

Japan and FSM celebrate Japan week with ribbon cuttings and other celebrations



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 18, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—This week the Embassy of Japan to the FSM celebrated Japan week in the FSM with a variety of events including two celebrations of recently completed projects in Pohnpei that were funded by the government of Japan. The week culminated with the 5th Japan Festival held this year for the second time at the Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School gymnasium that the Japanese government provided the funds to build.

See "Japan Week" on page 8

Pohnpei Chief Justice under legislative scrutiny for possible impeachment

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei—On February 6, Pohnpei's Attorney General (AG) sent a letter to the Pohnpei State Legislature recommending that body to consider a resolution to present articles of impeachment against the Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court. The letter was 28 pages long and also included approximately 200 pages of attached exhibits.

The matter was assigned to the Standing Committee on Judicial and Government Operations chaired by Senator Peter Lohn. The committee met on the matter on February 15 and

another meeting was scheduled for February 24. Senator Lohn did not return our phone calls about the proceedings.

The letter says that annual reports submitted by the court to the Legislature "falsely overstated revenue collections when compared with receipts for the reporting period indicating intentional manipulation of the records and artificial inflation of collections by the Supreme Court." It says that the Chief Justice has never responded to the management advisory and Compliance Investigation Report detailing over \$123,000 of missing revenue.

The letter also detailed alleged incidences when Chief Justice Rodriguez

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Pohnpei opens new VIP room at airport-hospitality is the focus

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 13, 2017

Pohnpei—This morning, dignitaries, including FSM President Peter Christian formally cut the ribbon on a newly refurbished VIP room at the Pohnpei International Airport under the administration of the Pohnpei Port Authority.

Rohsa Kitti Willy Hawley spoke saying that

the VIP room would be “second to none” anywhere. Lt. Governor Reed Oliver also spoke saying that it was not only important that Pohnpei put its best foot forward when representing itself to traveling dignitaries but that its heart should also be clean.

President Christian agreed with the words of the previous speakers. He said that when he was young he always wondered why his mother would make the children clean up the house when she knew that

visitors would be coming. He said that he doesn’t wonder anymore. He knows how important it is to treat visitors well.

Though the new VIP room won’t be seen by most people in Pohnpei, it will serve Pohnpei’s interests in terms of hospitality, an important commodity, the speakers intimated.

Chief of Staff Leo Falcam, Lt. Governor Oliver, Rohsa Kitti Willy Hawley, and President Christian cut the ribbon before

the small number of gathered guests entered the new VIP room that was replete with marble type floor tiles, varnished brick work, magnificent furnishings, and a bar.

Sitting back in the comfortable chairs and couches, President Christian said that he wasn’t completely satisfied yet because the furniture seemed so foreign.

The cost for the project was \$96,208.12. The contractor who did the complete renovation was ARM Maintenance & Repair. The funding was provided by the FSM National Government through the President’s office.



MCT makes the first funds transfer from Palau’s MC Endowment Fund to the Palau PAN Fund

On January 31, 2017, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) Board approved a resolution instructing its Investment Advisor, Raymond James, to disburse \$435,362 to the Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN) Fund (www.palaupanfund.org). The Palau PAN Fund, per the agreement with MCT, will use the fund exclusively for (a) implementation of PAN protected areas management, sustainable development and work plans

for PAN sites based on performance, impact/outcome and appropriate management costs for the continuing sustainable operation of the PAN Fund; (b) the undertaking of necessary research and educational activities substantially related to carrying out the purposes of RPPL No. 7-42; and (c) the performance of any of the functions that are necessary in order to carry out the purpose of RPPL 7-42 including the operation of the PAN

Office. The amount withdrawn is based on a formula agreed to between the donors and the owners of the endowment in an Investment Policy Guidelines on the Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund (www.micronesiachallenge.org) and is designed to ensure the value of the Fund is maintained in perpetuity.

In 2006, MCT was selected by the Chief Executives of Micronesia to serve as

the Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund financing mechanism and has been managing the MC Endowment Fund since its inception in 2008. The fund was initiated with a \$1,000,000 grant from The Nature Conservancy and a \$500,000 contribution from the Palau Government. Subsequently the Palau Government, through their Palau PAN Fund, and the

See “MCT Fund Transfer” on page 10



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Pohnpei SDA teams shine in Lincoln Nebraska Tournament

By Eugene Pangelinan
Lincoln, Nebraska

Arriving in the wee morning hours on Sunday morning from Littleton, Colorado on a Amtrak Train, the Pohnpei SDA mens and women basketball teams were met by Union College staff to welcome them and transport them to their accommodations at Union College. Pohnpei's SDA basketball teams could not imagine what was waiting for them over the course of eight days which included five days of basketball competition with among some of the top SDA schools from near and far. By all means, no team beat the distance the Pohnpei team had to travel to get to Lincoln Nebraska (6,690 miles according to Google) via United Airlines, Amtrak and Union College vans).

Accompanying the teams were Mens Basketball coach Miss. Michaela Garcia, Caleb Haakenson and Mr. Ryan Yamada. Pohnpei's mens teams pictured below included Danny Fredrick, Shelten Neth Jr., Brian O'keef Jr., XX Musrasrik, XXX Jano, XX Navarossa, XX Yamada, XX Perman and XX Esiel.

The women's basketball team included Jeanette Yamada, Danielle Edward, Britannia San Nicolas, Gracelynn Pangelinan, Sunshine Palik, Blossom Perman, and XX Mathias. The Pohnpei SDA's women had the fewest players

making them very vulnerable with only two substitutions which eventually proved a challenge for the team to keep up with the fast paste events.

After four days of intense basketball completion, both teams played well and represented Pohnpei very proudly. Unfortunately both teams were eliminated but not easily providing stiff competition during their final games before elimination. Despite only a few supporters from Pohnpei residing in Lincoln and from some Pohnpeian residents from nearby areas and far travelled also to participate and support the Pohnpei teams throughout the events. At the end, Pohnpei SDA mens team won 3 of five games and Pohnpei womens team didn't win any games. More importantly, the women's team proved themselves when it came to the final's elimination game in which they played the Ozarks. Despite lacking enough players throughout the tournament, the girls played their hearts out and gave it all their best down to the last second but came up short. Their perseverance and competitiveness was vastly appreciated by the local residents commenting the Pohnpei team displayed the strongest team spirit and were adored by many. During the congratulatory shakes, one Ozark player commented "that no team wanted to be the one to beat the Pohnpei

team because they just so deserved to place better but it was recognized that they only had seven players compared to 15 players on all the other teams. They

were definitely the best team!"

The rest is history and only pictures can speak a thousand words.



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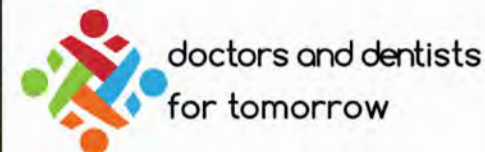
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WILL BE RELEASED ON:
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**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is the end
of working hours on:
Wednesday March 8, 2017**



The Doctors and Dentists for Tomorrow (DDFT) program is a two-and-a-half-year program to prepare high-performing students from the four states of the FSM to be competitive for entry into regional medical and dental schools, as well as prepare for success in upper-level baccalaureate pre-medical and pre-dental programs at other Pacific Rim institutions of higher learning.

For more information contact:

Doctors and Dentists for Tomorrow (DDFT) at 691.320.2480 x302 or by email ddft@comfsm.fm



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College of Micronesia-FSM is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

President's Message

Dear Colleagues and Fellow Members of the COM-FSM Community,

Thank you for all of your work, effort, and dedication in service to the students we serve. Each of us plays an important role in the successful implementation of the mission of COM-FSM. Together, let us look forward to the challenges and opportunities we will continue to face. Given how well we have all come together, how well we communicate with each other, and our shared purpose to secure the future for COM-FSM and our students, we can only grow stronger.

Please be informed the cabinet, at its February 3, 2017, meeting approved a request to retitle the Institutional Research and Planning Office (IRPO) to Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) to reflect the evolution of accreditation standards, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) increased levels of institutional accountability for performance, expectations for the office, and to better align with the mission of the Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance (IEQA) department. Additionally, the director position has been retitled the director of institutional effectiveness.

On February 22, 2017, there will be an All Campus Meeting held at MITC from 1-2PM. The Doctors and Dentists for Tomorrow (DDFT) faculty and students will present on problem based learning from the faculty

viewpoint and the student viewpoint. VPIA will also present an opportunity for National Campus faculty to apply to participate in training on problem based learning with incentives up to \$2,300 for training and implementation. National Campus faculty must attend the All Campus meeting on the DDFT program to be eligible for the opportunity to participate in the training.

Additionally, the VPIA will submit Technical Assistance Grant for \$209,580.00 to the U.S. Department of Interior to expand use of the problem-based learning (PBL) strategy from the Doctors and Dentists for Tomorrow for use in other courses across the college. The grant proposes to provide workshops for faculty to change one course syllabus to utilize PBL pedagogy and open education resources. The same participants will implement that course the next semester. The following year a new group of faculty will change one course syllabus and the experienced faculty will become mentors for the new group.

Please regularly review the college's website, read the newsfeeds, and attend All Campus meetings As important information is shared and topics discussed. All Campus meetings provide yet another opportunity to remain well informed.

Please join us on February 24, 2017, between 1-3 PM at the practice gym located in the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center. We will celebrate the reopening of the practice gym, completion of the new practice gym floor, and acknowledge the generosity of

the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for providing the necessary funding. Following the ceremony the Embassy will also provide information about the Full Ride Scholarship to Study in China at 1-3 PM at the practice gym located in the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center.

Below is the schedule for the Forum Lectures through March. All will take place from 1-2 PM at MITC.

- Wednesday, March 1st: Helen Alderson, a PhD candidate at Cambridge University, who has been conducting research in Kittu, will speak about her research project focused on the cultural history of the Pacific Islands.
- Wednesday, March 8th: Boxing Coach Erick Divinagracia will speak about the 2016 Olympics in Rio, where he accompanied Yapese Boxer Jennifer Chieng.
- Friday, March 17th: Micronesia Poet Emelihter Kihleng will speak about her journey to becoming one of the first widely published poets from the FSM.
- On March 8, 2017, the Board of Regents will meet in the New Zealand Room located at the LRC. The electronic board book will be posted on the college's website in advance of the meeting.

It is a privilege for me to serve you as president.

SUMMER 2017

Early registration for Summer 2017 at all COM-FSM campuses for new, continuing, and returning students is March 20-24, 2017

For more information contact: Office of Admissions, Records and Retention (OARR) Building G – Administration, COM-FSM National Campus, Palikir, Pohnpei

or call (691) 320-2480 extensions 150, 136, 171 or 172

2017 Pohnpei Scripps Spelling Bee

It is Awak Elementary School Again!!! "SUPEREROGATION" is one of this year's spelling word that best describes AWAK SCHOOL. CONGRATULATIONS MS. ALIYAH SHAE DONRE 8th grader as the 2017 Pohnpei Scripps Spelling Bee Champion.

The Talent Search Program at the College of Micronesia -FSM, Pohnpei Campus organizes the Bee every year with great support and partnership from the Rotary Club of Pohnpei, United Airlines, and the Pohnpei DOE. We are proud to announce the result of this year's Bee. The following four students will be advancing to the REGIONAL BEE in Guam to compete against students from Guam, Saipan, and Palau on March 04, 2017. Congratulations again and Good Luck.



...Articles of Impeachment

Continued from front page

received Pohnpei State Government funds for travel that had also been paid for by other outside sources. As one example, the letter says that Chief Justice Rodriguez was medically referred to the Philippines from April 5, 2011 through April 20, 2011 and was accompanied by his spouse. He was not on official travel, "however, he received per diem for 14 days for \$2,142 and his wife's travel was fully funded by the (State) government." It claims that the medical referral was covered by MiCare and additionally inappropriately covered by the State through per diems.

The letter listed several "possible" criminal offenses that may or may not have been involved in the payments for that travel. "Throughout this report," the letter says, "the word 'possible' means that which exists but the allegation is not certain or proved and the allegation is not a legal conclusion."

It alleges that in 2011 a State government check was used to pay a personal medical bill at Genesis.

The letter provided documentation to support allegations that during several trips for Pacific Islands Education Programs, the US government paid for travel and per diems for Mr. Rodriguez to attend but that he also collected stipends or per diems from Pohnpei State government during those travels.

The letter also provided documentation to support allegations that on travels for training sessions financially supported by the Pacific Judicial Council, the Chief Justice also collected payments from Pohnpei State for official travel.

In each provided instance of alleged "double dipping" for travels, the Attorney General wrote that the list was not exhaustive but representative.

The AG's letter also noted that the auditor's investigation found that the

Supreme Court has a checking account at the Bank of Guam. Financial activities taking place in that checking account were not reported in the Supreme Court's Annual Reports to the Legislature and may have allowed for financial transactions to have taken place "beyond the scrutiny of the Director, Department of Treasury and Administration and outside the overview of the Legislature."

It also says that the Chief Justice is the person responsible for the administration of the Court and the proper administration of funds but allegedly, over \$123,000 of collections went missing and 1400 receipts were not accounted for.

The AG's letter also listed 15 example private party cases that have seen little of no action by the court for several years. Some involve the Pohnpei State Government as a party. One of the cases listed was originally filed twelve years ago.

"Justice delayed is justice denied", the letter to the legislature suggested.

"The information contained in this referral letter, with attachments, is transmitted to the Legislature without making any legal conclusion or judgment," the letter said. "All questions and issues presented for consideration by the Legislature must be considered only as allegations referred to the Legislature for its deliberation and decision. All references to infractions, violations, offenses and crimes are stated as "possible" infractions, violations, offenses and crimes and are not the legal opinion of the author of this letter and are not submitted as legal conclusions or judgments. Some,



but not all of the documents in the possession of the Public Auditor and Office of Attorney General are attached. All of the reports and documents garnered in this matter are available for inspection. Some inquiries made by the Office of Attorney General have not been responded to by third parties and additional relevant information and documents may become available in the future," it concluded.

At press time, no representative of the legislature had provided feedback as to when a J&GO committee report on the letter might be presented to the full body of the legislature.

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Court denies Young Sun's motion to dismiss Restraining Order on Sea Cucumber harvest

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 17, 2017

FSM—The FSM Supreme Court today issued a ruling denying Young Sun's International Trading Company's motion to dismiss the "Sea Cucumber" case. The case has been bogged down in preliminary matters including several "motions to dismiss" since it first began to be heard last year but the court has now ordered that the parties move toward discovery, deadlines to submit pre-trial motions and oppositions, and three proposed dates for hearing on pre-trial motions and trial. The Court said it is making a concerted effort to move the matter forward.

The court had previously granted in part and denied in part, a Young Sun motion to dismiss but said in a footnote to the ruling that it was favorably disposed towards hearing a second motion to dismiss "out of cautionary respect for the fact that 'whenever it appear by suggestion of the parties or otherwise that the court lacks jurisdiction of the subject matter, the court shall dismiss the action'." Young Sun had brought new evidence to the court's attention in its second motion so it agreed to hear the motion which it denied in its ruling today.

The court denied Young Sun's motion that the Mwoalen Wahu's opposition to its motion to dismiss was filed late and therefore was invalid. It cited multiple discrepancies between oral testimony and hand written documents about when the certificate of service was delivered to the Mwoalen Wahu. Poor penmanship made the date on the hand written date on the document nearly illegible. Regardless, the court ruled that the Mwoalen Wahu had responded in time.

Young Sun's main argument centered on the existence of the Mwoalen Wahu based on a letter written by Nahnwarki of Sokehs Herculano Kohler to Pohnpei Governor on April 8 saying that the Mwoalen Wahu had disbanded. That date was prior to the date of the filing of the law suit and Young Sun argued that since the organization no longer existed after that date, it did not have standing to file the civil action to stop the planned sea cucumber harvest.

The Mwoalen Wahu argued that the issue of whether or not the individual traditional

leaders had legal standing to file the civil action was dealt with specifically in the court's previous decision. "It further argued that where Mwoalen Wahu exists is a settled issue and a letter from one traditional leader stating that several kingdoms are withdrawing from the organization does not definitively mean that the organization is dissolved."

After weighing the evidence, the court said that it is clear that the group remains in existence today, in line with its previous finding in it September 28, 2016 order. "Additionally, although less clear, the court sustains its finding that the Iso Nahnken of Nett, Salvador Iriarte has the apparent authority to bring the suit on behalf of the Mwoalen Wahu."

The court said that if the letter from the Nahnwarki of Sokehs claiming that the Mwoalenwahu had been disbanded, had been signed also by the Nahnwarkis of the other kingdoms of Pohnpei that would have constituted definitive proof that the organization no longer exists. Instead that letter had only HM Herculano Kohler's signature.

The court also said that its opinion was bolstered by the fact that the court had issued and served on several Nahnwarkis and order that invited them to comment on Iso Nahnken of Nett's representation of Mwoalen Wahu or otherwise intervene in the matter. With the exception of the Nahnwarki of Sokehs, no action was undertaken to refute the existence of Mwoalen Wahu or Iso Nahnken's authority to represent it. "The court's reasoning that Mwoalen Wahu remains in existence today is also confirmed by the attendance lists, agendas, and financial records submitted by Mwoalen Wahu and admitted into evidence by the court during the hearing," the ruling said. "These records indicate that meetings have been held by and stipends paid for by the state of Pohnpei to member of the Mwoalen Wahu on no less than five occasions since April 8, 2016. The proposed sea cucumber harvest was on the agenda for at least one of these meetings."

"Although there is a dispute as to whether these meetings actually took place or whether the attendance list is merely those from the group who showed up to collect their stipend without actually holding a meeting, the distinction is

See "Sea Cucumber" on page 11



INVITATION TO QUOTE FOR THE PROVISION OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

CONTRACT REFERENCE: FSM2

PROVISION OF BEACH MANHOLE AND FRONTHAUL CABLE DUCTING FACILITIES FOR FSM (YAP & CHUUK)

1. Federated States of Micronesia ("FSM") has received a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the FSM Connectivity (Submarine Cable) Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract described below.
2. As part of the above project, Federated States of Micronesia is now implementing two submarine cable systems as follows:
 - a. Yap – Guam Cable System, and
 - b. Chuuk – Pohnpei Cable System

Both these cable systems require Beach ManHoles and Fronthaul Duct facilities installed.

3. FSM is now seeking offers from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to supply these facilities to be installed and ready for use as follows:
 - a. Yap: 30 June 2017
 - b. Chuuk: 15 July 2017
4. Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the World Bank Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders should request an the Invitation To Quote no later than 3 March 2017 from the following email address:

FSM's Technical Project Manager:
Gerald Tourgee
gtourgee@TourgeeConsulting.com

Copy communications to:
FSM's Project Coordinator
Aaron Warren
alw.fsm@gmail.com

6. Quotations in English must be delivered to the address below at or before 11.am, Friday, 10 March 2017 local time Pohnpei. Late quotations will be rejected. Quotations may be submitted by email, courier or delivered by hand to the address below.

Email Submissions are preferred:

For bid submission email to Gerald Tourgee at gtourgee@TourgeeConsulting.com
Copy communications to Aaron Warren at alw.fsm@gmail.com

For post or hand delivered submissions:

FSM's Technical Project Manager:
Gerald Tourgee
Tourgee Consulting LLC
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Cambridge, MA 02139 USA

For further information, please contact:

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...Japan Week

Continued from front page



On Thursday, February 16, Ambassador Ryoiche Horie joined college and government officials for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the College of Micronesia. The grass has grown in on the soccer field that the Japanese government funded during the 8th Micro Games in Pohnpei in 2014 and it is now ready for use. The project for prevention of non-communicable diseases provided \$120,569 for the development of the field under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects. The field will be open to local residents for sporting purposes.

After the ribbon cutting, an exhibition soccer match was held. Ambassador Horie kicked out the ceremonial first ball.

That evening, began a two day run of Japanese movies at the Pohnpei Center Cinemas that were very well attended.

On Friday, February 17, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for a new preschool building for the United Church of Christ, also funded under the Grant Assistance Grassroots Human Security Projects funded by the Japanese government. "The objectives of the project are to promote children's welfare and to improve the environment for early childhood education through expansion of a preschool building," a Japanese spokesperson said.

In his address, Ambassador Horie

Local food flour milling machine & DHOPE Workshop

By: *Monalisa Tara, IFCP*

A beautiful morning on January 19, 2017 brought men and women from all the municipalities, except Nett and U. These representatives from each municipal office came to Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) in the Botanical garden in Pwunso to learn more about the local food crops manual milling machines soon to be owned by each municipality. Also presented, discussed and explained by the Acting Executive Director of IFCP, Emihner Johnson was the project DHOPE (Decentralized Hands-On Program Exhibit of One Village One Product).

Workshop participants included the following reps: Representatives from Uh, Madolenihmw, Kolonia, Sokehs, Kitti and Mwoakilloa.

After workshop presentation, a demonstration on how to use the local food crops manual milling machine was given by Mona Tara, Office Manager - IFCP. Each representative of the municipalities in attendance concluded that the equipment will be placed in the municipal office so everyone, including

men, women, children can be accessed to it and be able to use it for processing of healthier local food, this statement made, echoing IFCP's campaign and main purpose of the milling machine.

After demonstration, each representative was responsible to take the milling machine back to the respective municipal office.

For further information on how you can access these milling machines, please contact the municipal office in the municipality in which you are living.

Further appreciation and thanks are given to the US Department of Interior, Senator At-Large David Panuelo of Pohnpei, Pohnpei State Government – Department of Health and Social Affairs, Bill Raynor's Estate and late Dr. Lois Englberger for funding support.

emphasized Japan's support of the people of the FSM and expressed "his delight" at the completion of the new and impressive building. He said that he hoped that the children who will support the FSM's future would grow up well in the new building.

According to a press release, FSM founding father, the Reverend Bethwel Henry and Samson Pretrick, Deputy Secretary of the FSM's Department of Foreign Affairs also spoke saying that they both thought the new project would "enhance the education and the bright future for the preschool students.

The building was built by ABCOR construction for a cost of \$176,277.

Beginning at 12:30 on Saturday afternoon, the Japan Week celebration culminated with the Japan Festival at OLMCHS gym in Kolonia.

Mika Okamura and Mio Kamiyanagi served as masters of ceremonies for what turned out to be yet another stellar program put on by the Japanese Embassy for Japan week.

It began with students of Pohnpei Catholic School performing Taiso exercise which they do every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings on their campus. On the sideline, Ambassador Horie and other Japan residents of Japan joined the students

in their exercise routine.

Kosrae citizens residing in Pohnpei sang a song students in Kosrae had written in the Japanese language translated roughly as "never give up". They also performed traditional Kosraen songs and dances and demonstrations of traditional chants that they believe helped them to lift the heavy loads required for what is now the Lelu ruins, similar to the Nan Madol World Heritage site.

Nett Elementary School followed with a stunning rendition of a Japanese song "Until the World is One" featuring tear jerking vocal performances by the students along with recorder, melodica, and hand bells. I personally had a hard time holding back tears during their performance, it was so amazing.

Their performance was followed by a thrilling performance by students of Kolonia Elementary School. They performed a dramatic skit followed by an acrobatic dance performance.

After the performance closed, booths were opened where those present could play with traditional Japanese toys, learn to do origami (Japanese paper folding), take photos in traditional Japanese dress, or have their names or other words written in Japanese calligraphy.

Nett Municipal government local food flour mill workshop and DEHOPE concept

BY: *Mrs. Neilynn L. Walter*

On January 20, 2017 at 10:00am Island Food Community of Pohnpei delivered the flour milling machine to Nett Municipal Government. We were welcomed by the Nett District Administrator, The Honorable Peteriko Hairens, staffs and the participants from all around Nett Municipality. Introduction of the flour mill was conducted and the D-HOPE concept was introduced by IFCP (Island Foods Community of Pohnpei), Acting Executive Director, Emihner Johnson. Demonstration on how to dry breadfruit and taro to be able to be milled into flour was conducted by Ms. Neilynn Walter, IFCP Outreach Assistant. Participants took turns in milling the samples of dried taro chips into flour and showed us how they are very interested in the milling machine.

Also presented were the MODFAT (MICRONESIA ONE DIET FITS ALL TODAY). It was presented to all 30 participants who attended the workshop. IFCP is very proud of all these achievements.

They asked a lot of questions concerning the milling machine and the process on how to dry taro and breadfruits. They also showed interest in wanting to have more than one milling machine in the near future. We then conclude the workshop with local food snacks.

IFCP would like to thank the District Administrator Honorable Peteriko Hairens of Nett Municipal Government and all the participants who kindly took their time off to join the Flour Milling workshop.

IFCP would like to extend our sincere and humble gratitude to the US Department of Interior, Honorable David W. Panuelo Senator At-Large Pohnpei (FSM CONGRESS), Pohnpei State Government, Department of Health and Social Affairs, Bill Raynor's Estate and the Late Dr. Lois Englberger founder of IFCP (Island Foods Community of Pohnpei) for funding.

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...MCT Fund Transfer

Continued from page 2

Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands governments started contributing their own national funds to the endowment to match other donor funds from The Nature Conservancy (\$3M), Conservation International (\$3M) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – United Nations Environment Programme (\$5M). Today the endowment fund stands at nearly \$18.5M, with Palau owning approximately half of the fund, and with FSM and RMI owning approximately \$5,000,000 and \$4,000,000 respectively. A student group from Saipan, the Tanapag Middle School Micronesia Challenge Club, provided \$1,000 from their own funds to launch the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands' (CNMI) Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund in 2016. MCT continues to work with Guam and CNMI officials, as well as other international development partners, to launch their MC endowment funds as part of this joint regional initiative.

For the FSM and RMI to start to receive earnings from the MC Endowment Fund, they will need to put in place

national policies and legislations that formally establish their protected areas networks, as well as the mechanisms for disbursement (i.e. the Palau PAN Fund). Both the FSM and RMI Governments are now working to put these program requirements in place so they can begin to drawdown on the funds to support the much-needed community based site work within their respective jurisdictions.

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VA No. 401-17-009

...Sea Cucumber

Continued from page 6

irrelevant, given that the Pohnpei government continues to acknowledge Mwoalen Wahu's existence by disbursing stipends to its members and maintain the state government position of liaison specialist to Mwoalen Wahu," the court ruled.

It ruled that Iso Nahnken of Nett Salvador Iriarte is vested with the authority to bring the law suit on behalf of Mwoalen Wahu as it is organized today. It pointed out that Young Sun itself previously attempted to argue that those hold traditional titles other than Nahmwarki can be members of the Mwoalen Wahu. Young Sun had previously argued in a motion to recuse the presiding judge in the case that since the father of the judge has the title of Wasahi of Sokehs, second in rank to the Nahmwarki of Sokehs the judge was conflicted out. That motion was denied.

Young Sun also contended that none of the edible species of sea cucumbers is part of or included in the sea cucumber harvest project. The court ruled that fact does not mean that the population of such species will not be negatively affected by a harvest which is more likely than not to have an impact on the ecosystem they inhabit.

"It is hereby ordered the hearing and determination of any subsequently filed Civil Rule 12(b) motions shall be deferred until trial unless the court otherwise determines that an immediate preliminary hearing is necessary to prevent manifest injustice," the court ruled. It then ordered the parties to confer and submit a joint pre-trial schedule.



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Nauru Airlines to cease Kosrae flights

Nauru Airlines

Nauru Airlines commenced flights into the Federated States of Micronesia in June 2015, servicing both Pohnpei and Kosrae.

The airline has been monitoring the traffic levels and notes that whilst the volumes through Pohnpei continue to grow in sizeable numbers, the Kosrae traffic numbers remain low by comparison and have not developed to a level that the airline can sustain the service through Kosrae.

"The commercial reality is that, despite our best efforts to market into and out of the State of Kosrae by initiatives such as training of a local business to deliver travel arrangement assistance to the community in Kosrae as well as spearheading the "Isles of Micronesia" promotion activities to bring visitor focus onto each of our destinations through the region, we have not seen the market develop sufficiently to support a continuation of the Kosrae service" said CEO Geoff Bowmaker.

Nauru Airlines deeply appreciates the opportunity and support it has received from the FSM government, tourism authorities and private business stakeholders throughout the FSM and will continue to maintain the important link into and out of Pohnpei to its neighbouring states of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Kiribati, Nauru, Fiji, Solomon Islands and further to Australia.

Nauru Airlines flights through Kosrae will cease with effect from the end of March, with the last services being (northbound) Friday 24th March and (southbound) Sunday 26th March.

Why you should be ticked about ticks

*Ktanaw Hirsch
Pacific Veterinary Services Pohnpei*

Our dogs enjoy the beauty of our island as we do, from the ancestral ruins of Nan Madol to the roads & yards of Kolonia. But hiding in the grasses and plants that make our island flourish, is a dangerous parasite that is waiting to hop onto your pet. We're talking about ticks.

Ticks are small, blood sucking insects that feed off cats, cattle, pigs, and most other mammals, but dogs are one of their favorite targets. Ticks are known as external parasites because they live outside or on the body.

There are many different types of ticks. A full grown and fed tick can be as small as a pin head or as large as a raisin. Because of their small size, ticks can easily hide in hard to find places, like between your dog's toes or inside their ears.

When ticks bite and attach to the skin, they inject a parasite into your dog's blood. The parasite can cause seizures, belly pain, breathing problems, urinating blood, nose bleeds and other bleeding problems that frequently lead to death. In

fact, tick disease can be responsible for almost any symptoms a sick dog exhibits. Tick disease can even be spread to the fetus of a pregnant pet.

Bathing your pet with flea & tick shampoo will only kill about 5% of ticks and has no lasting effect. This is because 95% of ticks live in Mother Nature (hiding in tall grass, crawling in debris) and can attach themselves to your pet the second they are back outside.

For longer lasting tick prevention, Pacific Islands Veterinary Services (PIVS) recommends products such as Soresto (8 month flea & tick collar) or Preventic (3 month tick collar), Bravecto (1 pill every 3rd month), or Revolution (monthly topical squirt), all of which can be found at your local veterinarian or online. For prevention against ticks as well as fleas, lice, mites, mange, heartworm, roundworms, hookworms and ear mites, Ivermectin and Grenadine (known as "Red Medicine") can be given 3 times a week. The reason all these products work so well, is that they kill ticks before they can lay any more eggs, and before they can pass on disease.



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Letter to the Editor

Counterpoint on FSM Dual Citizenship

I respectfully disagree with former president Haglelgam. He does not see the value in dual citizenship, but I'm sure his grandchildren will differ in their opinion once they reach the age of 18 in the US. By the way, it is not as easy as he makes it sounds to renounce your US citizenship. It can be expensive and the US government may restrict you from entering the country once you renounce your citizenship. Honorable Haglelgam claims only a small group will benefit from dual citizenship. Well, that number is not as small as it may have been when he was president and continues to grow everyday. I'm not going to get into the exact numbers, but about a decade ago the estimate was over 30,000 Micronesians living in the US and the number continues to increase due to the mass exodus in recent years. Some estimates are as high 70,000 people from the COFA countries that are currently residing in the United States. That is a pretty significant percentage of the population that would benefit from dual citizenship. I understand President Haglelgam's opposition to the initiative but there are a countless number of grandpas and parents back home that do want to leave their land that may have been brought down through generations to their US born kin. Many Micronesians left their home island in search of work, education, or for health reasons. Many have settled in the US with their children or grandchildren in the hopes of someday returning to help and contribute to the development of their homeland. Many have joined the US military for similar reasons and have been limited to moving up in ranks due to restrictions on higher security clearances. President Haglelgam explains, "Is it worth enacting a dual citizenship for these people and risk allowing foreigners who are able to acquire dual citizenship for the FSM and their respective countries to own land in our country?" To my understanding as the law stands, a foreigner with no FSM blood can become an FSM citizen through the naturalization process so how would the dual citizenship favor someone who can already access the path to citizenship. The dual citizen initiative is intended to allow persons of FSM heritage (blood) to hold two passports. Aside from the naturalization process to become an FSM citizen, at least one of your parents must be from the FSM and you need to obtain your passport by the age of 21. Dual citizenship will enable someone of FSM heritage, whether they serve in the military and elect to get their US passport or whether they have US born children who would benefit from programs that their host country offers, without risk of losing their heritage.

On a slightly different note, but related, I've always felt our compact with the US

allowing our young men and women to join the US military conflicts with our own FSM constitution which doesn't allow allegiance to any other country. In simple terms we allow our citizens to die for the United States of America but if they become a citizen of the US they risk losing their heritage back home. Micronesians are one of the least represented islander groups in the US and having dual citizens to represent us without recourse from local governments whether in Guam, Hawaii or even at the federal level would be beneficial to all Micronesians. The Marshall Islands and Palau have dual citizenship and appear to be progressing yet holding on to their culture and nationalism. Islanders by nature are proud and have no issue with identity. Our greatest resource is our people so give them incentive to return with their families and contribute to our islands future. I'm for dual citizenship especially during this time of uncertainty with the fast approaching compact negotiations and the present U.S. administration's hard stance against immigration.

My opinion,
Johnny Alikxa Duffy



Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting proposals from any Individual or Businesses who are interested in leasing one unit concessioner space inside the airport secured departure terminal. The size is 223.93 square feet.

All interested individual/parties interested in leasing this concession space area should submit their interest proposals starting on March 01, 2017 and closing on March 17, 2017 no later than 5:00pm.

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received in connection with the above subject advertisement.

Additional information regarding this proposal can always be obtained from the Pohnpei Port Authority Marketing Division at Dekehtik, Pohnpei State, Federated State of Micronesia or by contacting phone no: (691)-320-1793/2682, email 1485sano1957@gmail.com or by contacting us on our website: www.ppa.fm.



INVITATION TO QUOTE FOR THE PROVISION OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

CONTRACT REFERENCE: FSM3

PROVISION OF CABLE LANDING STATION FACILITIES FOR FSM (YAP & CHUUK)

1. Federated States of Micronesia ("FSM") has received a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the FSM Connectivity (Submarine Cable) Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract described below.
2. As part of the above project, Federated States of Micronesia is now implementing two submarine cable systems as follows:
 - a. Yap – Guam Cable System, and
 - b. Chuuk – Pohnpei Cable System
 Both these cable systems require Cable Landing Station Facilities installed.
3. FSM is now seeking offers from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to supply these facilities to be installed and ready for use as follows:
 - a. Yap: 17 July 2017
 - b. Chuuk: 29 July 2017
4. Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the World Bank Guidelines for Procurement of Works in Fragile and Small States in the Pacific, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders should request an the Invitation To Quote no later than 3 March 2017 from the following email address:

FSM's Technical Project Manager:
Gerald Tourgee
gtourgee@TourgeeConsulting.com

Copy communications to:
FSM's Project Coordinator
Aaron Warren
alw.fsm@gmail.com

Quotations in English must be delivered to the address below at or before 11 AM, Friday, 10 March 2017, local time Pohnpei. Late quotations will be rejected. Quotations may be submitted by email, courier or delivered by hand to the address below.

Email submissions are preferred; send email submissions to:

For bid submission email to Gerald Tourgee at gtourgee@TourgeeConsulting.com
Copy communications to Aaron Warren at alw.fsm@gmail.com

For post or hand delivered submissions:**FSM's Technical Project Manager:**

Gerald Tourgee
Tourgee Consulting LLC
10 Corporal McTernan Street
C405
Cambridge, MA 02139 USA

For further information, please contact:**FSM's Technical Project Manager:**

Gerald Tourgee
Tourgee Consulting LLC
10 Corporal McTernan Street
C405
Cambridge, MA 02139 USA
Mobile: +1.973.615.2430
Email: gtourgee@TourgeeConsulting.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

FINANCE OFFICER

Federated States of Micronesia
Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Project
Grant No. D0140
Project ID No. P151754
Pacific Regional Connectivity Program: Palau-FSM Connectivity Project
Grant No. D0040
Project ID No. P130592

The Federated States of Micronesia has received financing from the World Bank for the Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Project (PROP) and the Pacific Regional Connectivity Program: Palau-FSM Connectivity Project (PFSMCP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services include support to these projects on the financial management of the projects to ensure compliance with the government and World Bank's financial management policies and systems. It is expected that the Finance Officer will work full time and will be based in the Department of Finance and Administration.

Eligible consultants should have the following qualifications:

- The Finance Officer must have a minimum of bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance or Business Management, Public Administration or other relevant field.
- Training in relevant fields (management, financial management, accounting (CA, CPA, ACCA)) is preferable.
- S/he must have a minimum of five years of work experience in public sector financial management. S/he should have a good understanding of Govt. accounting system. Experience in donor - funded projects is preferable.
- Additional work experience with national and or international non-governmental organizations will be an added advantage.

The Department Finance and Administration now invites eligible candidates to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned services. Interested candidates must provide information (such as their latest CV, and other relevant documents) indicating that they are qualified to perform the services.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition).

Interested consultants may obtain further information, including terms of reference, during office hours from Sihna N. Lawrence, Secretary of Finance & Administration, whose address and contact details are provided below.

Expressions of interest may either be sent or be delivered to the address below on or before March 10, 2017.

Mrs. Sihna N. Lawrence
Secretary
Department of Finance and Administration
FSM National Government
Address: PO Box PS-158, Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia 96941
Tel. No.: (691) 320-2640
Fax No.: (691) 320-2597
Email: fsmsofa@mail.fm

U Municipal LMMA Coastal Fisheries Plan adopted

Feb 14, 2017

On Friday, February 10th, a short signing ceremony took place at the Nahs en Wehi, Pohn Isilap, U for the adoption of the U Municipal Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Coastal Fisheries Plan. This plan will serve as a critical step in guiding the development of the local government's ability to manage the municipality's coastal resources. The formally endorsed document contains actions that address fisheries management priorities identified through consultation with local residents and officials. The plan also supports development objectives intended to maintain a more sustainable and productive coastal environment. Attending the launching ceremony were the Sahngoro, Nahnmwarki (Paramount Chief) of U Municipality, Likend U, numerous village chiefs of U, the Chief Magistrate Dahker Abraham, the Speaker Estepan Primo and several members of the U Council, FSM Congressman Esmond Moses, Pohnpei State Senators Aurelio Joab and Lino Amor, a representative of the FSM R&D, representatives of the Pohnpei Visitors Bureau, and the partners (CSP, MCT, TNC, RARE and Dr. Kevin Rhodes) who provided technical support to the development of the Plan.



Appreciation was shared with donors like the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, and US NOAA and DOI for supporting the development of the Plan and its eventual implementation.

The U Municipal Government decided to develop this Plan, a first of its kind for Pohnpei Island, as part of its efforts to move towards more sustainable development approaches for the municipality. With an overarching goal of promoting the long-term health and benefits of U Municipality's coastal fishery and marine environment, the plan focuses on: strengthening local fisheries regulations, developing local government capacity, sharing management responsibilities, creating connections with markets, and identifying future management needs. This Plan will be a direct link to and complements several ongoing state, national and regional policies and efforts. The FSM National Oceanic Resources Management Agency (NORMA) and FSM R&D have received funding from the World Bank PROPFish to develop a national coastal fisheries management plan. The U Municipal Government will

be sharing their Fisheries Plan with the officials in NORMA and FSM R&D with the intent that their Plan will feed into and inform the national plan. In addition, the Plan will also support the efforts of Pohnpei State to develop strengthen ecotourism in the FSM as part of a project funded by the Asian Development Bank. During his brief remark, Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), Willy Kostka, congratulated the U leadership and its people for being the first municipality in Pohnpei/ FSM to develop such a Plan. This Plan, which when implemented will help local communities, Pohnpei State and the FSM meet their own sustainable fisheries management efforts, and consequently, will help the nation meet their regional and international commitments. FSM, as part of the Pacific Island Forum, agreed to make management of coastal fisheries as one of the top priorities for the nation and the region. Additionally, this implementation of this Plan will help the FSM come closer to meeting its commitments to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 14, which calls for the conservation and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

During the event, residents expressed optimism that the activities identified in the plan will improve the condition of declining resources and asked the state and national governments, as well as all development partners, to assist them with the implementation of the plan by providing both technical and financial assistance. Congressman Esmond Moses and Senators Joab and Amor, have pledged their support for the implementation of the plan. The people of U and assisting partners hope that this effort can be scaled up to other municipalities around Pohnpei and across the country/region. For inquires or to request a copy of the plan, please inquire with the U Municipal Government at 320-3991 or with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei at 320-5409 or csp@serehd.org.

An update on the Micronesia Challenge Forest Inventory and Analysis Program in the FSM

The Micronesia Challenge Program
The Micronesia Challenge is “a commitment by the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to preserve the natural resources that are crucial to the survival of Pacific traditions, cultures and livelihoods. The overall goal of the Challenge is to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.” Learn more about the Micronesia Challenge online at www.micronesiachallenge.com



The Terrestrial component of the Challenge looks at many indicators, including native forest cover, species diversity, abundance, forest structure, human disturbance, bird diversity, and invasive species to detect changes in biodiversity over time. The information gathered helps forest managers to make decisions to more effectively care for the forests and its many resources.

The main method utilized in this effort is the US Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, which samples permanent forest plot points across the US mainland and Pacific islands every 10 years. The Micronesia Challenge program on the other hand, aims to monitor plots in Micronesia every 5 years, to enable resource managers to see potential changes in the terrestrial protected areas and install additional plots where needed within protected areas that don’t have existing ones. Using the FIA sampling design and protocols for monitoring conservation areas allows the data to be compared to other, similar forests in the region and provide a better gauge of forest health in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and contributes to objectives in state Forest Action Plans.

The grant was awarded by the USDA US Forest Service under its Cooperative Forestry Assistance Grant#16-IG-11052021-209 Program and managed by the Micronesia Conservation Trust’s Conservation Program. The Federated States of Micronesia’s Micronesia Challenge (MC) Forest inventory and Analysis is a monitoring program initiated in early 2016 and consists of 3 phases for effectiveness. In the Months of March and July 2016 additional MC FIA plots were established in important terrestrial areas in the four FSM states during Phases I and II of a project led by MC Terrestrial Measures Champion, Roseo Marquez. In 2016 November, Phase III of the project, installing and monitoring plots in the outer

islands of Yap commenced.

To start off phase III, key consultation meetings were conducted by the Terrestrial Champion with Yap State Executives and the Yap Council of Tamol (COT). With the introductions and explanations of the MC FIA work, its value to Yap State and the FSM, full approval to work and establish MC FIA plots on the outer islands of Woleai, Fechelap, Ifaluk, Elato, Lamotrek, and Sorol was granted. The team also developed and gained endorsements for contract agreements between MCT and partner agencies - namely the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Guam Endangered Plant Protection Program (GEPPP) of the University of Guam and Yap Community Action Program (YapCAP). The MC FIA field crew in Yap included Eugene Eperiam, Angel Jonathan, John Horeg, Peter Mayalpiy, and Lance Sulog. This field crew boarded the Caroline Voyager and headed out to establish the 19 new MC FIA plots on the outer islands of Sorol (2 plots), Woleai (10 plots), Ifaluk (3 plots), Fechelap (2 plots) and Elato/Lamotrek (2 plots).

In total, the team has established or visited and ground-checked 93 MC FIA plots in the FSM in 2016. In January 2017 MCT hired Dr. Mikhail (Misha) Yatskov was hired by the Micronesia Conservation Trust to carry out the Quality Assurance component of the project. Misha has an educational background in forest monitoring and has worked with the FIA program throughout the region. He reviewed all the data collected over the course of the project for accuracy and visited sites to remeasure random plots as part of the quality assurance procedure. All the MC FIA plot data has been uploaded to the USFS MIDAS program for analysis.

The next step will be to analyze and report on the data and make recommendations

to stakeholders in the FSM states, who will then utilize recommendations to meet local, national and regional conservation and management objectives. In 2018 MCT and project partners plan to replicate the same work in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and eventually establish MC FIA plots in the remaining MC jurisdictions over the next 5 years to provide a long-term monitoring system for terrestrial resources in the region. Ultimately, the MC FIA data will give each jurisdiction the status of its forest health and provide appropriate recommendations for sound forest management in the region.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank the following key partners in this undertaking: the USDA US Forest Service for providing financial (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Grant#16-IG-11052021-209) and technical support; the FSM national Government namely the Departments of Resources and Development and Transportation Communication and Infrastructure for providing the leadership, logistical support, guidance, approvals, transport and consultations; the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office in Yap for securing financial support, planning and logistics; Pohnpei State Government, Division of Forestry for providing a MC FIA specialist; the Conservation Society of Pohnpei for providing an MC FIA Specialist; the Guam Plant Extinction Prevention Program for providing an MC FIA Specialist and equipment; the Yap State Government for providing technical support and human resources; the Kosrae



Island Resource Management Authority, Chuuk State Agriculture, Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization, Yela, and Chuuk Conservation Society for providing technical support and enabling a strong partnership with other states in phases I and II of the project; the Yap Council of Tamol for granting the approval to work on the outer islands; and YapCAP for providing MC FIA specialist, equipment, technical support and logistical support. The project would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of the partners above and the other FSM States. Special thanks to Roseo Marquez, Rachael Nash, Eugene Joseph, Andy George, Tholman Alik, Marcellus Akapito and Bertha Reyuw for their coordinating assistance and technical expertise making the FSM MC FIA a success thus far.

Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

Let us resume our Education Corner (EC) with an apology. I apologize for straying from the original purpose of the column over the past several months. I no longer will tell the story about the beginning teacher Mr. Navarro Navarro. While such stories may be appropriate for teacher and pre-teacher training, the case study or story approach was not for a column as this. It was an error on my part to attempt Navarro for EC. And to be honest I was uncomfortable from the beginning. It was something new because I had run out of information that I thought would help the Readers and the Public-at-large. It was not working and I am sorry for wasting K-Press space and the Readers time. For any Readers who did like Navarro I will send them to anyone who writes EC individually. We have many "Navarro's" on file.

When in August 2015 we began EC, it was to be an informational column for the public. It was meant to give you information about what the Pohnpei Department of Education was doing to make improvements for our children. Too it was meant to show the public, particularly parents and caregivers, ways to help teachers and principals help the students. We explained the purposes and importance of FSM Accreditation. We stressed the absolute need for every school-public or private to be accredited. We explained that every school must have a School Improvement Plan (SIP) showing just how every school will try to improve during the next year. We asked the Readers to be part of the SIP. SIPs are

required to have public participation and school principals beg for as much help as possible. We thought it important for you to know that if schools did not improve there might be less money for PDOE and individual schools. For example, we asked parents to get their children to school and to school on time. Every SIP promises to improve attendance. To be sure young people not in school cannot learn the curriculum on which students are tested. SIPs all promise to improve the overall test scores of their students. Doing this can also be tied to funding. So the EC was meant to focus on improvement of the students and at the same time warn the public about possible future funding difficulties should we not improve.

Moreover, we explained last year's work where we tested all the elementary school teachers. We did this because elementary teachers are required to teach in five science areas and five social studies areas. The tests were not designed to pass or fail but only to see where teachers were strong or teachers were weak. PDOE wanted to see where teachers could benefit from on-going training. When principals and teachers received the results teachers wrote a letter to the school principal similar to: Dear Principal: I have taken the self-tests in the five social studies and the five sciences. Listed here are my three (3) weakest areas. As training becomes available please put me on any on-going training list that addresses my weak areas. As a professional teacher I recognize all professionals must update their knowledge and skills. With the over-all results PDOE began planning a different approach to on-going training. In fact the project itself was called Data for Decision Making (DDP). When we do not improve we may lose funding, when we show with data where we must improve and how we plan to improve we may gain funding with which to improve.

The second part of the DDP was a school-by-school, room-by-room survey of science and social studies curriculum materials for students. This revealed what teachers and principals have long said. It is difficult to teach subject if we have little or no materials for our students to read. The DDP showed us that there was very little curriculum materials for students and teachers in both the elementary sciences and the elementary social studies. So where do we begin? EC and PDOE is happy to announce that this year we will be doing work on this—a new project called ALIGNING SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS WITH STUDENT CURRICULUM NEEDS AND EMPHASIZING LANGUAGE ARTS SKILLS. Our data showed us we should have new student textbooks for every grade and every student grades 4th-8th. This will be a huge undertaking for PDOE and an added cost to the PDOE budget. But as mentioned with our DDP data we can show our need and will get some additional funds with which to accomplish this. Therefore EC will use this project to report to the community. I do believe the Reader's will appreciate PDOE's efforts. New textbooks written at students reading levels is very exciting. Next edition EC will explain much more about this—even the data we expect that will show real improvement. And we will suggest ways the Readers can help.

Lastly please contact womackandassociates765@gmail.com at anytime on the EC column. We do have some Navarro case studies that students say they enjoyed and learned some lessons for teaching. EC will send them individually to you.

Letter to the Editor

More questions on Haglelgam's published opinion on dual citizenship

I have questions and thoughts on Mr. Haglelgam's letter published in the previous issue of The Kaselehlie Press:

- 1) Under what terms or provisions of the Compact or the US Public does it state that COFA citizens are "not eligible to apply for naturalization to become US citizens" as John claims? Without proper citations of the relevant laws or provisions, I'm afraid I can't just take John's words for it even as respectable a leader as he is as a former president of our nation.
- 2) What type of "visa" is he referencing for COFA citizens to apply for to enter the US when we only need our passports to enter the US? I know that citizens of other non-COFA nations have to apply for a travel visa to come to the US. Is he using that kind of scenario to mislead COFA citizens?

It seems like Mr. Haglelgam is stretching the US pledge of allegiance and misinterpreting it for COFA citizens to discourage dual citizenship. Dual citizenship means a person is a citizen of TWO (dual) countries which means a person can be 100% a US citizen and 100% citizen of another country. One does not diminish the other; they can co-exist.

The US does in fact allow dual citizenship. Right now the following countries ALSO allow for dual citizenship. According to an immigration law firm (<http://dlgimmigration.com/united-states-citizenship/list-of-countries-that-allow-or-disallow-dual-citizenship/>), the following developed countries allow for dual citizenship (Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Bangladesh, Canada, Cyprus, United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, South Korea, South Africa (requires permission), Egypt (requires prior permission), Greece, France, Finland, Germany (requires prior permission), Iraq, Italy, Israel, Ireland, Hungary, Iceland, Sweden, Slovenia, Syria, Serbia, Armenia, Lebanon, Malta, Spain (allowed only with certain Latin American countries), Tonga, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka (by retention), Pakistan (accepts only with 16 countries), Portugal, Turkey (requires permission)) which means that their citizens can hold citizenship in the US and theirs.

Why shouldn't citizens of the FSM have the same opportunity to pledge allegiance to the US as well as the FSM?

Respectfully,
Vidalino Raatiior



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