martin. Jim Tobin, FSMNOC Secretary General will not attend but will be traveling to Yap to assist with the planning and organization of the 2018 Micronesian Games.

Over 2,000 athletes from all over the Asia and Oceania regions will participate in 21 sports in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games. The majority of TEAM FSM will depart the Pohnpei on September 11 and arrive in Turkmenistan in September 13. The Opening Ceremony will be held at 7:00pm, September 17. Dionisio Augustine II will be the FSM flag bearer. TEAM FSM will return on October 02.

This will be the first Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games that the FSM has participated in. The FSM National Olympic Committee has been a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since 1998. The IOC had recommended that the small Pacific countries, like the FSM, that participate in the Olympic Games, compete in more regional competitions to try to improve the results of the FSM Olympic athletes.

The FSMNOC received funding support from Asia National Olympic Committees, Turkmenistan National Olympic Committee and International Olympic Committee grants for the costs of economy airfares, Ashgabat accommodation,

uniforms, insurance and travel stipends for all TEAM FSM members.



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# FSM receives visit from highest ranked Chinese official in FSM's history

FSM Congress

**Palikir Pohnpei** – September 1st through the 2nd marked a historic visit by H.E. Wang Jiarui, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and his delegation of 14 members. The CPPCC or better known in China as the PCC is a political advisory body in the People's Republic of China and holds much influence in China's political decision making process. The significance of this visit to the FSM is in reciprocation of recent diplomatic visits to strengthen relations with China by FSM dignitaries including H.E. Peter M. Christian, President of the FSM, and T.H. Wesley Simina, Speaker of the FSM Congress. Moreover, it is an official visit to the capital of the highest level by a dignitary from China to date and in itself necessitates the focal attention of Congress.

Vice Chairman Wang and his delegation were greeted at the airport tarmac by T.H. Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker of Congress; H.E. Jie Li, Chinese Ambassador; and Samuel Pretrick, Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Shortly thereafter, the Vice Chairman and his delegation were welcomed to

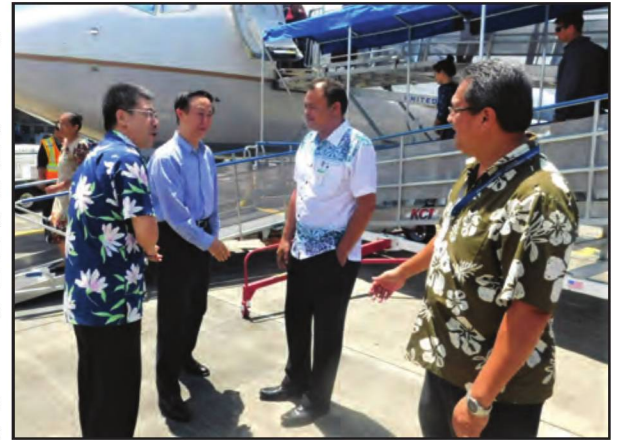
Congress at the capital by Speaker Simina where bilateral discussions were to take place in the Congress Hearing Room.

Speaker Simina continued with his welcoming remarks and thanked the Vice Chairman and his delegation for their visit and hoped they would enjoy their short stay and wished for future visits to be longer so that the Vice Chairman can appreciate the other states of Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap, and their respective cultures and traditions. Speaker reiterated his request to Vice Chairman Wang for China to continue to work and engage with the FSM actively to further elevate our relations both at the bilateral and regional level.

On behalf of the national government, Speaker expressed his appreciation of China's support and cooperation in our nation's building efforts through the provisions of grant aid assistance, scholarships, and technical assistance which have been extended to us and looks forward to working closely with the Vice Chairman on the areas of mutual interest such as fisheries, transportation, climate change, agriculture, energy and tourism. On a similar note and other, Speaker's next remarks revolved around the discussion of additional economic assistance to supplement the FSM Trust Fund and the country's concerns on the glooming nuclear missile threat to the islands by North Korea.

The Chairman addressed the issues brought up by Speaker and assured the Speaker of China's continued full support of the FSM. In response, Speaker reiterated FSM's strong unequivocal support and adherence to the "One China Policy," which is the pillar to our diplomatic and bilateral relationship and as such, the FSM remains committed.

The meeting concluded with the exchange of pleasantries, gifts, and photo ops followed by refreshments.



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## A Tribute to the Honorable Ready E. Johnny by the Honorable Dennis K. Yamase, Chief Justice Supreme Court of the FSM

September 6, 2017

The Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia pays tribute to the Honorable Ready E. Johnny, Associate Justice of the FSM Supreme Court, who passed away at his home on August 15, 2017 after a long illness and after serving the FSM Supreme Court as Acting Chief Justice and as an Associate Justice for over a decade.

Associate Justice (AJ) Johnny was truly a son of Chuuk and the FSM. He was born on November 24, 1946 in the State of Chuuk. From Oneop Municipality, AJ Johnny resided in Neauo village, Weno for over 45 years. He attended elementary school on Namoluk island in the Mortlocks region, and later transferred to the Mission School in Tol, Faichuuk. After attending the Mission School, AJ Johnny attended and graduated from Chuuk High School. He received his Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Papua New Guinea in 1987.

Associate Justice Johnny had a long and impressive professional career, almost entirely in public service. He was a Staff Attorney for the FSM Public Defender's (PD) Office, directing the PD Office in Chuuk. Prior to this position, he served as the Chief of the Division of Litigation and the Attorney General for the Chuuk State Attorney General's Office. His work included being a prosecutor for the State of Chuuk for over 20 years. AJ Johnny also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the FSM National Government. He was a member of both the FSM Supreme Court Bar and the Chuuk State Bar.

On September 5, 2006 he was nominated by President Joseph J. Urusemal to be an Associate Justice of the FSM Supreme Court. On January 19, 2007, he was confirmed by the 14th FSM Congress to be Associate Justice. The investiture of the Honorable Ready E. Johnny, as an Associate Justice, was held on March 30, 2007. With the passing of former Chief Justice Martin G. Yinug, Associate Justice Johnny served as the Acting Chief Justice for parts of 2014 and 2015.

For those who knew Associate Justice Johnny, many were impressed by his objectivity, fairness, calm demeanor, and level headed approach to the cases he presided over. He provided a very steadying influence on the court, especially on appeal panels. Many



observed that his balanced approach was a result of his years of experience as both a prosecutor, a public defender, and as an attorney for the Chuuk State Government and the FSM National Government. His broad experience allowed him to view things from different perspectives and gave him an objectivity that not all judges possess.

Ready E. Johnny honorably served his country in the capacity of Associate Justice of the FSM Supreme Court until his untimely passing on August 15, 2017. For a long time, he continued to assist the FSM Supreme Court with its work, even though he was suffering from a long and difficult illness. He showed true dedication and commitment to the work of the Court in doing so.

A State Funeral was held on August 23, 2017 at the FSM Supreme Court in Weno, Chuuk, which was attended by his family, colleagues and FSM Supreme Court staff, other dignitaries from the FSM National Government and the State of Chuuk. The late Associate Justice Johnny was then taken to Silo Protestant Church in Neauo Village for a church service, before being taken to his residence. Associate Justice Ready E. Johnny was laid to rest at his home on August 24, 2017.

Associate Justice Johnny was married to the late Sinter Year Johnny and they had 6 daughters, 1 son, 21 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. The late Associate Justice Ready E. Johnny will be sorely missed by his family, friends, colleagues and staff of the FSM Supreme Court.



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**Pohnpei**

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# Lt. Governor and education specialist make surprise visits to Pohnpei schools

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

September 7, 2017

**Pohnpei, FSM**—This week Lt. Governor Reed Oliver and Richard Clark of the Pohnpei Department of Education (PDOE) made surprise visits to several of Pohnpei's public schools.

"The visits were surprise visits. This entire week, the Lt. Governor and myself (and at times other staff, including Rickson Higgins and Arwelson Arpona) have been going to Level One schools to informally observe what's going on. Part of the rationale for the visits is so that our elected officials can see the on-the-ground reality as reflected in our Accreditation reports, e.g. every public school has a textbook shortage of some kind (what changes is the degree of the shortage), but what does that mean for Lewetik School vs PICS vs Wone," Clark wrote.

Clark is an Education Adviser and Acting Quality Assurance Coordinator at PDOE. His role is to assist PDOE in implementing the FSM Accreditation Systems Procedures, introducing additional standards of measuring performance, engaging in reforms in standardized testing and reporting, student/teacher/parent surveys, policy and planning, and data management, among other more minor duties such as document editing.

He said that during the school visits this week included informal classroom observations, facilities' inspections—including inspections of renovated structures such as at Wone School, and which structures need to be renovated, meetings with principals, and conversations with students. "At PICS on Monday, for example, we ate lunch with students and asked them about their opinions ranging from their textbooks to lesson quality to afterschool activities. Today at MHS, we spoke with various students about school activities, their upcoming Student Body Officer election tomorrow, and to what degree they feel high school is preparing them for college," Clark wrote.

"These visits add an extra layer of authenticity to our accreditation process. Though these specific visits are informal, the goal is to have them

be on-going, i.e. the Lt. Governor, myself, and other key staff (including our new superintendents, per our restructuring plan for the PDOE) visiting schools every quarter," Clark wrote in an email.

Transparency is enshrined in PDOE's vision statement adopted on October 16. Without casting any aspersions on any previous administrations, the current administration is very serious about transparency. They've recently begun publishing an excellent newsletter that included a lengthy interview with a student. The administration made no effort to "candy coat" the student's responses and published them even when though some were highly critical. There is nothing to be learned if only positive messages are allowed.

"The FSM has adopted its own accreditation process entitled The FSM Accreditation Systems Procedures. Based on AdvancED, each individual State Department of Education is responsible for observing and evaluating its own schools," Clark wrote. "However, at the recent JEMCO meeting this August, JEMCO has proposed that a third party conduct these visits. FSM is opposed to this, but Pohnpei State Department of Education and Yap State Department of Education have voiced their desires for our formal accreditation visits to include staff from other FSM states. At the moment, only Pohnpei DOE representatives formally visit and evaluate Pohnpei schools. However, for our next formal round of visits this school year, we'll be inviting staff from other State DOEs, as well as PTA officers and community members to join our evaluation teams," he explained.

"Accreditation makes a significant impact on how we answer the question: 'what does success look like?' It offers a formal, standardized means of assessing what's happening in our schools. In short, it gives us objective data, which allows us to make data-based decisions that positively impact student performance.

"As an example of the above, prior to April 2017 we knew intuitively that we had many dedicated, capable teachers, but also that lesson planning was not consistent across the state. We were able to get data that showed that



MHS Principal Humover Penias and Richard Clark

approximately 1/3 teachers in the state required professional development training on lesson plan development, and that led to reforms on our standardized lesson plan format in our July Policy & Planning Retreat, and professional development sessions in our schools in late August to mid-September on how to construct a quality lesson plan that includes differentiated instructional activities, including activities that cater to IEP (special needs) students.

"Accreditation has, on the negative side of things, given us accurate information on our weaknesses, such as in data management. Data management—from the collection of attendance trends to identifying individual student strengths and weaknesses—is our weakest area at most individual schools, in our central office, and system-wide.

"On the positive side of things, accreditation has given us good ideas to replicate system-wide. For example, Awak School implemented an "Open Class" every month, wherein teachers teach their lessons to other teachers, with some folks acting as students and others writing down their observations. This was used as justification to create our Lead Teacher program, where now each school in Pohnpei State has at least one staff member dedicated to assisting with the implementation of professional development and model lesson demonstrations at their schools and across the state," Clark explained.

The team visited PICS, and Nett



Elementary on Monday. They visited Lewetik School on Tuesday, Wone School on Wednesday and Madolenihmw High School on Thursday.

At MHS on Thursday, Clark said that the accreditation process is to be a collaborative effort including the involvement of all stake holders in the process. He was excited to report that at MHS there had been a high level of involvement not just from teachers and administration but also from students, parents, and even bus drivers.

# US and FSM hold annual Joint Economic Management Committee Meeting

## Allocate Compact Funding Amounts for FSM in 2018



*US Secretary of the Interior*

**Honolulu, HI (September 6, 2017)** - The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the United States bilateral Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) annual meeting took place Wednesday, August 30, 2017, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Committee members jointly allocated \$61 million for the sectors of health, education, public sector capacity building, private sector development, environment and public sector infrastructure as identified under the Compact of Free Association, as amended, for the benefit of the people of the FSM. The JEMCO promotes the effective use of funding under the Compact, as amended, and provides the opportunity for FSM and U.S. officials to discuss priorities regarding this funding and how best to achieve them.

“The JEMCO meetings this year were productive,” said JEMCO Chairman and Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nik Pula. “I am especially pleased to see the FSM and the Army Corps of Engineers collaborating to strengthen the infrastructure program and project management practices.”

The JEMCO members from both the FSM and the U.S. governments:

- Expressed the importance of strong people-to-people ties as the foundation of this special relationship.

- Reaffirmed that the goal of funding provided under the Amended Compact is for the benefit of the people of the FSM.
- Emphasized the importance of medium term fiscal planning in managing annual declines in Compact grant assistance.
- Reiterated the importance of advancing education, to strength the FSM’s school accreditation processes, improving access to primary healthcare, and implementing infrastructure projects to contribute to economic advancement, budgetary self-reliance, and sustainable inclusive development.
- Received presentations from FSM state and national government education and health officials on ongoing initiatives within the health and education sectors.
- Recognized ongoing efforts by the FSM to continue to develop a set of clear, simple, measurable indicators for health and education and encouraged the FSM to identify resources to systematically produce, gather, and reliably report upon these indicators.



- Received a presentation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding ongoing collaborative efforts with the FSM in strengthening infrastructure program and project management practices.

The JEMCO allocated Fiscal Year 2018 Compact assistance to the following sectors:

\$ 25,629,189	Education
\$ 22,741,227	Health
\$ 1,904,232	Public Sector Capacity Building
\$ 1,788,283	Environment
\$ 1,247,513	Private Sector Development
\$ 1,528,408	Enhanced Reporting and Accountability
\$ 2,600,000	Public Sector Infrastructure

The JEMCO additionally allocated “prior-year” unexpended Compact assistance to the following sectors:

\$ 1,817,735	Education
\$ 1,215,611	Health
\$ 348,298	Public Sector Capacity Building
\$ 629,500	Private Sector Development

JEMCO passed the following resolutions:

- JEMCO 2017-1 Support of Education Personnel Policies
- JEMCO 2017-2 Recurrent, Operational Expenditures within the Private Sector Development, Environment and Public Sector Capacity Building Sectors
- JEMCO 2017-3 FY2018 Compact Grant Allocations (see above)

The JEMCO will reconvene for its mid-year meeting in the Spring of 2018. The JEMCO members are Chairman Nikolao Pula (U.S.- Department of the Interior), Vice Chairman Lorin Robert (FSM - Secretary of Foreign Affairs), Leo Falcam Jr. (FSM - Chief of Staff to the President), William Gallo (U.S. - Health and Human Services), and Philip Roskamp (U.S. - State Department).

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided under the Compact of Free Association to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas executes these responsibilities, on behalf of the Secretary, through the Office of Insular Affairs whose mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas.

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## Yap CRE researcher named lead author of IPCC special report

*The College of Micronesia FSM*

Yap CRE Researcher Dr. Murukesan Krishnapillai has been named as a Lead Author for an upcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land.

As part of the IPCC 6th Assessment Report to be released in 2019, the report is titled Climate Change and Land: an IPCC Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. At its 43rd Session in Nairobi, the IPCC decided to prepare this special report. Further, a Scoping Meeting for the Special Report was held in Dublin and the final outline of the report was approved by the IPCC at its 45th Session in Guadalajara, Mexico.

“It is an honor to be a Lead Author in this report, and I am happy to be a member of the team and to contribute. It is a testimony to our continued work on climate change adaptation in Yap,” said Dr. Muru. The IPCC brings a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The issues that will be examined in this report are critically important for small island states. Land is often limited and there is intense pressure to use available land for food production. Preventing land degradation and rehabilitating already degraded land, scaling up sustainable land management and accelerating restoration initiatives are necessary for greater resilience and enhanced food security.

Dr. Muru is one among the 104 Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors that IPCC has selected from 640 nominations around the world following a rigorous selection process in accordance with the Principles Governing IPCC Work. The whole team will come together in Oslo in October to discuss the report in detail.



For over a decade, Yap CRE has been working with island communities to enhance their adaptive capacity, improve resilience to climate variability and change, protect environment, improve food security and livelihood enhancement.

## Pohnpei accuses former Sokehs employees of theft of over \$7000

By *Bill Jaynes*  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

September 8, 2017

**Sokehs, Pohnpei**—The Kaselehlie Press only just recently received a copy of a criminal information filed on May 30, 2017 against three former employees of the Sokehs Municipal Government. The State has charged Merlina Linos, Albertina Smith, and Leilani Ramsin 22 separate crimes related to the alleged theft of over \$7000—money belonging to Sokehs Municipal government.

The Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) had previously conducted surprise cash counts at Sokehs Municipal government that had uncovered missing funds but the inspection last January was the first that lead to criminal charges. OPA said that while the inspection was being carried out, one of the defendants left island and while the matter was being investigated by the Compliance Investigation Division, another of the defendants left Pohnpei. Before criminal charges were filed there was no legal reason for the pair to have been barred from traveling.

Though by the time charges were able to be filed the two named defendants had left the island, those charges will be waiting for them if they choose to return to Pohnpei.

The discovery of the missing money once again sent shock waves through the Sokehs Municipal Government. Chief Magistrate Michael Liemen narrowly avoided impeachment over the matter when the vote of the Sokehs Council came short of the number required to pass a resolution of impeachment.

As in any and all criminal cases, defendants are presumed to be innocent unless proven otherwise in a court of law. The trial has not yet begun for the one defendant who is still on the island.

## Adventures of our young Sea Stewards

- Author: Yvonne C. Neth
- Publisher: Island Research & Education Initiative (iREi)
- 42 Pages, Color
- Size: 11” x 8.5”
- Ages 2-10
- Publication year: 2017
- ISBN: 978-982-9170-19-4
- Free Downloadable pdf document via iREi website

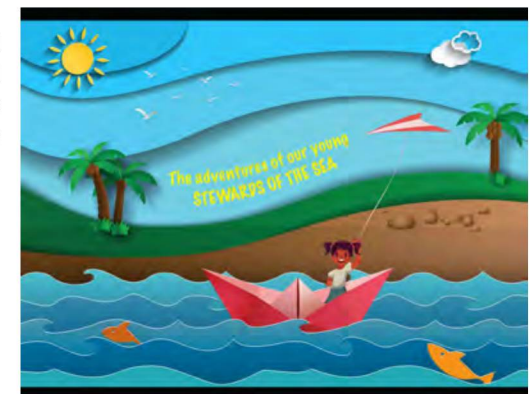
This fun-filled activity book is tailor-made to function as an awareness tool for our island kids, promoting familiarity with several of Pohnpei’s endangered marine species, their habitats and encourage good fishing practices. Amusing illustrations offer relatable context and encourage local language involvement in our current supply of books available to our communities. For example, during instances where a marine species is introduced, there is a character inquiring of the child, “Do you know the local name of this fish? You can ask a parent or teacher to help you spell it,” and providing a colorful space for writing the local name in. Fun facts add charm to this learning tool as well: “When left alone, this crab can live for 60 years! Isn't that neat?!”

Whether you are in Pohnpei or living off-island, dive in and learn useful facts with your child or student with our new book, “Adventures with our young sea stewards!” This book is FREE for all as a downloadable pdf at this link: <http://islands.fm/download/Sea-Stewards.pdf>

\*\* This book would not have been made possible if not for the generous consideration and donation of Global Greengrants Fund (GGF). Our sincere thanks to GGF for allowing us to create a tool of awareness for our young children and communities. We hope it will transform from words beyond these pages into positive initiatives by our people.

You might also be interested in these iREi children’s books:

Chuuk Language and Content Learning Materials  
Maps of Micronesia (Book of puzzles)  
Kosraean Early Readers Materials  
Alphabet cards of Micronesia  
Tiny Explorers: Micronesia  
Mwein Olisihpa oh Olisohpa  
Mwein Aramas - Part 1 & 2  
The Little Crooked House  
Kosrae Junior Dictionary  
My First Island Book  
Mwein Saudeleur



Lapwkoopwou  
Counting Book  
Book of Colors  
Book of Shapes  
Reading Book  
Soaren Tu

## Letter to the Editor

# Advance preparation vital when faced with natural disasters

For the past few weeks, television and internet news channels have been literally awash in images of the aftermath of deadly hurricane Harvey and its path of destruction throughout the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast. Although we are two years removed from Typhoon Maysak, rebuilding work still continues in the Outer Islands of Chuuk and Yap States to recover from its savage fury. These recent events underscore the need for advance preparedness well before the next storm strikes your island. The best preparation involves planning long before the next dangerous threat arises.

The first step involves getting supplies long before a storm and having them readily available when needed. Most people wait until the day before to buy supplies, and by then stores will usually quickly run out of the most important necessities. Take the time to buy needed supplies before the first typhoon watch issues. This simple step will save you much time, stress, and money in the future. Essential supplies include non-refrigerated and non-frozen food, bottled water, water containers, candles, matches, a kerosene stove, kerosene, a first aid kit, flashlights, batteries, and a backup generator, fuel. You should also invest in a DC-only powered telephone; a cell phone will not be of much use once its battery runs out and there is

no way to charge it again. These items will help you tremendously and make like much more comfortable if your house loses power for an extended period of time.

While staying inside your home is usually recommended during most tropical storms, in the event of a powerful typhoon, this may not be your best or safest option. Many internet websites emphasize the importance of evacuation plans and routes to reach safe havens. It will prove critical to have this information on-hand well in advance, in case existing conditions require immediate action. Think now of where you will go if you have to relocate your family as the storm approaches. Know where your nearest "go to" shelter is in case you need to leave in a hurry to reach it. Print out an evacuation plan and an exit route and have them posted or kept handy at home. Remember, you may not be at your house or you may even be off-island when it happens. Also, the weather, limited bandwidth, or heavy online usage may significantly impair your ability to connect to the internet.

Finally, it is important to prepare and protect your personal property now before a storm strikes. Make copies of important documents and store them in a safe place. Back up your electronic data in at least two formats. Carefully examine the outside exterior of your home, looking for any existing damage. Strong winds and storm surge will increase the scope and extent of any pre-existing problems, resulting in major structural damage. Make sure all gates and doors are kept securely locked, to reduce the chances of strong winds ripping them from their hinges. Most importantly, talk now with your other family members and friends to ensure they and their homes are also prepared.

The FSM OEED, your State Disaster Coordinator's Office, and the Micronesia Red Cross all have additional information and handouts on emergency and disaster preparedness which they will gladly share with you. Find their local office on your island and contact them now.

Each and every year carries the potential for severe storms due to our location in the Typhoon Belt of the Western Pacific. While we can never predict the next typhoon, getting ready in advance will help keep you and your loved ones ASAP (as safe as possible).

Plan now; act now. Later you will be very glad that you did.

*Gary Bloom, Area Director,  
Area III (FSM)  
Office United States Department of  
Agriculture  
Rural Development*

## NOTICE OF INVITATION TO QUOTE



### PROVISION OF PICK-UP TRUCKS CONTRACT REFERENCE: PROP/NORMA/G10

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards the procurement of three (3) 4WD double cab pick-up trucks.

FSM NORMA is now seeking offers from suitably qualified and experienced vendors/suppliers to supply these pick-up trucks to be provided for use by FSM fisheries and food safety personnel in Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the World Bank Guidelines for Procurement of Works in Fragile and Small States in the Pacific, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

Interested eligible vendors/suppliers can obtain further information from and must also request a formal Invitation To Quote (ITQ) preferably by September 29, 2017 (Pohnpei Local Time) from the following email address.

Mr. Okean Ehmes  
PROP Project Coordinator  
okean.ehmes@norma.fm

Quotations in English in response to ITQs must be delivered to the address below at or before 5:00 p.m., 16 October 2017 (Pohnpei local time). Late quotations will be rejected and FSM NORMA reserves the right to reject any and all quotations submitted. Quotations may be submitted by email, courier or delivered by hand to the address below:

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan  
Executive Director  
FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority  
Attn: PROP  
FSM National Government  
P.O. Box PS-122  
Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Telephone: (691) 320-2700/5181  
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"So glad this place has re-opened and is where I will stay from now on in Chuuk." - Apr 6, 2016

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Vital Pohnpei Staff served hot coffee and doughnuts to fishermen at the 5am Check Out, 4th Annual Vital Pohnpei Fishing Tournament, June 10, 2017.

Vital sponsors each participating boat with fuel and motor lubricants. Special thanks to all our partners that make each tournament possible.




### Upcoming events:

- 1st Annual Vital Nauru Fishing Tournament, Sept 9th**  
Hosted by: Nauru Terminal  
in partnership with Nauru Fisheries  
Registration at Nauru Fisheries closes on 9/8/17  
Fee: \$25.00  
Check out & Weigh in: 9/9 at Anibare Boat Harbor  
Last boats in by 5pm
- 3rd Annual Vital Chuuk Fishing Tournament, Sept 9th**  
Hosted by: Chuuk Terminal  
in partnership with Yamaha Chuuk  
Registration at Yamaha Chuuk is on 9/6/17  
Fee: \$25.00  
Check-out & Weigh-in: 9/9 at Rachel's Beach  
Last boats in by 4pm
- 2nd Annual Vital Kosrae Fishing Tournament, Sept 16th**  
Hosted by: Kosrae Terminal  
in partnership with Kosrae Fishing Club  
Registration at Kosrae Fishing Club closes on 9/4/17  
Fee: \$20.00  
Check out & Weigh in: 9/16 at Okat Marina  
Last boats in by 1pm