

FSM's Tokyo Embassy Staff Treated *Too Well?* "We could not close our eyes to the urgent needs of our staff..." Mida

By **Bill Jaynes**

The Kaselehlie Press

After financial irregularities were discovered at the FSM's Embassy in Washington D.C. the FSM's Office of the National Public Auditor made arrangements to audit all of the overseas diplomatic offices of the FSM. The office has audited the FSM Embassy to the United States located in Washington D.C., the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York City (see story on page 5), the FSM Embassy in Fiji, and on May 23rd they released their audit on the FSM Embassy in Tokyo which covered Fiscal Years 2005 through 2007. It was the fourth audit of the Embassy in Tokyo performed by the ONPA.



FSM Chief of Staff former Ambassador Kasio E. Mida

The audit says that because of the way that exchange rates were calculated when salaries were paid to the six staff members of the Embassy in Tokyo, and because of other factors, employees were paid significantly more than was authorized by Congress. It said that the Embassy overspent its budget authorizations in 2005 and that the Department of Finance and Administration had an incomplete and inaccurate accounting of expenditures.

The audit report was in process for months before it was finally released on May 23rd. As is the usual practice ONPA presented a draft report of their findings to those who could make authoritative responses to the report. The responses received spanned 17 pages of small type set. ONPA replied to the comments in another five pages. Responses were received from the current FSM Chief of Staff Kasio Mida who was the Ambassador in Tokyo during the pe-

riod of time covered in the audit. An additional response was received from current Ambassador to Japan, John Fritz. Both Fritz and Mida disagreed strongly with the findings presented in the report.

Secretary for the Department of Finance and Administration, Finley Perman submitted a response on April 11 that also disagreed with the findings in the report. His response led to a meeting with the ONPA in which documentation and synchronization of accounting figures occurred. On May 3, Acting DF&A Secretary Juliet Jimmy wrote a new response

for the department that essentially concurred with ONPA's numbers.

The audit said that starting in October of 1998 salaries at the Embassy were calculated and paid based on an exchange rate of 130 yen for every U.S. Dollar. In 1998

See "Tokyo Embassy" on page 8

Governor Ehsa Gives a "Historic" Press Conference in Pohnpei



The Press Conference held in the Governor's conference room was touted as possibly the first one in Pohnpei since U.S. Trust Territory days. Media members, foreign diplomats and interested members of the public were in attendance. The conference was broadcast live on radio stations in Pohnpei and streamed to the internet. Governor Ehsa says that he will hold a quarterly press conference.

Story on Page 2

Palau Business Executives Call For Declaration Of 'Economic Emergency'

By **David Miho in Koror**
Pacific Magazine

Koror, Palau - May 30, 2008 - A Palau Senate hearing last night on the worsening economy turned into an opportunity for leading business executives to urge lawmakers to declare a national emergency.

Nancy Wong, owner of the Doughnut House in Koror, told lawmakers she may be "shutting down, closing my business because I can't raise prices. The people don't have the money, everyone is already suffering with fuel cost causing higher costs for everything, my business is already way down from last year."

Veteran newspaper publisher Moses Uludong urged the Senate Committee on Resources, Commerce, Trade and Development to declare an "economic emergency." He said Palau businesses are facing a 120 percent rise in fuel prices over the past year, which is causing other prices to increase.

See "Palau Business" on Page 9

New Xavier Chapel Complete



By **Br. Dave Antonelli S.J.** - Visitors to Xavier High School on Mabuchi Hill, now have another wonderful site to behold; The Jesuits there have recently constructed and dedicated a new Chapel of elegant design, that includes another majestic view over the famous Truk Lagoon. Octagonal in shape (eight sides), the structure has portable doors on all sides to allow maximum air flow over a cool tile floor, which comfortably sits up to 200 of the faithful in daily church services. The design allows for extra sitting and viewing areas under the canopy which circumferences the building. On Sundays the local village community also uses this chapel as their place of worship. Make it a point to stop and see this new site, with all the others, at Xavier High School on your next visit to Chuuk State.



Sgt. Renster B. Joel top NCO of the "Night Stalkers" at Fort Campbell, Ky

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Fishing lines off Black Coral again? Is Kehpara Marine Sanctuary one of the last Grouper Aggregation Sites?

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Pohnpei's Governor Ehsa Shares Progress With the Media and the World

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FM – May 23, 2008 – Governor John Ehsa of Pohnpei held a live press conference in the Governor's conference room in the Executive Branch office building on the 23rd of May. He said that to the best of his knowledge it was first of its type since Trust Territory days. He announced his intention to hold a quarterly press conference in order to keep the public informed.

Specific invitees included members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the media some of whom were hearing directly from the Governor for the first time since he was inaugurated. Public information officers for the National and State Governments, and a representative from the Women's Association of Pohnpei were also invited. Members of the public were invited to attend the event as well. There were approximately 30 people in the room.

Throughout the rest of the world there was a potential audience of millions. The press conference was aired live on the State radio station, V6AH. FSM Telecom streams the content of V6AH to the Internet. The conference was also aired on the Baptist Radio Station, V6AF.

When asked if he held the press conference in hopes that the Governors from other states would follow suit he said that was not his motivation. He said that his motivation was to highlight the major activities undertaken during the first four months of his administration. However, "if other Government leaders follow suit wouldn't that be great?"

He began the conference by delivering a statement prepared by his staff members under his guidance and then opened the floor for questions.

He said that he was pleased to report that the Legislature had confirmed most of his nominations for key departments and offices. Still pending before the Legislature are nominees for the Director of Land and Natural Resources, Administrator of the Office of Economic Affairs, and the Executive Director of the Pohnpei Housing Authority.

He spoke about his travels saying that he had made three trips since

becoming Governor. The purpose of those trips was to bring new opportunities to Pohnpei State the Governor reported that each trip resulted in concrete opportunities for the State.

He traveled to the US to discuss a proposed tourism and conservation initiative that "holds a tremendous benefit for the FSM."

Along with a delegation from the Pohnpei Legislature he traveled to Majuro to inspect a new fish processing facility there. As a direct result of the trip plans are under way to develop a similar facility to Pohnpei.

When asked during Q & A whether he knew anything about Oceania's widely reported plans to build a fish processing facility that would employ 2000 people in Pohnpei, the Governor said that one of the projects the company is working on is a crab farming facility and that it seemed that their interest in constructing a cannery had slowed.

Because of his most recent trip, China has agreed to fund several key development projects in Pohnpei including a grant to construct a fish processing facility similar to the one he visited in the Marshalls. He said that during that trip the delegation met with the management of several companies interested in investing in Pohnpei in the areas of bio-gas, fisheries development, alternative energy and tourism development.

The delegation visited a large market in China where Pohnpeian products such as handicrafts could be sold. During the Q & A session he described the market as huge. He was told that if someone were to visit each store in the market for only three minutes it would take one year to visit each store if that person shopped 24 hours a day.

Rumors, prior to the press conference circulated that the Governor would be announcing that he had found funding for his "school lunch program" mentioned during his campaign. Unfortunately that was not the case. He said in his statement that currently, lunch is served for students at the pre-schools and high schools and not to those attending the grade levels in between.

He said that a menu has been developed that will be implemented in the High School and pre-school lunch programs starting at the commencement of the upcoming school year. Currently there is no funding for an elementary school lunch program. He said that besides the cost of food, funding sources would need to be found for the hiring of 45 cooks to feed the 8000 elementary school students in Pohnpei. He said that his administration continues to explore sources to support the implementation of his program.

The Micro Glory, the field trip ship that services the outer islands of Pohnpei is currently inoperable as it has been for 10 months. Experts estimate that it will take \$1 million to restore the vessel to an operable condition. That amount of money would buy another 5 to 7 years of Micro Glory service at the end of which time Pohnpei would need to purchase another field trip ship.

He announced that his administration had submitted a budget to the Legislature for dry-dock and refitting of the Micro Glory.

He said that he is "very much concerned about the delayed implementation of projects under the Compact II infrastructure development sector grant." The US Office of Insular Affairs has approved the \$3.7 million worth of projects submitted by Pohnpei for 8 classroom buildings for Madolenihmw High School, Kolonia Elementary School, and Nanpei Memorial High School.

He reported that the State has identified 16 projects as proposed priority projects for Pohnpei that the State will be submitting to the National Government. The first project is a primary health center. Eight classroom buildings at Sokehs- Powe, Nett Elementary, Saladak, Seinwar and Madolenihmw would be built if they are funded. He said that additional plans include a new dental annex, closure and relocation of the dump site currently located in Dekehtik, and widening of intersections in Kolonia Town.

During Q & A the governor was asked what plans there might be for maintenance of the circumferen-

See "Press Conference" on page ?

Anefal Calls for More Effective and Timely Spending of US Compact Sector Grant Funds

Yap Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

May 20, 2008 - Colonia, Yap - In an effort to prevent more carry-over funds under the US Compact Sector Grants, Governor Anefal issued a memorandum to all recipients of Compact funding to "wisely and timely spend all their sector grant allocations to the last penny" by the end of the fiscal year. In his memo, he said this should not be viewed as "a marching order for a wild spending spree", but rather for recipients to begin spending their allocated funds in a timely fashion and in accordance with the approved budget and the law.

To ensure this matter is carried forward, Anefal directed the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) to monitor and assess spending patterns of Sector Grant funds. Along with the directive

to OPB, the Office of Administrative Service (OAS) has been tasked to generate and disseminate financial reports on a monthly basis to all grant recipients. Such reports should show expenditures against the approved budget as well as remaining balances in all sector grant accounts.

Governor Anefal further made a policy direction on the issue stating, "any recipient department/agency that ends up at year-end with carry-over balances, will have a budget for the ensuing fiscal year that is negated by the same amount". He stressed at his monthly Cabinet meeting that he would rather that such unspent funds go for other reasonably justifiable and qualified instate programs than submission to re-allocation elsewhere as rewards for misdeeds, a growing practice which at best is in defiance of peace, unity and nation-building efforts.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Night Stalkers Name NCO and Soldier of the Year

By Kimberly T. Laudano
160th Special Operations Aviation
Regiment Public Affairs

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (Sine Pari, May 13, 2008) - The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment announced the winners of the Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition during a ceremony at Fort Campbell, Ky., May 8 Sgt. Renster B. Joel, a human resources sergeant, was named the NCO of the Year, and Spc. Todd A. Gilger, a helicopter repairer from 2nd Battalion, 160th SOAR, was chosen as the Soldier of the Year.

Eleven Night Stalkers representing each of the Regiment's four battalions, Special Operations Aviation Training Company, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company participated in the competition.

"Earning the opportunity to compete at the Regiment level competition is a testament to the quality of these top Night Stalkers standing here today," Command Sgt. Maj. Jake Elliott, 160th SOAR command sergeant major, said of all his competitors. "There can only be one winner in each category, but all of these Soldiers did a great job."



Elliott explained that the competition is not a measure of any one Warrior skill but rather a measure of the total Soldier.

"This competition challenges a Soldier mentally and physically," he said. "It causes them to combine all of their knowledge and skills to adapt and overcome known and unknown scenarios."

"The most physically demanding portion of the competition was the land navigation event having to wear all of the equipment including body armor, Kevlar and protective mask," said Gilger.

But he was ready for that and every challenge thanks to support from fellow

The Soldiers competed in seven Warrior task challenges including physical fitness, land navigation, weapons live fire, hands-on Warrior skill testing, a mystery event consisting of an armored car roll-over simulation, and a combination written essay and oral board. Each event had a points value assigned, and the NCO and Soldier with the most points at the end of the competition earned the respective titles.

Night Stalker Spc. John Bell.

"My sponsor has done a great deal in making sure I was squared away and looking sharp," Gilger said.

Joel said the oral board was the most mentally challenging event for him. The questions came in rapid fire from the board members, consisting of eight 160th command sergeants major and first sergeants.

"The oral board was brutal," he recalled. "I think they are looking for your confidence and what you know. If you know what you're talking about, you can answer the questions in seconds."

In the end, every Soldier, not just the winners, got something out of the competition.

"This experience has taught you all a great deal," Elliott said. "Take these Soldiering lessons back and share them with your fellow Night Stalkers."

Joel and Gilger will represent the 160th SOAR in the 2008 U.S. Army Special Operations Command NCO and Soldier of the Year Competition at Fort Bragg, N.C., in July.

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Speaker Figir Speaks to Congress

FSM Congress Public Information Office

Palikir, Pohnpei - May 14, 2007 - On Monday we celebrated with the President the one year one day anniversary of the birth of this 15th Congress and of his new administration. Today marks the one year three day anniversary. I suggest that today is no less important for its lack of celebration and ceremony than Monday and is maybe even more important. Today marks the first day of the rest of this Congress. It is the first day of the time we have left to make our mark on the future of this nation and the futures of our children and our grandchildren. It is a time to pause and reflect.

The days and months since May 11, 2007 have been eventful. There is much for which we can be proud.

As our first act we elected a new President and Vice President and new leadership in Congress. This accomplishment, alone, deserves special recognition.

With a Nation consisting of four distant states, each with its own native language and its own distinct customs and traditions, the ability to peacefully select national leaders and to transition from one government to the next is something for which the people of this great nation

should be thankful. It is a testimonial to the wisdom of our Constitution that we have been able to accomplish this feat, not once but seven times over our brief history. Not all nations are so blessed.

During the past year much of our energy has been devoted to this transition. With this, as with any new administration, there have been challenges and there have been differences. But despite those differences, this Congress responded to the call of the President to support the reorganization plan that was the early focus of his Administration. This Congress has further responded to the President's call by giving its advice and consent to well over 30 of his nominations for public office since May of 2007. We have given our authorizations to the grants he has negotiated with foreign nations and the distributions he has proposed.

The President, on the other hand, has supported our own initiatives and has signed our bills to reform the election laws, to make judicial salaries in the FSM more competitive, to modify our residency permit rules for the surviving spouses of our citizens, to broaden the opportunity to FSM nationals and children of FSM citizens for citizenship through naturalization, to expand the

availability of our scholarship programs to new vocations, and many others.

Together we have created a new Petroleum Corporations and provided to this nation the opportunity begin controlling its own energy future.

We have already accomplished much. After this first short year, the President and this Congress continue the process of learning how we can work together in an environment of trust and confidence.

In our system of checks and balances we must have the ability to disagree, or there are no checks and balances. How we react to disagreement or disappointment will be one of the measures of the success of this government. We must reaffirm that pettiness and vindictiveness are beneath our dignity.

Under our Constitution and our laws, the President will always be the principal architect of how his Administration and this government is perceived. Yet under our system of checks and balances Congress will play a role by giving its support to policies wise and fair and withholding its support from excess and vanity. It will always be our job to insure that the work of government is conducted with integrity and transparency.

As with the past, over the coming months this Congress will be subject to scrutiny for the way it conducts its own business. This is as it should be.

How we respond to criticism and suggestions for improvement will be the measure of this body. Public trust requires that we act in a manner that is consistent with the values of the people of Micronesia. They have a right to expect nothing less. When we discover practices or policies that are not consistent with those high standards, we must demonstrate that this branch of government has the ability to correct them.

This is where Congress can set a high example for all public officials and all branches of government, state and national. The National Government must be the model for all of the governments of this great nation to follow. Promoting and retaining the public trust obliges government officials to lead by example in practicing ethical values and adhering to laws and policies. To this principle we must all pledge our commitment.

As we convene this Fourth Session of the Fifteenth Congress we should all be mindful of the fact that our legacy is now half finished, but how we will be remembered in the years to come is yet to be determined.

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to an order of the FSM Supreme Court entered November 20, 2007, public notice is hereby given that each of the 3 parcels of land described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel One: Parcel No. 56-B-05 located in the Kipar area of Sokehs Municipality, consisting of an area of 30,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 056-B-00.

Parcel Two: Parcel No. 45-E-12 located in the Lohd-Powe area of Madolenihmw Municipality, consisting of 12,551 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 045-E-00

Parcel Three: Parcel No. 64-D-14 located in the Mesihou area of Madolenihmw Municipality, consisting of 5,317 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 064-D-02.

- There is no minimum bid amount for any of the parcels.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "FSMDB Land Auction" by personal delivery to FSM Development Bank, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor of the Namio Building, Kolonia, Pohnpei.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13, 2008.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, and e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person submitting the bid.
- All bid submissions must state a bid amount separately for each parcel. Bids may be placed on one, two or all three of the parcels.
- The winning bidder for each parcel will be notified in writing by FSM Development Bank. Each winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the bid by delivery of a cashier's check payable to the FSM Development Bank no later than 10 days after the winning bidder is notified.
- If the winning bidder fails to remit payment within the required time, the award will be granted to the next highest bidder and the same conditions will apply.
- FSM Development Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
- The properties are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to its condition whatsoever.
- The winning bidders will take title to the parcels through a quitclaim deed issued by the FSM Development Bank.
- Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel at the FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, fax no. 691-320-2842, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, website: www.fsmdb.fm

FSM Auditor Questions UN Mission Spending

By *Giff Johnson in Majuro*
Pacific Magazine

The Federated States of Micronesia's United Nations Mission "did not comply with FSM laws, regulations, policies and procedures in disbursing funds and submitting monthly operations fund reports," FSM National Public Auditor Haser Hainrick said in a recent letter to President Manny Mori and the FSM Congress.

The audit was concluded in February and identifies what the Public Auditor describes as the improper use of funds without required authorizations or supporting documentation, including reimbursement of personal credit cards for what appeared to be personal expenses of UN Mission staff.

But the audit also brings to light — through a six-page response letter from the FSM's UN Permanent Representative Masao Nakayama — how late transmission of funds from Pohnpei to the New York City Mission forced Nakayama to pay rent with money that was supposed to be used to pay UN membership fees to stave off eviction of the FSM Mission offices.

Nakayama's lengthy reply acknowledged a number of findings and promised correction, while also contending that some of the criticisms were unfair. For example, Nakayama said that in light of established practice of embassies paying for their ambassador's utilities and Internet expenses, as well as covering commute costs for embassy workers, these items should not be questioned. His comments led Public Auditor Hainrick to remove two of its original recommendations — Hainrick's recommendation that two signatures be required on all checks was deleted because Nakayama pointed out the UN Mission has only two authorized signatories and if one was out of town, there would be delays in processing payments; and the recommendation that a single debit card be used instead of multiple personal credit cards was also dropped, though the auditor in turn added additional recommendations to address his concerns about possible credit card abuse.

The audit covered fiscal years 2005, 2006 and seven months of FY2007.

The UN Mission overspent its total operations budget in fiscal year 2006, and most of the budget categories in fiscal year 2005 and 2006 were overspent, the audit reported. Additional funds were not reprogrammed to authorize spending above the amounts set for the total operations budget and categories, it said.

"An appropriation for UN membership contributions was improperly used to provide additional funds for the over-spending without proper authorization," the audit said. "As a result, the total amount allotted to the Mission in fiscal year 2005 and 2006 were overspent. We also found that an unexpended balance existed from the fiscal year 2005 operations fund budget, which has not been transferred to the FSM General Fund at end of the fiscal year as required."

"The Mission had to resort to using some of the UN contributions fund to meet payments for our leases (office space and staff housing) because sometimes there was a delay in the release of our allotments, thereby resulting in the delayed payment of these leases and bills," Nakayama said in his reply. "These delays in payment resulted in the Mission



Ambassador Masao Nakayama FSM Permanent Resident to the FSM

being penalized by closure of the office, court summons for the Mission's diplomatic personnel and notice of eviction from the diplomatic personnel's residences."

To head off embarrassment to the FSM government and its diplomats, "the Mission resorted to using UN contributions to meet the upcoming quarterly obligations," Nakayama added. "The Mission's error was in not reimbursing the (UN) contributions fund upon finally receiving the quarterly allotments."

The audit was critical of the UN Mission's late submission of financial reports. "All of the monthly operations fund reports reviewed were submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration an average of 47 days past the deadline established by regulation," the audit said. Nakayama acknowledged the problem and said the UN Mission would work to provide timely reports in the future.

The FSM UN Mission had annual budgets of \$636,994, \$583,577 and \$576,296 for fiscal years 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively.

Among the detailed findings of the 200-07 audit:

- The travel category was overspent by 163 percent in fiscal year 2005 and 175 percent in fiscal year 2006. The consumables category was overspent by 63 percent in fiscal year 2005 and 29 percent in fiscal year 2006.

- 45 out of 182 expenditures selected for testing totaling \$67,470 were not properly approved. This represents 25 percent of the total expenditures checked by auditors. Specifically, 18 expenditures totaling \$30,601 were approved by the Deputy Chief of Mission although he was not delegated the authority to approve payments. In addition, Travel Authorizations for 27 travel expenditures totaling \$36,869 did not contain evidence of approval.

Nakayama outlined the payment approval process at the UN Mission, explaining that it involved preparation of documentation, and then approval and signing by either the Permanent Representative or his deputy. But one of these two top Mission diplomats is away "then the remaining signatory has no recourse but to approve and sign all checks and the corresponding forms for obligations that fall

due even if these may be payable to the signatory (such as a payroll check)," he said.

- 39 (21 percent) of 182 expenditures selected for testing totaling \$41,227 were not adequately supported to justify the expense. This included: 13 expenses totaling \$15,108 were not supported by timesheets; three purchases totaling \$13,721 were not supported by invoices; nine travel claims totaling \$8,448 were not supported by boarding passes; and eight travel claims totaling \$3,663 were not supported by receipts.

Nakayama said that timesheets for the Permanent Representative and his deputy were provided to auditors. Time sheets for local staff are attached to the checks for their salaries, "although it may be possible that some time sheets were misplaced." He also said "the Mission has never paid a travel claim without a corresponding travel voucher." Nakayama said that past practice with travel was to submit ticket stubs, not boarding passes. But with e-tickets the norm for travel now, staff are submitting boarding passes as additional documentation of travel.

But the auditor responded to this last point, saying "the requirement that boarding passes are submitted is not new. The auditor quoted a section from FSM financial regulations requiring that among other documents, an "original boarding pass" be included in a report for government-financed travel.

- There was no prior approval for personal credit card purchases. "Purchasing items that appear to be for personal use and using a personal credit card without prior authorization can appear to be self-serving without the proper controls and safeguards," the audit said. "We found that personal credit card charges were reimbursed for 139 expenditures totaling \$44,964 without sufficient supporting documentation to justify payment and substantiate prior authorization. These expenses includes cash advance, fuel, parking, tolls, car wash, representation expenses, online ticket purchases, office supplies, furniture and fixtures, education expenses, utilities, Christmas cards and computer equipment and accessories."

Nakayama responded that there are times when Mission personnel have to use their

personal credit cards for official spending. This spending was given verbal, if not written, approval. "The Mission believes that there are sufficient controls on the use of personal credit cards because such expenses are not automatically charged to the Mission but, instead, are still subject to approval before being reimbursed," he said.

The audit went into detail on some of these questioned credit card expenses: One claim included a \$2,052 cash advanced to two FSM employees on an official trip without prior approval, which the Mission reported as a travel expense instead of travel advance; one claim included a \$1,500 personal credit card purchase for a mattress and computer table for personal use without evidence of prior approval; nine claims were for purchases of computer equipment and accessories without proper justification and evidence of prior approval; various claims for use of the representation fund contained no justification or evidence of prior approval; various claims included expenses for tolls, parking and gas without proper justification and evidence of prior approval; and various claims included personal Internet usage fees without evidence of prior approval.

Nakayama contends, however, "it is standard practice for any overseas Mission to pay for the utilities of the Ambassador. In addition, Mission diplomats are entitled to household furniture." Regarding the mattress and table purchase, he approved these, Nakayama said. He also said that it is "reasonable" for the Mission to pay for Internet costs for its diplomats since the time difference between the FSM and New York requires the UN Mission personnel to work from their homes to communicate with FSM government officials, as well as conducting normal working operations with the UN. He said it has been the long-standing practice to pay for the commuting costs of its local staff to be competitive with other employers in the New York market. This is now included in the contracts for the local employees, Nakayama said.

Nakayama's comments sparked additional comments from Public Auditor Hainrick, who cited government regulations allowing the government to pay for furniture only for the President, Vice President, Speaker and justices of the Supreme Court. "All other exempt employees must supply their own furniture, except that a refrigerator and a stove shall be supplied by the government, if necessary," the regulations read. "The government shall also supply beds and dinette set, if necessary, to exempt employees hired for the first time after June 1, 1992."

Hainrick also questioned payment for home Internet services, citing FSM regulations that "no National Government employee is entitled to direct payment for local transportation, utilities, telephone or other expenses which are personal in nature."

In addition to making recommendations to the UN Mission, the audit said "to further ensure that our findings are resolved, we made recommendations to the Secretaries of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Finance and Administration to strengthen the level of oversight being provided."

<http://www.fsmpublicauditor.fm/index>.

The United States Fights World Hunger

The Embassy of the United States

“The American people are generous people and they’re compassionate people. We believe in a timeless truth: To whom much is given, much is expected. And so therefore at home we are working to ensure that the neediest among us can cope with the rising food prices. And with the new international funding I’m announcing today, we’re sending a clear message to the world: that America will lead the fight against hunger for years to come.” – President George W. Bush, May 1, 2008

Increase in Global Food Prices

Several factors have contributed to recent hikes in global food prices. These include increased demand in rapidly growing emerging economies; rising energy costs; several years of bad weather in Australia, China, and parts of Eastern Europe, which have hit wheat harvests especially hard; export restrictions imposed by several countries, some with significant commodity stocks; and, to a lesser extent, increased biofuel production, which accounts for only an estimated three percent of the 43 percent increase in global food prices.

The U.S. Government Takes Action

Rising prices have complicated worldwide food assistance efforts and made it more difficult for the United States to meet existing commitments, much less to help the growing number of people

who need aid. Nonetheless, President Bush recently announced that the United States will make available \$200 million more in emergency food aid through the U.S. Agriculture Department’s Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust. Together with the additional \$770 million President Bush requested last week from the U.S. Congress to support food aid and related development programs, this adds up to nearly \$1 billion in new funds to bolster global food security. With other food security assistance programs already in place, the United States will likely spend nearly \$5 billion in 2008-2009 to fight global hunger. This funding will also allow the United States to help farmers in developing countries increase their productivity and improve distribution.

Other Countries Have Roles to Play, Too

The United States is working with other developed countries to secure commitments for additional food aid. We are working toward the conclusion of a successful Doha Round agreement, which would reduce and eliminate tariffs, other barriers, and market-distorting subsidies for agricultural goods, thereby making food cheaper and more available for consumers around the world. We are also urging countries that restrict agricultural exports to lift those restrictions. The United States will coordinate our efforts with international organizations and other donors while continuing to provide leadership on food issues.

...Press Conference

continued from page 2

tial road. He said essentially that project would have to wait for a while because it could not be funded under Compact II and the Government needs to identify funding sources.

He then went on to say that the new structures that will be built if plans are approved would be designed to last for 30 years. He said that the proposed new primary health care facility would cost over \$4 million dollars.

Work crews have been working 24 hours a day on the new Pohnpei State Administration project that is being provided to the State by the Government of the People’s Republic of China. The Governor has received reports that the construction is progressing ahead of schedule.

On the Pohnpei International Airport Expansion Project he said that rehabilitation work on the existing runway was scheduled to begin before the end of May and that the extension of the runway is now being prepared for the bidding process. He thanked the United States and the Government of Japan for the important project.

During Q & A, a member of the audience asked him if consideration had been given to the effects of global warming on the location of the current airport. They wanted to know if another site had been considered. He said that the State had asked the FSM government several times if their experts considered that the Dekehtik site might be a problem in an environment of sea level rise. He said they still had heard nothing from them on the situation. He said that the State did its own study and that they felt that sea level rise would not be a problem.

The Governor said that he hopes to build Pohnpei’s reputation internationally as a key location for governments and for regional and global multilateral and non-governmental organizations. He said that Pohnpei has a unique opportunity to become the Suva of the North Pacific.

The Q & A session was halting in its beginning with all eyes seemingly on The Kaselehlie Press but once it began questions, which the Governor deftly fielded flowed quickly for nearly over half an hour. The Governor was patient in all of his responses.

There were several “elephants in the room” that no one discussed or asked about but in general it was a good beginning for the Governor’s stated plans for transparency.

Vanuatu-Pohnpei Police Exchange



An exchange program funded by the Pacific Region Policing Initiative facilitated the two week visit to the Pohnpei State Police Department of a 27 year veteran of the Vanuatu Police force, Senior Sergeant Clera Seth (second from the right). Pictured above are three of the six female members of Pohnpei’s Police force and S.Sgt Seth. From left to right are Officer Cynthia Ludrick, Police Detective Retley Oltrick, a 28 year veteran of the force, and Officer Olivia David (far right).

S.Sgt Seth said that of Vanuatu’s police force of 530 officers 30 of them are women, just 5.6% of the force.

Pohnpei’s Chief Joe Roby said that Pohnpei has 6 female officers in the force of 98, only a slightly higher percentage than Vanuatu at 6.1%. Roby, Seth, and Oltrick each said that women should know that they can be police officers just as men can and that they can be effective officers.

Seth is in Pohnpei to share her experiences and the methodology of the Vanuatu Police Force with Pohnpei State Police Officers.

Both Seth and Oltrick said that the experience of policing as a female officer has changed in the last quarter century. People in the two islands have begun to accept female officers and to give them the respect good officers deserve. They say there should be more female officers.



LOCATION

Gymnasium, COM-FSM Main Campus, Palikir

AGE GROUPS

8 – 12 years old 9:00 am – 12:00 noon (Mon-Fri)

13- 17 years old 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Mon-Fri)

HEAD COACH

Ryan Burns from Melbourne Australia

REGISTRATION

Registration forms available at the COM-FSM Sports and Recreation Office and FSMNOC Office

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

5:00 pm, Friday, July 04, 2008

INFORMATION

Telephone 320-2480 ext 159 and 320-8914

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Island Food Community of Pohnpei Training Center is Opened by Governor John Ehsa

By Dr. Lois Englberger
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Governor John Ehsa officially opened the Island Food Community of Pohnpei Training Center in the Botanical Garden on 21 May 2008, 11 am, with a good turnout of 44 persons representing communities and a number of government and non-government agencies.

Adelino Lorens, Chairman, gave the welcoming remarks, pointing out that the training center was renovated from the Old Agriculture Garage. The total amount spent for the renovation, furniture and replacement of equipment lost in the fire was \$37,563.83. He thanked the Pohnpei State Government for the continuous support and allowing IFCP to renovate and use the old garage to facilitate training to more island food producers and users.

He thanked the Embassy of Japan for providing the bulk of the funds and the Australian Embassy, PATS Foundation, Global Greengrants Fund, and Papa Ola Lokahi for their significant contributions. He thanked the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for sharing office space in their former building in the Botanical Garden from 2006 to 2007, and the Englbergers for providing their private home for use as the IFCP office for two years, from 2004 to 2005. Thanks was also given to H&K Builders for their professional construction work and Capitol Fabricator for the top quality furni-

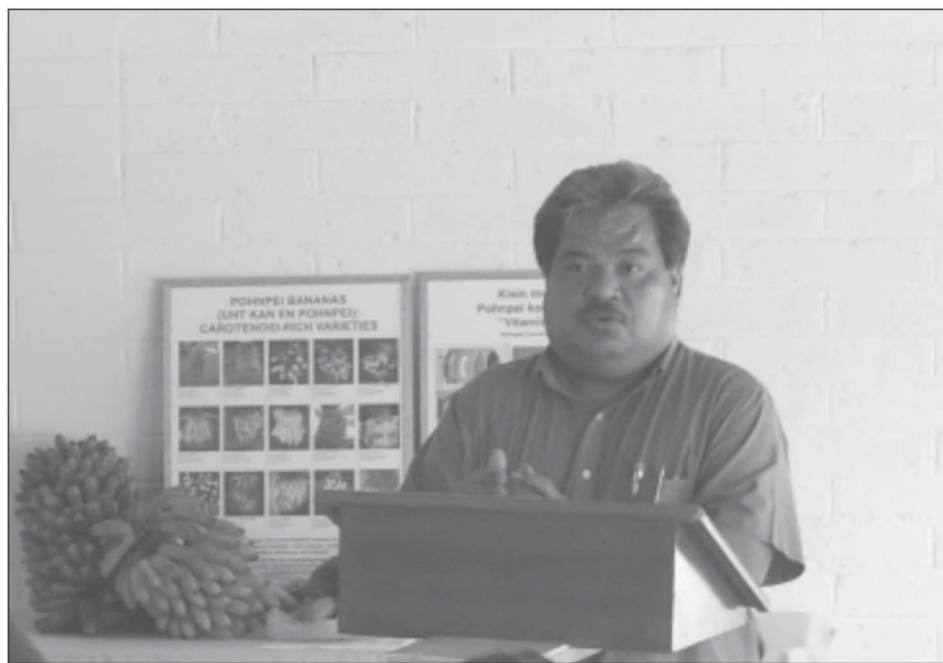
ture and security grill. Appreciation was given to the IFCP board members and important partners contributing to IFCP coordinated projects.

Adelino stressed the CHEEF benefits of local foods, Culture, Health, Economic, Environment and Food security, expressing these words in Pohnpeian, and asked Dr. Englberger to give remarks on "Local Food and Health." She explained about how the work all started with a banana, Karat, and pointed out a Karat brought for the occasion, and how it and other local foods have been analyzed in laboratories, in Hawaii, mainland USA, Switzerland, Fiji, and Australia, all confirming their rich nutrient content and health benefits.

Also she pointed out that bananas have a mood-enhancing substance, and encouraged people to "BE HAPPY, EAT A BANANA!"

Governor Ehsa in his remarks explained that some years ago he noticed an article in the local Kaselehlie Press newspaper about the analyses of the local foods and said, "This really got my interest!" Governor Ehsa also shared about his plans for a school lunch program based on local foods and how this could have a major impact on promoting local foods in Pohnpei.

He later presented IFCP with a Certificate of Recognition from the Office of the Governor, State of Pohnpei, with these words:



Gov Ehsa officially opens the Island Food Community of Pohnpei training center, May 21 2008

"This is to recognize and congratulate the Island Food Community of Pohnpei on the opening of its training center on May 21, 2008, for promoting local foods for their many benefits. (Signed) Governor John Ehsa."

The event also included a tour of the center, local food lunch, display of solar dryer for local foods and demonstration of the energy-efficient charcoal oven, where foods can be conveniently cooked in a healthy way for delicious dishes.



WHAT TYPE ARE YOU?

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O-

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Palm Terrace - 11:00am-1:00pm

COM - Palikir Campus - 2:00-5:00pm

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"Celebrating the Gift of Blood"

B+

A+

B-

A-

...Tokyo Embassy

continued from page 1

the US Dollar would buy more Yen than it could do in later years. In 1999 the FSM Congress, in a standing committee report authorized the Embassy to calculate salaries based on 130 yen to the dollar. At that time the predominant rate was actually 137 yen to the dollar. Ambassador Fritz essentially contended that the Standing Committee report was the authorization they needed. Chief of Staff Mida, though he did not quote that Standing Committee Report said, "The fix(ed) exchange rate is not a creation of the Embassy and (it) should not be blamed for it."

During the three years under review by ONPA the bank exchange rate averaged 107 to 115 Yen a year. By using the higher rate of 130 Yen when making payroll payments, ONPA says that the Embassy incurred \$93,738 of additional payroll cost during that time.

Ambassador Fritz said in his April 11 response to the draft copy of the audit, that the Embassy has sought guidance from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Finance and Administration, and Congress on many issues including the problem of constantly shifting exchange rates. He said that Congress instructed the DFA and DF&A to devise a plan to solve the ongoing problem and recommended that a "Hedge Fund" be set up to resolve the problem. Fritz said that neither the DF&A nor the DFA ever followed through on that instruction and the Embassy therefore still carries out the instruction of the Congressional Standing Committee report lacking any other instruction. He said that at the time that the Standing Committee report SCR 10-190 was issue, the prevailing exchange rate was 137 yen to the U.S. Dollar.

According to the audit the Public Service System Regulations (PSSR) and the Financial Management Regulations (FMR) detail the types of allowances that can be provided to FSM employees working at overseas Missions. "However, Embassy employees received increased allowances that exceeded these regulations and in some instances, appeared excessive in dollar terms." During the period that was under review, Renster Andrew served as Minister-Consul, John Fritz served as Deputy Chief of Mission, and Kasio Mida was the Ambassador.

The audit says that the Embassy paid residential utilities (electricity, gas, and water) for two FSM staff employees that amounted to \$48,657 over three years. PSSR Part 8.11 considers residential utility costs to be personal in nature and not an allowable expense to be paid by the government. In 2006, one of the employee's utility bill averaged \$845 a month. The Ambassador, as is standard practice for heads of overseas offices was provided housing, transportation, and utilities.

Commuting costs were also paid by the Embassy though PSSR Part 8.11 says that those costs are personal in nature. The Embassy paid an annual cost of \$3156 for city wide unlimited train passes for two FSM employees. The DCM used the Embassy's second vehicle to commute to and from work.

In 2006 monthly rents paid for the homes of the DCM and Minister-Consul were \$5239 and \$3932 respectively. From audit findings it appears that in order to avoid the \$5000 per month cap on rents for overseas missions housing for FSM employees an exchange rate of 120 yen was used instead of the prevailing rate of 107 yen. An unidentified former Ambassador of the FSM Embassy in Tokyo did not provide documentation of housing prices to the Secretary of DF&A as required by PSSR 12A.8b to justify that the rents were typical, fair and reasonable.

PSSR Part 12B.4 defines home furnishings needs that can be provided for Embassy employees as essentially, basic necessities (i.e. beds, refrigerators, and dining sets). The Embassy's list of government property located at employee residences totaled \$64,223 and included a flat panel plasma television for \$5,039, a TV sound system for \$817, silk carpet for \$2,384, a dining set for \$6350, a sofa living room set for \$3300, and two chests for \$2300. We talked with the previous two Ambassadors to Japan. Both of them said that they didn't know who had bought the television. The auditor said that the TV was located at the house of then DCM John Fritz.

Education expenses paid by the Embassy amounted to \$73,135 over three years. One employee's education expenses totaled \$70,020 for three years to send his three children to private school.

Foreign Service Premiums (FSP) were established in order to equitably compensate employees permanently assigned to overseas missions. In New York City FSM employees of the Permanent Mission to the UN for example receive an FSP of 95% meaning that they receive an additional 95% above their salaries due to cost of living. An FSM employee working at the Embassy in Tokyo receives an FSP of 280%.

The additional amount, by law is not subject to FSM tax. The FSP, according to the auditor resulted in \$506,352 in additional salaries being paid to employees over the period of three years. If the FSP has been taxable it would have generated \$70,889 in income and social security taxes over that period. Further, the audit went on to say, the amount that employees received due to the practice of a fixed yen to dollar conversion rate over the three years reviewed (\$93,738) would have generated additional tax dollars but that amount also was not taxed.

ONPA questioned in its audit whether a FSP should be provided to FSM employ-

ees working in Tokyo considering that their housing, utilities costs, commuting expenses, and household furnishings costs were paid for them. The FSP, according to the ONPA audit was designed to offset the high prices of the cost of living in other countries.

For medical expenses, a problem mentioned in nearly every Embassy audit an imprest fund was established at the Embassy. When employees of the Embassy need medical care they pay the up front medical care expense from the imprest fund. MiCare then evaluates the medical care expense to determine whether or not they will cover the expense. If they decide that the expense is allowable they reimburse the Embassy for the expense up to 90%. The employee is responsible to reimburse the remaining 10%. If MiCare does not cover the cost the employee is responsible for the entire bill. By July 2007 the imprest account to handle medical bills at the Tokyo Embassy had been depleted to only \$212.

The auditor was quick to say that they did not audit the imprest fund and merely mentioned the depletion to point out that reimbursement from MiCare, or DF&A or employees is needed in order to replenish the account.

Chief of Staff Mida, who was the sitting Ambassador at the time of the audit said in his response regarding the imprest fund for medical expenses, "There are two problems as I see it: getting reimbursements from MiCare in a timely manner and getting reimbursed from employees for their portion of the medical/dental costs."

Regarding the overall audit he said, "I feel some of the following may have contributed to the situation in the overseas missions including our Embassy in Tokyo.

"1. The lack of close oversight and monitoring by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Finance and Administration over the overseas missions.

"2. The applicability of policies and regulations that are designed primarily for our governmental operations in-country. Some of these are impeding our work overseas.

"3. The lack of a comprehensive review by an independent professional of the foreign service in terms of compensation, benefits, etc. The government has tried to address some of these long standing issues in a piecemeal fashion and it has not worked at all. We have yet to successfully address issues like FSP, exchange rate, etc.

"4. The lack of clear directions/instructions from home on these issues. This results in the overseas missions having to make decisions on their own on a number of things in order to address some of their urgent needs."

Vice President Alik Alik, who served as FSM's Ambassador to Japan from 1999 to 2003 said that he appreciates the Office of the National Public Auditor's work in bringing up the issues that have been a problem in Japan for a long time. He said that the Public Service System Regulations have long been out of date and need a review and that the problem of exchange rates, the FSP, and other problems have been a problem not just for the Embassy in Japan but in the other Embassies as well particularly the FSM Embassy in Fiji.

He said that a plan of action was suggested by Jack Sullivan when he was doing consulting work for the National Government. Sullivan apparently suggested many changes in the system that in some areas actually increased the compensation package for FSM diplomats. Alik implied, though he did not directly say it, that the DFA had not wanted to implement the plan because it would have increase the cost and so the report is still "gathering dust sitting on a book shelf."

He said "This administration takes the situation very seriously and the President has made it a priority." He said that President Mori has assigned him, the Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Lorin Robert, and Chief of Staff Kasio E. Mida to begin work on solving the systemic problems that led to the poor audit report.

He said that the employees of the various FSM Embassies are highly skilled professional diplomats and not accountants. When he was the Ambassador he was required to submit two reports on a monthly basis, one was an activity report and the other was a financial report. The idea was that if something was going wrong at the Embassy, those personnel at the DF&A who are experts in accounting would point out the errors and help the Embassy to make corrective action but it rarely happened. The ONPA came to that conclusion as well.

"People who have never lived in Tokyo don't understand how expensive it is." He illustrated saying, "If a bag of rice costs \$16 in the FSM that bag will cost \$60 in Tokyo." He said that in Tokyo a few ounces of fish would cost \$40 where in the FSM you could buy a big fish for only \$11 or so. He said that one year he had to have a tooth pulled when he was the Ambassador and that trip to the dentist cost \$900 "People just see the numbers and they think it's too much."

He said that years ago the National Government had considered the possibility of relocating the Embassy from Tokyo to someplace where it would be less expensive. "But if we want breadfruit we must go to the breadfruit tree." Tokyo is where FSM Diplomats need to be to foster the best possible relationship with Japan's Government leadership.

The complete audit is available at <http://www.fsmpublicauditor.fm/audits.htm>

...Palau Business

continued from page 1

“Palau is facing a looming crisis of unprecedented proportion never experienced before and must be confronted by those in authority and leadership of the government including the president, his Cabinet and the lawmakers and of course the people. Now is the time when real leaders must stand up and be counted by taking immediate and hard measures in policy and law making and solid concrete actions to mitigate the catastrophic impact of this crisis on the economic, social and political health of this country,” Uludong said.

Uludong, a former state governor, said the national government should curtail all travel except for critical issues; schedule planned power outages each night from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.; close the new capitol for six months; seek an emergency loan to subsidize the country's sole power company; increase the national minimum wage; direct all Taiwan-supplied stimulus funds to this emergency; reduce government salaries over \$30,000 a year by 10 percent; and, design a foreign investment “holiday” with major incentives and expedited

approvals for investments over \$1 million.

Executives from such major businesses as Kumagai Bakery and Restaurant, Waterfront Villa Resort, Shell Station and store in Malakal, and the PRA group of companies described in detail for senators the severe challenges they are facing in the current economic climate. Among the major complaints – a host of new taxes and fees proposed by Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. and a large utility rate increase that will go into effect on June 1. Residents are facing a 33 percent rate increase, while businesses and government will see their power bills go up 63 percent.

The audience broke into applause when freshman Sen. Hokkons Baules told the business owners, “I pledge to you, we will not have new taxes because we understand your suffering.”

Committee chairman Sen. Santy Asanuma said he would hold hearings on the Public Utilities Corporation's proposed rate increases.

Kehpara Grouper Spawning and Aggregation Under Threat

Conservation Society of Pohnpei

Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) and the Division of Forestry and Marine Conservation, in partnership with our local and international partners continually strive to enhance the management of Kehpara Marine Sanctuary (KMS), the marine area surrounding what is known as Black Coral.

A Spawning and Aggregation (SPAG) monitoring program was initiated in 2001 to monitor the health and population density of three grouper species that gather at KMS to reproduce (*Sawi*, *Widir* and *Ripwiripw*). The SPAG monitoring team has been subsequently monitoring the site in the course of the spawning seasons. Several supplementary projects and studies were conducted by Dr. Kevin Rhodes to provide more understanding about the groupers with relation to the spawning site.

A tagging project was conducted in 2005 that revealed the grouper migration patterns after spawning seasons. Results of the tagging project stated that 95% of all recaptured fish were taken 10-12km (6-7 miles) of the sanctuary, most between Kehpara and Dauahk. In addition, the tagging studies showed that up to 62% of all fish recaptured were taken within the spawning season, suggesting that approximately 10% of the spawning population is removed annually within the spawning season. A Fish Market-based Analysis was then conducted revealing that 70% of our marketed fish are undersized. Roughly 77% of *Sawi*, 50% of *Widir*, and 25% of *Ripwiripw* in markets are immature. Seven years of underwater monitoring at KMS show a clear decline in the number of the three main grouper species utilizing the site. The number of *Widir* (*E. polyphkadion*) has dropped from several thousand to a few hundred in seven years. Preliminary evidence suggests that males of *Sawi* (*P. areolatus*) greatly outnumbered

females (3:1) at KMS, suggesting over fishing of females outside or at the aggregation site.

Several studies have also been conducted at different sites in Pohnpei. For instance, preliminary surveys show that Palikir pass is also a grouper spawning ground. However, fewer and fewer groupers are being found at that site. Less than 100 *Ripwiripw* were found; only a few hundred *Sawi* and *no Widir* were observed at the Palikir spawning aggregation site. Based on stories from community members it is possible that other aggregation sites in Pohnpei have already disappeared.

Studies have been conducted throughout Micronesia and the Pacific region that show critical threats to grouper spawning and aggregation sites. Rebotel, a known grouper spawning site in Palau was fished out in the 1970s and has never recovered. The abundance of *Widir* at the Ebill Conservation Area in Palau declined from over two thousand (2,200) individuals in 1995 to one (1) fish in 2005. Another grouper aggregation site in Majuro, Marshall Islands, was fished out in the 1980s and has not recovered. Three spawning aggregation sites of *Widir*, *Sawi* and *Ripwiripw* were completely fished out in the 1990s in less than two years. There are no known remaining grouper spawning aggregations in Guam. There is no evidence of any grouper population recovering from significantly reduced numbers.

The management of KMS may not be in its best stage, but Pohnpei is fortunate in retaining what may be the last remaining grouper spawning site on the Island. CSP and the Division of Forestry and Marine Conservation will continue its effort to work with our partners and the local communities of Pohnpei to improve the management of KMS and the grouper spawning and aggregation site.

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Greenpeace Confronts World's Largest Tuna Vessel in Pacific Waters

Greenpeace

Pacific Ocean, Tuesday May 27 2008: Greenpeace activists today confronted a Spanish owned "super super seiner" which takes almost double the entire annual catch of some Pacific Island countries in a single fishing trip.

The biggest and most devastatingly efficient tuna catching vessel in the world, the Albatun Tres was caught deploying its net

on the far west side of Phoenix Islands (1) of Kiribati.

Greenpeace ship Esperanza has been observing the vessel for the past five days. Activists laid a 25 metre floating banner reading 'No Fish, No Future' into the net in an attempt to prevent the vessel hauling in its net.

Activists first found the Albatun Tres five days ago when the vessel was in international waters north of Kiribati. During this



Greenpeace/Paul Hilton

Pacific Means Business And Bans High Seas Tuna Fishing

Greenpeace

Pacific Ocean, May 20 2008. Greenpeace applauds the bold decision to ban tuna fishing in high seas areas, as a landmark for tuna conservation and biodiversity protection by the eight Pacific Island Countries of the Palau Nauru Agreement (PNA) group meeting in Palau this week.

Foreign fishing vessels will not be allowed to fish in the two major high seas pockets in the Pacific. The first is north of Papua New Guinea, its boundary shared by the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. The boundary of the larger second area is shared by PNG, Nauru, Marshall Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands.

Foreign fishing boats will also be required to retain their full catches, regardless of whether or not they are tuna stock and to carry observers onboard at all times.

The use of Fishing Aggregation Devices (FADs), a device used to intensify overfishing will be banned in the third quarter of each year. An agreement formalising these measures will be in force from June 15, 2008.

"This is a historical moment for the Pacific, its people, and the health of biodiversity of the seas," said Lagi Toribau Greenpeace Australia Pacific Oceans Campaigner.

"We also commend the unwavering support of Cook Islands and Vanuatu in continuing to back the PNA measures and urge the remaining Forum Fisheries Agency member countries to stand together on this front."

Mr Toribau said the Pacific region means business.

"Distant water fishing nations (DWFN's) like Japan, Taiwan, Korea and China that have resisted the protection of the regions tuna stocks at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) need to respect this bold but necessary move and adopt similar measures," he said.

The President of Palau in his welcoming address to Ministers, read out by Vice President Elias Camsek Chin cautioned that, "the minimum requirements to protect our fisheries must be non-negotiable".

The Director of Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Asterio Takesy commended the new measures: "this is indeed a defining moment for fisheries conservation in our

region and a giant step in the right direction for the sake of our present generation and generations to come. As a fellow Pacific Islander I am proud of you. As Director of SPREP, with all due respect I humbly urge you the rest of FFA members to follow suit."

The scientific update also informed the countries that for the two key stocks, yellowfin now has a higher risk of overfishing while the bigeye stocks already has overfishing occurring.

Greenpeace ship Esperanza is currently "Defending the Pacific" on an expedition documenting and protesting peacefully against fishing activities in the areas proposed as marine reserves. Over the last seven weeks, Greenpeace activists have taken direct action against fishing fleets from Taiwan, Korea, the US and Philippines in order to safeguard threatened regional bigeye and yellowfin stocks and other marine life.

Next week the global Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) will start in Bonn Germany and the criteria for the establishment of a worldwide network of Marine Reserves will be discussed.

"Once we begin to see the value in no longer fishing in High Seas areas, it is only a matter of time before they can be proclaimed as Marine Reserves" said Seni Nabou, Greenpeace Pacific Political Advisor who will be at the meeting.

Parties to the Convention on Biological diversity have committed to create a worldwide network of marine protected areas by 2012. But there are no such reserves in international waters yet, and less than 1% of the world's oceans are adequately protected. Implementation of the Pacific commitment can start now and these areas can be officially closed this year

"The Pacific has shown that even though our countries are large ocean states with limited capacity, we continue to lead the way in defining how our traditional conservation worldviews can and should shape both fisheries and biodiversity policies. Pacific countries now need the support of the rest of the world for this bold proposal," said Mrs Nabou.

Greenpeace advocates the creation of a network of marine reserves, protecting 40 per cent of the world's oceans, as the long-term solution to overfishing and the recovery of our overexploited oceans.

time the Esperanza has followed the vessel across over 1,000 nautical miles and likely prevented the vessel from fishing during that time.

The Albatun Tres can net more than 3,000 tonnes of tuna in a single fishing trip. Yet unsatisfied, the Spanish owners of this vessel will likely bring even more vessels to fish in the region.

"The Albatun Tres arrived to the Pacific from the Indian Ocean earlier this year. The Pacific tuna stocks are in decline and there is not enough fish in the sea to fill the holds of these huge vessels," said Lagi Toribau Greenpeace Australia Pacific Oceans Campaigner on board the Esperanza.

"If there is no fish there is no future for us Pacific Islanders. United, the people of the Pacific can stop their future from being fished to death by foreign fishing fleets. Halving the fishing activity in the region and declaring the high seas waters surrounded by the Pacific Island countries off limits to fishing, are clear steps that must be taken."

The Albatun Tres is owned by Albacora, a large Spanish tuna company that is part of Organizacion de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (OPAGAC) a powerful association of Spanish tuna boat owners, processors and traders.

"The super seiners of OPAGAC have a

questionable history in the region. Some of the vessels now represented by OPAGAC were caught pirate fishing in the region last year (2).

Nine Latin American flagged OPAGAC vessels have now entered the region under private agreements with Kiribati. As these Latin American countries are not members of the Tuna Commission (3), Kiribati was granted a special exemption by the Commission last year to allow their entry. "Greenpeace has evidence to show that OPAGAC is approaching Pacific Island countries in an attempt to get more licenses. This in complete breach of the spirit of the specific exemption granted by the Tuna Commission last year," said Toribau.

Greenpeace is urging all Pacific Island countries not to get fooled into shameful business agreements with OPAGAC. Vessels this size needs to be taken off the water and scrapped immediately.

The Greenpeace ship Esperanza has been in the region for the last eight weeks highlighting the overfishing of tuna. During the time at sea, activists have taken direct non-violent action against fishing fleets from Taiwan, Korea, the US, the Philippines and now Spain.

Greenpeace advocates the creation of a network of marine reserves, protecting 40 per cent of the world's oceans, with strictly regulated fishing in all other areas as the long term solution to overfishing and the recovery of our overexploited oceans.

U.S.-FSM Shiprider Agreement Becomes Permanent

The Embassy of the United States

agement Authority Deputy Director Eugene Pangelinan.

During a ceremony in Palikir on May 27, the FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert and U.S. Ambassador Miriam Hughes exchanged diplomatic notes that together constitute a historic "Cooperative Shipriders Agreement" designed to help protect the FSM's maritime boundaries and ocean resources. The agreement will allow armed and uniformed law enforcement officers of the FSM National Police to embark on selected U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement vessels or aircraft and to use those assets to patrol FSM waters for the purpose of enforcing FSM laws and regulations.

Witnessing the ceremony were FSM Secretary of Justice Maketo Robert, Coast Guard Commander Theresa M. Neumann, FSM National Police Chief Pius Chotailug, and FSM National Oceanic Resource Man-

This permanent Shiprider Agreement builds upon the success of two earlier temporary agreements that authorized FSM National Police to serve as shipriders aboard U.S. Coast Guard cutters. The operations that followed those temporary agreements enabled FSM law enforcement officers to inspect several foreign vessels suspected of illegal fishing in FSM waters and resulted in the seizure and fining of some of those fishing vessels.

Hailing the agreement as "a significant step forward in collective maritime security," Ambassador Hughes said the U.S.-FSM partnership "binds together two law-abiding, democratic and sovereign nations to protect the maritime domain, which is the life blood of the global system for commerce, food and sustenance."

Australia's HMAS "Ararat" Calls on Pohnpei

One of the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN's) newest ships, the Armidale Class Patrol Boat HMAS *Ararat* visited Pohnpei from June 6 - 9 after calling at Rabaul. This was the first visit by an Australian ship since 2006 and the first one by a ship of the new Armidale class.

"My ship's company and I really looked forward to our visit to Pohnpei and having the opportunity to show our state-of-the-art patrol boat to our Micronesian friends," said the ship's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander George McKenzie, RAN.

"The aim of our deployment in Micronesia is to strengthen Australia's international ties by conducting a number of exercises and other activities with our northern neighbors," said LCDR McKenzie during the visit of the *Ararat* in Pohnpei.

The Royal Australian Navy already maintains a presence in Pohnpei in the form of the Maritime Surveillance Advisor Team, who provide advice and support to the Division of Marine Law Enforcement and assist with the operation of Pohnpei's Australian built Pacific Patrol Boats.



HMAS "Ararat" crew members demonstrate the "Symbolic Sundown" ceremony for invited guests of a cocktail party that took place aboard the vessel on June 6.

Ararat was built by Austal Ships in Western Australia and was commissioned into the RAN on November 10, 2006.

The 180 foot, 300 ton vessel's primary employment is border protection operations. The vessels are state of the art in design and technology, underpinning a formidable patrol, surveillance and response capability for



Australia's Ambassador to the FSM, Susan Cox presents a Certificate of Appreciation to CPO Chris "Johnny" O'Keefe for his 20 years of service in the Royal Australian Navy. O'Keefe is stationed in Pohnpei. LCDR McKenzie is pictured at left.

the RAN.

Ararat is crewed by the multi-crewing initiative, where divisions of crews man the patrol boats on a rotational basis. Multi-crewing provides personnel with stability and allows the crew to plan leave, personal development, and assists with family time.

The ship arrived at 9:00 a.m. on Friday June 6 after being escorted from sea by the FSS *Micronesia*.

In addition to their official duties which included joint training exercises with FSM Maritime Law Enforcement personnel, some of the 29 crew members of the *Ararat* (the *Ararat* normally carries a crew of 21 multi-tasking personnel) took the opportunity while ported in Pohnpei to tour the island. LCDR McKenzie hiked to the top of Sokehs mountain before the sun was fully up on Saturday morning and spent what he called "two happy hours" enjoying Pohnpei's magnificent view from the mountain.

Some of *Ararat's* crew participated in the Pohnpei Fishing Club's fishing tournament. Others participated in other types of friendly sporting competition including a volleyball game at Misko's Beach. Some of the crew members took part in Pohnpei's night life.

The ship and crew departed from Pohnpei on Monday, June 9 having made great friends while on island and with diplomatic mission accomplished.

U.S. Compact Grants To FSM In May 2008

Embassy of the United States

For the eighth month of the current fiscal year, the FSM Department of Finance received Compact-funded grants from the United States Government totaling \$ 7,300,848. These payments were for Compact sector grants for Education, Health, Public Sector, Environment, and Private Sector Development plus Infrastructure and Supplemental Education Grants for May of Fiscal Year 2008. The breakdown of these grants follows

Sector Grants for FSM National Government

Education Sector (FSM Department of Education)	\$ 41,000
Health Sector (FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs)	\$ 38,000
Infrastructure (Compact Capital Infrastructure Projects)	\$ 657,226
Total Payment for FSM National Government:	\$ 736,226

Sector Grants for Chuuk State

Education Sector	\$ 1,543,868
Health Sector	\$ 1,291,808
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 130,126
Environment Sector	\$ 67,741
Private Sector Development	\$ 112,482
Total Payment for Chuuk:	\$ 3,146,025

Sector Grants for Kosrae State

Education Sector	\$ 165,744
Health Sector	\$ 106,960
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 76,491
Environment Sector	\$ 55,223
Private Sector Development	\$ 6,900
Total Payment for Kosrae:	\$ 411,318

Sector Grants for Pohnpei State

Education Sector	\$ 497,301
Health Sector	\$ 600,885
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 38,822
Environment Sector	\$ 47,520
Private Sector Development	\$ 15,855
Supplemental Education Grant	\$ 253,325
Infrastructure (IMF)	\$ 858,571
Total Payment for Pohnpei:	\$ 2,312,279

Sector Grants for Yap State

Education Sector	\$ 240,000
Health Sector	\$ 176,000
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 0
Environment Sector	\$ 50,000
Private Sector Development	\$ 113,000
Supplemental Education Grant	\$ 116,000
Total Payment for Yap:	\$ 695,000

TOTAL SECTOR GRANT PAYMENTS FOR FSM (May FY 2008): \$ 7,300,848

These payments are made on a monthly basis, based upon requests submitted by the FSM Government on behalf of the National Government, the four State Governments and the College of Micronesia-FSM.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs administers these funds for the United States Government

Chuuk Election Results are Official

FSM Information Services

Palikir, POHNPEI – On May 30, 2008 National Election Director Kimeuo Kimiuo, declared and certified Mr. Tesime Kofot winner of the Chuuk Congressional special election for Election District #2 held May 27, 2008 pursuant to Public Law No. 14-76, Section 60, Subsection 711(1).

Mr. Tesime Kofot received the most votes with a total of 1,563. Mr. Mark M. Mailo came in second with 1,443 votes. Mr. Roger S. Mori took third with 1,260 votes, and fourth was Mr. Tos A. Nakayama with 708 votes. Mr. Les D. Aidel received 36 votes.

Tesime Kofot will assume the seat that was vacated by the recent conviction of former Senator Roosevelt Kansou.

President not Involved in Political Campaigning

Chief of Staff Kasio E. Mida

Allegations have been made that the President was recently in Chuuk for the purpose of campaigning for Roger Mori who was a candidate for the recently-concluded special election for Election District #2. This is untrue and has no basis in fact whatsoever. It would be a political suicide for the President to get involved in the recent election given that his own election is coming up in less than 3 years.

The truth of the matter is the President, after consulting with members of his Cabinet, decided to go to Chuuk and try to calm things down following recent developments there including the filing of law suits and counter-suits by the opposing parties, which had the potential of undermining the on-going reforms for Chuuk. As you know, the President has invested a lot of time and energies on the reforms to help Chuuk out of the financial mess which is not helpful to our nation-building and was not about to just let it go down the drain.

Had certain things happened including the threatened resignation of the Director of the Chuuk's Department of Finance & Administration, the consequences for the reforms and Chuuk State could have been serious. One possible scenario was withholding of future Compact funds by the U.S. Government which will cause further deterioration

of the crisis in Chuuk. A worse case scenario would be for the U.S. to take over certain functions in Chuuk to protect its interests and prevent Chuuk from sinking deeper into the black hole of despair and hopelessness.

The erroneous perception that the President may somehow be behind the law suites that are pending in Chuuk State's court cannot be further from the truth. The President is clearly opposed to the filing of law suites by National Government employees including those in Chuuk to settle disputes as he knows doing so is counter-productive and just adding to the "fire". The President is for settling disputes or disagreements peacefully through negotiations and out of court settlements.

While the situation in Chuuk continues to be of great concern to the President, his visit had indeed contributed to calming of the "waters", allowing for more cooler heads to hopefully come together and agree on a mutually satisfactory solution that will allow Chuuk to move forward more aggressively on the reforms which as of late seemed to be contributing to noticeable improvements in the overall situation in Chuuk.

These are the facts as I know them and I have no reason to mislead anyone or the public.

FSM Junior Tennis Team Gears up for 2008 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament

By *Caroline Adams*

From June 16-20, 13 of the FSM's best junior tennis players will be competing on Guam in the North Pacific Qualifying tournament. They will challenge other top players from Palau, Guam and CNMI.

The FSM's participation is made possible by the International Tennis Federation, and generous donations from various local businesses and organizations. FSM National Olympic Committee paid for the tickets for the two top qualifiers of the 18 and under division; Alyssa Hawkins and Chris Yamada.

ITF Oceania director Dan O'Connell will arrive on Pohnpei on June 12, en route to Guam to meet with the juniors and perform a series of hitting and running tests. He will then fly out with the FSM team on June 14. Listed below are the names of the team members. Stay tuned for the results of the NPQ tournament in a later issue of the KPress.

Boys 13 and under

1. TJ Rush
2. Jericho Akinaga
3. Jake Panuelo
4. Nile Panuelo
5. Samuel Adams

Girls 13 and under

1. Shawn Adams
2. Amanda Hawkins
3. Danielle Adams

Boys 18 and under

1. Chris Yamada
2. Alexander Kalau

Girls 18 and under

1. Alyssa Hawkins
2. Samantha Arther
3. Sophie Finnen



The FSM National Olympic Committee donated 2 round trip airline tickets to the FSM Tennis Federation and Pohnpei Tennis Club to send Chris Yamada and Alyssa Hawkins to the 2008 North Pacific Youth Tennis Qualifier in Guam later this month. Yamada and Hawkins are the top rated FSM tennis players in the 18 year old and under division. Pictured are Yamada, FSMNOC President Berney Martin and Hawkins.

Former NBA Players to Host Youth Basketball Clinics in Kosrae and Yap

FSM National Olympic Committee

Former NBA players David Wood and Todd Fuller are leading Youth Team Sports' (YTS) basketball clinic to the FSM states of Kosrae and Yap. Wood, a 6-year veteran of the NBA, and Fuller, a 5-year veteran of the NBA, will serve as the Head and Assistant Basketball coaches, respectively, for the basketball clinics in Kosrae and Yap. They will be joined by Camp Director Dick Dankworth, former University of Nevada Head Coach of Track and Field, Co-Camp Director Dan Dix, former member of the Costa Rica National Baseball Team, Assistant Coach Chris Barry, former All-WAC football player at the University of Nevada, and Michael Brown, former basketball player and coach at the University of Nevada.

The 2008 trip is the fifth trip for the YTS to the Pacific. Since 2005, the YTS team has held free basketball coaching clinics in Palau (2005), Saipan (2006), and Chuuk, and Pohnpei (2007). Through the free basketball coaching clinics, the YTS team has served over 1000 island youth and strengthened local basketball programs. The YTS believes in stimulating strong community interest in and support for basketball in all of the island nations of the Pacific.

Wood, who played for six teams during his NBA career, including the Detroit Pis-

tons, is excited to make another trip to the FSM. "I am delighted to have an opportunity to spend time with the youth of Kosrae and Yap. We want to teach the game of basketball, model positive character, and encourage the youth to follow their dreams," says Wood.

Fuller, a former first round draft pick in the NBA who played with teams such as Golden State Warriors and Utah Jazz, is making his first trip with the YTS team. "I can't wait to visit Kosrae and Yap. We are eager to share our lives with the youth and to positively impact not only the lives of youth, but to help make a difference in the community as well," notes Fuller.

The YTS team will host a free basketball coaching clinic for youth in Kosrae from June 16 - 18. Next, the team will travel to Yap to host a free basketball clinic for youth from June 25 - 27. The YTS team expects 250 - 300 youth to attend camps in each island. At the clinics, youth learn the fundamentals of basketball, participate in learning activities, as well as play in a tournament during the last day of the clinic.

For additional information on YTS or the upcoming free basketball coaching clinics in Kosrae and Yap, contact Sterling Skilling, Kosrae Sports Council, John Waathan, Yap Sports Council and Jim Tobin, FSM National Olympic Committee.

3,247.5 Pounds of Fish Caught in 15th Annual Pohnpei Fishing Tournament

Andy Musrasrik wins Grand Prize - 2 Continental Micronesia tickets

Rumor's Bar by the Bay - Friday, 9 May - Day One of the Pohnpei Fishing Club's 15th Annual Tournament with major sponsor Continental Micronesia Airlines - A bit of wind and rain had little effect on the results of the first day of fishing for most of the teams. *Miss Pakin*, captained by Andy Musrasrik, and crewed by Jun David and Tareg Ganong, had the best catch of the day, weighing in a total of 444 pounds, including six yellow-fin tunas all with qualifying weights between 27.5 and 32 pounds. In second place for the day was *Israel*, captained by Jun Apis with crew Nannette and Tony Sultan, with a total boat weight of 282.5 pound, but not a single qualifying fish in the catch. On board the *Tygris*, Capt. Kumer Panuelo, with crewmen Sonny Sultan and Moses Asher, tipped the scales for a total of 262 pounds, including one 22 pound yellow-fin. The rest of the fishing fleet weighed in totals ranging from 48 down to 14 pounds, with the day's total



Mahi "expert" Noel Boylan and son Evan

catch equaling 1,490 pounds. Other fish of mention included Konrad Englberger's 27 pound dogtooth tuna, Alex Tretnoff's 21.5 pound wahoo, and two mahi-mahi (19# & 17.5#) landed by mahi expert Noel Boylan and son Evan.

Saturday, 10 May - Day Two - There were attempts to overtake *Miss Pakin* - Saimon Mix's *XXXX* hauled in 218.5 pounds including a 35 pound giant trevally, Maria Spegal's *Pohnlik Special* landed 209.5 pounds, and *Israel* brought 196.5 pounds to the scales. But Andy and crew were not to be denied. Including yet another yellow-fin (21.5#) and a 19 pound mahi-mahi, they added a day two total of 258.5, to accumulate 702.5 pounds for the tournament. *Israel* came in second with 481 and *Tygris* third with 424. Other notable fish caught on the second day included the biggest single fish of the tournament, a 36 pound wahoo caught by Konrad, a 23.5 pound wahoo caught by Willy Hawley and another mahi-mahi (18#) caught by Evan Boylan.

The Tournament's Champion Angler prize of two Continental Micronesia tickets was awarded to Andy for a point total of 134.5. The Second Place Champion Angler prize (a Shimano reel) was awarded to Jun David with 82 points. With 63 points, Konrad was the Third Place Champion Angler.

Maria Spegal was the Tournament's Lady Angler, with points earned from catching a 17.5 pound skipjack tuna. Nannette Apis took Second Place Lady with a 14.5 pound skipjack, and Mary Tretnoff's 14 pound mahi-mahi took third Place lady honors. Evan Boylan's two mahi-mahi earned him the Junior Angler Champion position with 35.5 points.

Sunday, 11 May - Awards - Prizes and trophies were awarded at PCR Restaurant on Sunday evening. After the dinner and award presentations the fishing discussion began. As the evening wore on, the fish that got away gradually increased in size and ferocity. On behalf of all the anglers, the Pohnpei Fishing Club thanks our major sponsor of the 15th Annual Tournament - Continental Micronesia - for the grand prize of two round trip tickets to any of the airline's destinations. Continental has also donated three round trip airfares for travel by a Continental/Pohnpei Fishing Club team to Majuro for the All Micronesia Tournament in September.

The Club also wants to acknowledge and thank all of our generous sponsors who helped make the Tournament a great success: Tournament shirts, Budweiser and Bud Light beer, and a cash donation were provided by Ambros, Inc. Guam, and the Tropical Reef Ships yards (in Cairns, Australia) provided the Shimano reel.

Our other generous sponsors included: the Hideout Store, Pohnpei Ace Hardware, International Yatchpaints-Epiglass, Pohnpei Computer Consulting, FSM Telecommunications Corporation, Bank of the FSM, Pohnpei Do It Best Hardware, Pohnpei Waste Management Services, Western Union, Imelda's Shoe Store, Stephen V. Finnen Law Corporation, Movie Land, PCR Restaurant, Village Hotel, Napa Auto Parts, Pacific Survey, Pohnpei Ocean Cruise, Pohnpei Surf Club, Computer Island, Neime & Company (Coco Marina), Joy Restaurant, Ocean View/Orchid Restaurant, Moylan's Insurance, and a nice lady who wishes to remain anonymous..

The next tournament is scheduled for June 7, 2008. Look for posters around town.

FSM Government, the Quiet leader on Chinese Aid Reform

By *Fergus Hanson*

According to the National government, China was the second largest aid donor to the Federates States of Micronesia (FSM) in 2007 behind the United States. That's quite remarkable because at least according to the latest figures from the Asian Development Bank (2005) in per capita terms, Micronesians are about 30 per cent better off than Chinese.

Almost 500 million Chinese citizens live on less than \$2 a day. So why is China giving aid to FSM instead of the other way around? Numerous commentators have speculated that China's engagement is being driven by its interest in Pacific resources. FSM has a fishing zone about as big as China's and that's no doubt of some interest to China which has the world's largest fish production and is the largest fish exporter. In this respect, China's aid has gone towards building the headquarters of the Tuna Management Commission in FSM and it has funded several fish-related aid projects in other Pacific states.

However, China's substantial aid program to FSM can't solely be explained by fish-stock access. Instead, competition with Taiwan over diplomatic recognition remains the primary driver of its engagement. FSM is the only Pacific

Islands Forum country in Micronesia that recognizes China. The others have sided with Taiwan, which reportedly also operates large aid programs in the countries with which it has diplomatic ties. This makes FSM an important foothold state, as China seeks to expand its influence in this Pacific sub-region.

The motivation for China's aid giving to FSM might be quite ordinary, but what is remarkable is the transparency with which the National government reports aid pledges from China. The National government's report on aid receipts from all countries, including China, is noteworthy because it is so exceptional. No other Pacific government, that I am aware of, produces such a comprehensive document on aid flows.

This document allows all donors to coordinate their aid, improves accountability and governance and also establishes FSM as a leader in the region.

China regards the details of its aid program as a state secret, and refuses to disclose how much aid it disperses or all the projects it funds. Several Pacific governments are also reluctant to disclose aid receipts from China, and presumably part of this reluctance stems

from Chinese pressure.

By taking the decision to produce a report on all donor flows the FSM government has put itself at the forefront of improving the way China manages and delivers its aid program. It exposes China to limited transparency (the report is not yet available online), and shows that publishing this information is actually in China's best interests as well as those of Micronesians. It also demonstrates to other Pacific governments that there is no reason not to publish this sort of document, which only serves to improve the delivery and effectiveness of development assistance.

While this may seem a small step, it is actually a significant move towards encouraging China to deliver its aid more transparently. In a paper I will be launching today at the Lowy Institute, a foreign policy think-tank based in Sydney, I argue that other Pacific governments

should follow FSM's lead in reporting aid from all donors.

Every donor has their own reasons for giving aid, it is how they give that aid that matters most. By publishing figures on the aid it receives from all donors including China, the FSM government has taken a lead in the region and made a valuable contribution towards improving China's approach to aid giving. Others should follow.

Fergus Hanson is a Research Associate at the Lowy Institute, a foreign policy think-tank based in Sydney. This opinion piece draws on findings from a Lowy Analysis "The Dragon Looks South" that will be launched on 11 June at the Lowy Institute.



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K-Press Perspective

The Banking Zone?

*"There is a fifth dimension, beyond that which is known to man. It is a dimension as vast as space... and as timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between science and superstition... and it lies between the pit of man's fears and the summit of his knowledge. This is the dimension of imagination. It is an area which we call"...the Banking Zone.**

In the FSM, customers in the Banking Zone often experience a sense of vertigo when entering the bank, their damning monetary papers clutched in hand. It's anyone's guess whether or not their financial transactions will be handled with a teller's smile and an exchange of cash. Maybe *this* time the bank employee will frown slightly and turn away to make the trip that customers dread—the trip to the back room "for approval."

It doesn't matter how many times a customer has previously performed the same transaction with absolutely no problem, the dreaded "trip to the back room" can change everything for all time, or at least until the manager changes his or her mind about "the bank's new policy." Often times it seems that the "new policy" was established ten minutes earlier or even during the "back room consultation" which can take much longer.

Employers send their employees to "the banking zone" to handle banking transactions only to receive a phone call from the bank when the employee, who has handled the same type of transaction hundreds of times before, is suddenly barred from conducting business at the bank.

"The policy has changed at the bank", the phone call says. "I'm sorry but without a letter of authorization from the account signator authorizing the employee to pick up the item they were sent to pick up, written on company letterhead, dated the day of the attempted pickup, notarized and signed by the highest government official available on island that day, we cannot release what you need to your employee."

Where the heck does the bank intend to store all the paper they seem to want in order to back up each and every one of their transactions? I get it already! Accountability and fraud prevention, however, it's gotten to the point where nearly nothing of a financial nature can be done anymore. There seems to be a paranoia that says, "The customer is here to rip me off. That's all they're here to do and if I don't change the policy right now

they're going to walk away with the entire bank!!"

Here's the problem that has some bank managers whimpering in the darker corners of their offices. Some, and I must reiterate that word in bold italics, *some* customers are in fact there to do precisely that. They *are* there to rip off the bank or to rip off the employer they work for with fraudulent transactions and forged signatures.

Caution is required, and even demanded—Yes, Yes, Yes!

Paranoia however is an entirely different thing that makes us bank customers who are at the bank to handle everyday transactions feel like criminals even when all we are doing is trying to cash our paychecks.

As an example, a customer who has waited in the bank's never ending line with her paycheck in hand does in fact finally reach the end of that line despite her earlier misgivings. She has an account at the bank but when the insufferable line ends she is told, "I'm sorry, that check is written on an account held at the other bank on island. You need to deposit it. It will take three days to clear."

Trying to eliminate the three day delay the check holder then goes to the other bank, the one the check was written on, and is told at the end of another endless line that because she doesn't have an account at *that* bank she can't cash her paycheck.

That bank could quickly check the account balance of the account the check was written on to see if there is enough money there to honor the check but they don't. The "new" policy says that unless you have an account at the bank you can't cash a check there even if the check is from an account housed at their bank...well you could but not without paying a significant fee. It apparently costs FSM banks a good deal of money to have their employees punch an account number into their computer to see if there is enough money there to cover checks presented to them.

Actually the policy about who can cash checks in the "Banking Zone" is quite old now in the FSM and people have figured it out already. Even "banking zone" tellers don't need to resort to back room consultations before they say "no".

The customer, frustrated goes to a local store and cashes the check with absolutely no problem. She just has to buy a few things from the store that

she probably needs anyway. In return she receives not only the goods she bought but the balance of her paycheck in cash. The customer is happy for another weekend.

"If I can cash my payroll check at that store," she thinks, "I can cash any kind of a check there, right?" She tries out her theory and it works, wonder of wonders!

Eventually checks destined for the business where she works end up at the local store and the proceeds end up in her pocket, no checks no balances, no embarrassing back room consultations at the local bank—one quick scribble on the back of a check, no matter how illegible and she's good to go.

For whatever reason, the owner of the local store has absolutely no problem depositing the check and getting his money back into his own account even though the person who tried to cash the check at both of the two banks in the first place couldn't do it at all.

A criminal is born. Who are the parents—the banking zone?

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

**I hope that Rod Serling will forgive me for cribbing his lines even though he has long since gone to the "Twilight Zone" he created or perhaps a place even he with his incredible imagination couldn't have conjured.*

Letters to the Editor

More "Kudos" to Speaker Figir

Dear Editor,

Please allow me to express my voice on the news about Speaker Isaac Figir's recent action on the FSM Congress Financial Audit. Let me take my hat off and salute you, Mr. Speaker for such bold and justified move that you had done in our Congress. I really respect you and thank God for such leader as you are and I wish for all our other leaders in this nation to follow your footsteps of doing what is right and fair for

us, the taxpayers in this nation.

I will be praying for God's blessings and wisdom for you and our leaders in this nation who care about accountability and honesty in our government.

Kulo ma lulap,

Hibson Palik
Received from the KPress website at www.kpress.info



OLYMPIC DAY RUN
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Runs will be also held at the same time in Yap, Kosrae and Chuuk.

\$5.00 registration fee, with t-shirts to all finishers



Seen Any Good Movies Lately?



By *N.N. Isaac*
The Kaselehlie Press

Summer break is back and the young ones are home again, abusing the TV remote and eating everything in sight. Believing that summertime is a special opportunity for families to strengthen bonds and rekindle relationships, I absolutely insist that after the kids have done their household chores, read their summer books, plowed the field, planted the yams, harvested the crops, cut the grass, raked the yard, washed the dogs, fed the pigs, cleaned the fish, repainted the house, detailed your car, and got a healthy dose of physical activity, it's time for the whole family to sit down, share a big bucket of popcorn, M&M's, and rice crackers and enjoy a nice movie together.

The Forbidden Kingdom (2008)

"The Forbidden Kingdom" is a fantasy/adventure/comedy, guaranteed to entertain everyone in the family.

When a kung-fu obsessed teen finds a magical staff in a pawn shop in South Boston, he becomes involved in an epic adventure that takes him beyond his wildest dreams.

"Kingdom" marks the first collaboration between martial arts legends, Jet Li and Jackie Chan, who play the mischievous Monkey King and the drunken Lu Yan, respectively. Michael Angarano, (*Sky High* 2005) holds his own in the lead role of Jason Tripitikas.

"Kingdom" is directed by Rob Minkoff, who began his career as an animator for *The Little Mermaid* in 1989. He went on to direct more children's classics like *The Lion King* (1994), *Stuart Little* (2002), and *The Haunted Mansion* (2003). Written by John Fusco (*Hidalgo* 2004, *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron* 2002, and *Young Guns* 1988), "Kingdom" draws most of its characters from legendary figures in Chinese mythology and literature. Jackie Chan's character, Lu Yan, is a famous Taoist saint, and The Monkey King and Jason's last name "Tripitikas," are both derived from characters in one the great classical novels of Chinese literature, "Journey to the West."

One of the most impressive elements in "Kingdom" is Chan's portrayal of

the comedic drunken master, Lu Yan. Finally, I feel Chan's comedic skill is properly showcased in an English-speaking film. However, the real treasure in "Kingdom" is undoubtedly the phenomenal physical performances of Jet Li and Jackie Chan. Their jaw-dropping abilities complement each other so well, it's a wonder they haven't worked together before. One can only hope that somebody realizes the gold mine their sitting on and puts Jet and Jackie in more action-adventures together. Despite its ingenious casting, this movie does have its bad moments (beware of the Jade Warlord); but overall, "Kingdom's" clichés pale in comparison to the pleasure it ultimately brings.

If you liked movies like *Mortal Kombat* 1995, and *The Neverending Story* 1984, you will certainly enjoy this adventurous kung-fu experience. "The Forbidden Kingdom" is rated PG-13 for sequences of martial arts action and some violence.

P.S. I Love You (2007)

After losing the love of her life, Holly Kennedy seemed devastated beyond repair. All that changed when she received a mysterious gift on her 30th birthday.

In "P.S. I Love You," director Richard LaGravenese (*Freedom Writers* 2007) translates the best-selling novel by Cecilia Ahern onto film. LaGravenese sets his story in New York instead of Ireland as in the novel, yet he retains an Irish feel throughout the movie.

Hilary Swank stars as the broken-hearted Holly Kennedy. Putting aside his blood-dripping armor, Gerard Butler ("300" 2006) plays Holly's husband, Gerry. Kathy Bates, Lisa Kudrow, Gina Gershon, and Harry Connick Jr. add to the movie's star-power as the supporting cast.

If you're a sucker for sentimental movies, there is an 89% chance that you'll need an extra large handkerchief for this film. However, if you find that your emotional geyser isn't as forthcoming, and if you're easily put off by sappy lines and "googley" eyes, don't sweat it; you are not alone.

Personally, I found this romance/drama/comedy awkward, unbeliev-

able, and quite frankly, unbearable. Where it might've been charming and heartbreaking, I found it lacking any kind of depth and wholly disappointing. I blame it all on Ms. Swank and her inability to be engaging and convincing as the heartbroken heroine. Ill-suited for romantic comedies, Swank lacks charm and chemistry, even when acting alongside the dreamy 'King Leonidas', which only confirms that she's totally inept at this genre.

Unfortunately for me, "P.S. I Love You" felt more like "P.S. Please Shoot Me." However, I know a whole bunch of right-minded people who absolutely loved this movie and had tears streaming down their faces long after the credits stopped rolling.

If you can get past Hilary Swank's boyish features (no disrespect Miss

Swank), and awkward comedic charm, then by all means, enjoy this otherwise delightful film. On the other hand, if you're looking for a movie for your finicky attention span, then I'd opt for something else and save "P.S. I Love You" for a really, really, *really* rainy day.

This movie isn't quite suitable for the whole family, and is rated PG-13 for sexual references and brief nudity.

In honor of the special season, I'll leave you to ponder some very insightful words from one of the most acclaimed, award-winning movies of the 20th century: "school's out, its summertime, it's our vacation." (Hint for the un-hip: it's from *High School Musical*.) Enjoy the summer, and each other, and always remember to be kind, rewind, and look for these movies on DVD.

The Pohnpei Dental Clinic is now open to the general public.

FSM Health Insurance is accepted

The Pohnpei Dental Clinic is located on the ground floor of the Namiki Commercial Building.

For more information regarding our dental services please call (691) 320-4250



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Education On The 'Cutting Edge' (Ohwa Commencement Address)

By *Gary Gardell*

Greetings to you all this afternoon; graduates, parents, guests faculty and staff of Ohwa.

I have three things in this box with me today to help me say clearly what I believe God wants me to share with you. They represent what we at Ohwa Christian High School tried to teach.

First is this knife. We call this a machete where I come from but here on Pohnpei it is a knife. To some of the students this became a symbol of something disliked; cutting grass. To me it is a symbol of one of the parts of a full and satisfying life, work. Some people get the order of the Bible mixed up and think work is part of the curse. That is not correct. God gave the gift of work to Adam and Eve before they sinned and received the punishment for their wrong. Work is good. Only when we get out of balance in work is it bad. Too much work or too little work is bad. Work is good. The leadership of Ohwa knows this so work is part of the schedule each week for every

student. People who know how to work are employed to show you what it is to work well and with joy and satisfaction when finished.

You are now leaving Ohwa and you will be looking for something you can do that is your work. I would advise you to try many things. Make good use of all the opportunities that come to you whether it is more education in a classroom or education in life on a job. Paul tells Christians, first in the church at Corinth and to us today, "Do all to the glory of God." (I Cor.10:31) Solomon writes in Proverbs 22:29. "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings, he will not stand before poor men." Look for your work and do your best to honor God in your work.

The second thing I want to show you is this pen. Pens are cheap and easy to get today and the ability to write is common on Pohnpei. Learning to write well in another language is hard. You graduates all know that. How many times did you rewrite some of your papers for Mrs. G. before you got them correct enough to

get credit? The reason we made you work so hard at writing is because the FSM needs people who can write in English to survive as a nation in our modern world.

One thing that made the ancient Hebrews special was their ability to write. They valued education. They taught all their children to read so they could know and obey the law of God. They gave jobs to men who spent all their time studying and copying the Old Testament because they knew God had made them keepers of the law. The whole world has been helped by what they did as most societies base their laws on the Ten Commandments.

In every nation in which the Jews have lived, they have prospered in business and the professions. Why? They value education and the discipline it teaches.

To you graduates today I say, "Keep learning all your life!" Never stop learning or the world will pass you by and leave you behind. Behind in salary. Behind in your ability to make a real contribution to your home and nation.

Listen to what Paul, one of the most intelligent and educated men of his time, told Timothy. "Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman who is not ashamed." Whatever you find to do in life, always work to be better by learning more.

I think of my friend Engly who works for COM in the agriculture department. He has great gifts in growing things. He also has a masters degree in agriculture. He is always learning more about his area of work. When experienced farmers and pig growers have questions, they ask Engly. Don't throw away your pen today. Keep on learning all your life.

The last thing I want to show you today is a pair of glasses. Why glasses? No, I am not suggesting you all go out and buy glasses because you don't need them. If you do need them, what can glasses do for you? They allow you to see clearly. Our world is a very complicated, cloudy place. It is hard to clearly see what is going on. Ohwa did not give you glasses but hopefully it did help you to see the world more clearly in two ways.

First, I hope we let you see beyond

your home a bit by reading books and magazines from other places, by going to the COM library, the FSM Supreme Court and even up on Sokehs mountain. Ohwa is privileged to have many guests from around the world and this also helped you to learn about other places on the planet.

All these opportunities help you to learn about the big beautiful world that God placed us in. Wherever you grow up, part of education is learning just how much is available to see and do beyond the place where we are raised. It was the same for me in the US. It is the same for the young person growing up in London or any other great city of the world. There is so much for us to learn from other people and other places.

Second, I hope that you have learned to see the world from God's perspective while at Ohwa. It is impossible to understand the truth in the world unless you look through the lens of God's truth. The part of the universe we cannot see is greater than that which we can. We cannot see words, yet it is through words and the Word of God that faith is born and we gain the gift of eternal life.

The greatest thing any student could learn at Ohwa is what a great Savior Jesus Christ is to each person who asks him for the gift of salvation. Living your life as a follower of Christ will allow you to see the world the way God does.

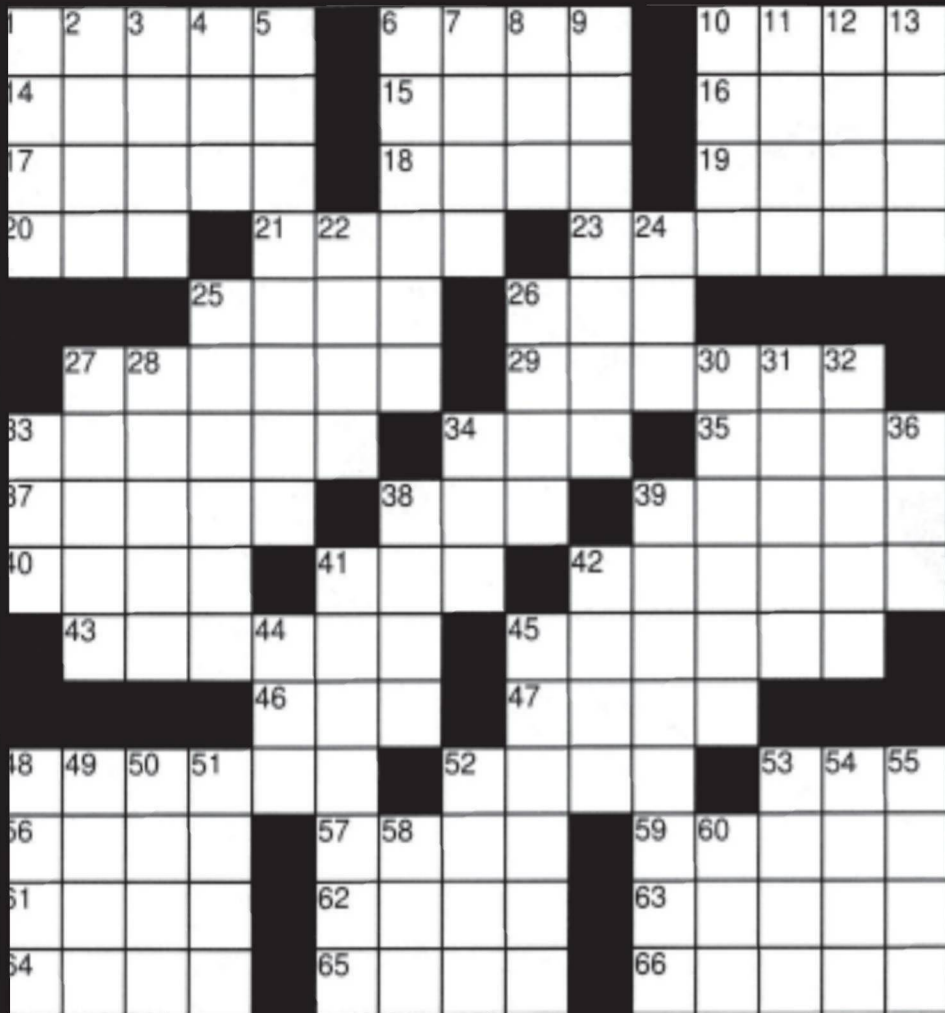
When the disciples saw a blind man they said to Jesus, "Who sinned? This man or his parents?" Jesus told them, "Neither; but this man was born blind that the work of God might be displayed in his life." A little boy offered his lunch to feed a huge crowd and the disciples looked at it and said, "It's not enough!" A little later they were tired of carrying all the leftovers back to Jesus. Look at the world through the lens of faith in God. It is His world. Who knows better what the truth is? Certainly not any man!

Young men of Ohwa. Find meaning in your work as you do it with all your might to the glory of God. Always keep learning for it is one of the great satisfactions in life. Ask God to help you see the world through His eyes and you will find understanding and meaning in all things. Keep in step with the Spirit and God will prosper you.

Astronomical Tide Prediction June 11 - 24, 2008

	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	11 Wed 02:42AM 2.1 08:39AM 2.9 03:47PM 1.3 10:53PM 2.9	18 Wed 02:47AM 4.1 09:56AM 0.7 03:25PM 2.2 08:22PM 1.1	11 Wed 04:04AM 1.5 03:08PM 0.5	18 Wed 01:47AM 2.2 10:45AM -0.1
Thursday	12 Thu 04:49AM 2.1 09:58AM 2.6 04:37PM 1.4 11:50PM 3.1	19 Thu 03:17AM 4.2 10:25AM 0.6 03:59PM 2.2 08:56PM 1.1	12 Thu 02:48AM 1.4 01:36PM 0.5	19 Thu 02:17AM 2.3 10:59AM -0.1
Friday	13 Fri 06:31AM 1.9 11:23AM 2.4 05:22PM 1.4	20 Fri 03:48AM 4.3 10:55AM 0.6 04:33PM 2.3 09:30PM 1.1	13 Fri 01:09AM 1.5 11:53AM 0.4	20 Fri 02:46AM 2.4 11:19AM -0.1
Saturday	14 Sat 12:35AM 3.4 07:35AM 1.6 12:34PM 2.3 06:02PM 1.4	21 Sat 04:20AM 4.3 11:25AM 0.6 05:07PM 2.4 10:06PM 1.2	14 Sat 12:37AM 1.7 11:16AM 0.3	21 Sat 03:16AM 2.4 11:42AM -0.1 04:34PM 0.2 06:37PM 0.1
Sunday	15 Sun 01:12AM 3.6 08:19AM 1.3 01:28PM 2.2 06:39PM 1.3	22 Sun 04:52AM 4.2 11:56AM 0.6 05:43PM 2.4 10:44PM 1.3	15 Sun 12:39AM 1.9 10:57AM 0.1	22 Sun 03:44AM 2.3 12:07PM 0.0
Monday	16 Mon 01:45AM 3.8 08:55AM 1.1 02:12PM 2.2 07:14PM 1.2	23 Mon 05:26AM 4.0 12:28PM 0.7 06:23PM 2.5 11:27PM 1.4	16 Mon 12:56AM 2.0 10:44AM 0.0	23 Mon 04:11AM 2.2 12:32PM 0.0
Tuesday	17 Tue 02:16AM 4.0 09:26AM 0.9 02:49PM 2.2 07:48PM 1.1	24 Tue 06:02AM 3.8 01:03PM 0.9 07:08PM 2.6	17 Tue 01:20AM 2.1 10:40AM -0.1	24 Tue 04:35AM 2.0 12:54PM 0.1

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



FUSS AND BOTHER

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Despise	1. Pale
6. Xmas tale starter	2. Sad color?
10. Netizen's room	3. It's meant to be blown
14. Sledding site	4. Pick
15. "Ticket to ____"	5. One who lives there
16. Company picture	6. Land parcels
17. Injures	7. Accompanying
18. Not an easy thing to split	8. Fuss and bother
19. Help, like a henchman	9. Work class
20. Money for miso	10. Part of an Auel title
21. Another meaning for 20	11. Tramp
23. Pay no attention to	12. Time or stress
25. Go for a dash?	13. Kind of bag
26. ____ day now...	22. Ceramic piece
27. Picture dots	24. Cheat
29. Occur	25. Is
33. Dog	26. Cries of surprise
34. Bump	27. Like some driveways
35. Put down	28. Simply ridiculous
37. Stop at sea	30. Grippy puller
38. "As I ____ saying..."	31. Roof rims
39. Half of a sawbuck	32. Sibling's daughter
40. You might pitch one	33. It may need belling
41. Not many	34. Not the J in TMJ, but a good guess
42. Like sheep	36. Arid
43. Lust	38. Show remorse
45. Rough	39. Rupert's roomie
46. Swimming segment	41. "____, thy name is woman"
47. Circus performances	42. Things to look at
48. Tokyo theater	44. Kind
52. Cut hair	45. Hold lovingly
53. Industry	48. Seaweed
56. The Gay '90s and others	49. Melody
57. Old harp	50. "I'm with the ____"
59. Domicile	51. Capitalizes on
61. "What's your sign?", e.g.	52. <i>Star</i> ____
62. Golf gadgets	53. Rude dude
63. Workshop items	54. Not busy
64. Increases, like a bill	55. Gusto
65. Tibetan beasts	58. Senate vote
66. Wading bird	60. Swamp

K-Press Puzzle Pleasure

Leading Letters

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

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SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

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Experienced in Immigration Law

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The
KASELEHLIE Press

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Managing Editor

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Announcing the Pohnpei Little League Baseball Program of Summer 2008

This League will begin play on 30 June and continue until Liberation Day.

League is open to boys and girls who will be at least 9 years old, and no older than 12 years old, on 30 June 2008. Copies of birth certificates will be required for all players.

Teams Rosters are limited to 20 players. Team Registration Fee is \$50.00. Team Registration, including Roster, Birth Certificates, and Fee, must be submitted to the FSM-National Olympic Committee office in Kolonia by 5:00pm on Friday, 20 June 2008.

Mandatory Team Coach/Manager meeting at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 24 June 2008, at the FSM-National Olympic Committee. Lunch will be provided.

Registration forms are available at the FSM-National Olympic Committee office. The Little League Organizing Committee meets every Thursday, 10:00am at the FSM-National Olympic Committee office in Kolonia. All interested persons are welcome. Scorekeepers and other league support personnel are needed. Training will be provided.

Please call 320-8914 for additional information.

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The Rotary Club of Pohnpei wishes to announce that applications are available for the annual Rotary Club scholarships for the 2008-2009 school year. The Rotary Club awards up to \$1,000.00 per scholarship recipient, with at least two winners to be named. Last school year, \$5,000.00 in scholarships were awarded. The scholarship is for FSM citizens who will attend a college or university in school year 2008-2009. The scholarship judges review the applications for merit, activities, community involvement and need.

For those of you who are interested, the scholarship applications are available from any Rotary Club member, or by e-mail from finnen@mail.fm. The deadline for filing completed applications is July 1, 2008. Good luck to all scholars.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press

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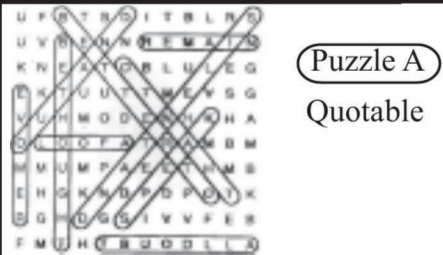
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The deadline for Ads, News Items,
or Letters to the Editor for the next issue
is June 20, 2008

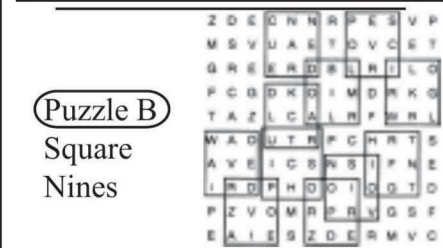
K-Press Puzzle Pleasure

LAST Issue's Solution

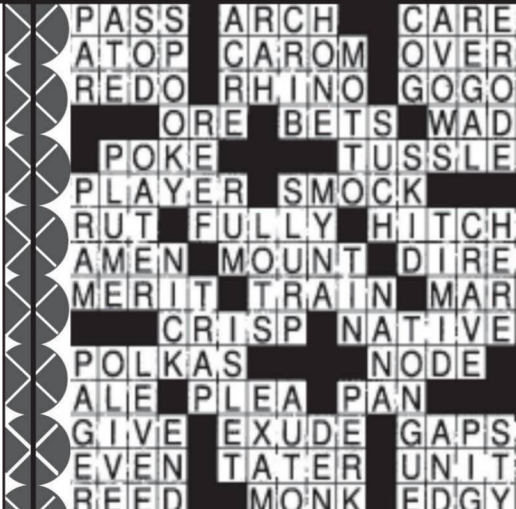
LAST Issue's Solution
I Hated This Movie



Puzzle A
Quotable



Puzzle B
Square
Nines



Island Food Community of Kosrae Plans To Go Local “... One Day A Week, Then Three And Four And More”

By **Dr. Lois Englberger**
Pohnpei Island Food Community

How exciting for island foods! An enthusiastic inter-agency group, the Island Food Community of Kosrae, assisted by Director Steven George, Kosrae Director of the Department of Resources and Economic Affairs, and Bell Tosie, Administrator of the Kosrae Office of Community Affairs, plans to team up with the Island Food Community of Pohnpei and aim for growing and using more local foods.

Kosrae State Governor Robert Weilbacher fully supports this group and gave the opening remarks at a strategy planning workshop, held in Tofol, May 27-28, 2008, at the Kosrae Administration Training Center. Over 30 participants attended, including representatives from youth, women, farmers, senior citizens, and health, education, and agriculture agencies.

The workshop followed several planning sessions in which the following officers of IFC-K were elected: Chairman, Carston Talley; Vice-Chairman, Brian Rogers; and Secretary, Cecilia Sigrah.

Enthusiasm was great as shown during the participant introductions and their expressions of expectations of the workshop. Several indicated their interest to learn more about local foods and the Pohnpei experience promoting local foods. One person pointed out her hope that more people help out in this campaign and one person had everyone laughing...he pointed out that rice is easy to fix, but he really likes eating local!

Another participant explained how he has lost 70 pounds since February of this

year, through dietary and lifestyle changes, including taking rice out of his diet and exercising more. Not only does he feel better, he said, but his family is saving money!

Dr. Lois Englberger gave a presentation on the “*Pohnpei Experience*” relating to local food promotion, as Director George requested. She explained how Pohnpei has been using slogans in the local food campaign, including “**Let’s go local**” and she explained the “**CHEEF**” benefits of local foods (Culture, Health, Education, Environment, and Food security).

She explained about the analysis of local varieties of banana and giant swamp taro, including many from Kosrae. This work has shown how the yellow-fleshed varieties are rich in provitamin A carotenoids, with important health benefits. This led to the “**Going Yellow**” film, posters, pens, and even yellow **Let’s Go Local** t-shirts. She explained how bananas provide a mood-enhancer and how this has led to the new slogan “**Eat a banana...be happy**”!

Kosrae participants then suggested a new slogan, —“**Go local ...one day a week and then three and four and more!!**” referring to families eating local food at least one day...and then more.

Later the participants broke up into three working groups to prepare goals, objectives and activities for the three areas of focus: *awareness, conservation, and small-scale food processing.*

Special thanks are extended to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Forest and Trees Program for providing funding support for the workshop.



Participants including Governor Weilbacher of Kosrae (center) smile enthusiastically at the Island Food Community - Kosrae workshop held in Tofol on May 27, 2008




Participants in the Annual STAP (Samahang Tagalo Atbp. Sa Ponape) Fun Run/Walk, held May 24, 2008, starting at Palm Terrace Shopping Center; show their enthusiasm here for Pohnpei Bananas, as contributed by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei! Participants wave bunches and hands of the yellow-fleshed Akadahm Weitahta. Young runners/walkers show a tray holding cut slices of Karat, the State Banana of Pohnpei, and of Utin Iap. IFCP has been partnering with the FSM National Olympic Committee and contributing bananas and drinking coconuts at the fun runs/walks in order to promote these local foods as healthy and delicious snacks and drinks.


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