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FSM audit of Pohnpei public projects funds reveals problems

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei – An audit published December 5, 2008 by the FSM’s Office of the National Public Auditor has called into question the handling of funds appropriated by Congress for public projects during the 13th session of Congress. The audit covered fiscal years 2005-2007.

Congress overrode the President’s veto of the appropriation bill 13-36. The public law appropriated \$2.8 million from local revenues to provide funding for social development and economic development projects. The funds were allocated based on the number of Senators in each state at \$200,000 per Senator. Pohnpei State has three election districts and an at large rep-

resentative and received a total of \$800,000 for public projects.

In his summary letter to President Mori, National Public Auditor Haser Hainrick quoted the audit saying that the objectives of the audit were to determine whether a) appropriate reviews and selection of public projects were performed prior to funding; and b) implementation of CFSM public projects was in accordance with laws and regulations.

He said that the selections of which projects to be funded “were based on preferences and individual choices of each Congress member in their own election district, fostering an appearance that fa-

See “Public projects audit” on Page 6

President Mori declares a National emergency

By FSM Information Services

Palikir, Pohnpei – December 30th, 2008 - Today, President Manny Mori signed a Presidential Emergency Declaration and officially declared a National State of Disaster for FSM. This declaration is in response to all four of the FSM States declaring a state of emergency from the damage caused by the tidal surges earlier this month. The Presidential Declaration outlined these emergencies in detail.

For Pohnpei State, on December 19, 2008, Governor John Ehsa declared the islands of Kapingamarangi, Mwokil,

See “Emergency” on page

Happy Holidays!



Island Style



Men pounding sakau at a Christmas celebration December 27th in Kahmar, Nett - Photos by MICHAELA CORR

GMP asks Court to halt action on all infrastructure projects

FSM moves to dismiss counterclaims of GMP Hawaii

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei – The company that won the bid to handle FSM infrastructure projects has asked for a court injunction to halt action on the 29 infrastructure projects in the FSM in response to a civil complaint filed against them by the FSM government.

In January of 2008 the FSM government notified GMP and Associates by letter that they were terminating the company’s contract for cause. During the same month they filed a civil action (2008-004) against the corporation for breach of contract amongst other claims.

In October of 2008 GMP filed its response to the suit and added a counterclaim against the FSM and Robert Westerfield in his official capacity as contracting officer’s representative for the Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure.

The FSM, in its 105 page response to GMP’s counterclaim, filed in December of 2008, lists at least four reasons why they say Westerfield cannot be sued by GMP. The first is a procedural problem in GMP’s filing of the counterclaim which required them to file a third party complaint on him and to serve him with a summons. The other three reasons they list

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High level dispute over "Transco" shares goes to FSM Supreme Court

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Weno, Chuuk – A dispute over shares in Truk Transportation Company (Transco) led the FSM's highest ranking elected government official to file a civil complaint against the corporation at the FSM Supreme Court in Chuuk on November 28, 2008.

In a deal made in March of 2008, President Manny Mori bought all of Barney Olter's shares in the corporation for \$3000. He holds a bill of sale for the shares which was signed and agreed to by Olter. Whether or not the bill of sale is legally binding is one of the many questions that the court will need to consider.

Transco, which performs stevedoring services in Chuuk, has more than 650 individual share holders who hold over 83,000 shares of stock. At issue is the ownership of 2160 shares of the stock.

The par value for Transco stocks is five dollars per share. Legal counsel for Transco said in a counterclaim filed on

December 22, 2008 that the book value is higher than that.

Annual dividends per share of stock currently average approximately 50 cents per share.

President Mori's complaint named as defendants, Myron Hasiguchy, President of Transco; Elsha Lagradilla a citizen of the Philippines, and a managerial employee of the company, and Truk Transportation Company.

Though Barney Olter wrote a letter to Transco management in October saying that he felt that he had been "defrauded" and requested that Transco not transfer the ownership of the shares, he was not named in the civil complaint.

Transco's attorney in his counterclaim has named Olter as a third party and argues that the omission of Olter as a defendant in the case is a grounds for dismissal of the original claim.

Barney Olter inherited the shares from the estate of Salter Olter, his father but even in March, when the sale was made he didn't seem to know how many

shares he owned. Micronesian Legal Services represented him at the time of the probate hearings and filed documents apparently based on Olter's assumption that he owned approximately 100 shares of stock in Transco.

Mori didn't seem to know exactly how many shares he had bought either.

He wrote a letter to Transco President Myron Hasiguchy on October 20, 2008, demanding that 2040 shares be transferred immediately to his name. By the time the civil complaint was filed the number had been corrected to 2160.

There were more accusations in the complaint filed by Mori's attorney.

It said that Hasiguchy has taken actions that are "inconsistent with and detrimental to the business and legal interests of Transco by "making Transco" purchase goods, including outboard engines from his family store, the Shigeto Store, when the goods could have been obtained elsewhere for a lower price.

It claims that Hasiguchy took away for himself a rock crushing and quarry business when Transco had the resources, in-

terest and proven capability of operating and managing a business of that type.

Previous court documents from other court actions show that Transco's rock crushing and quarries operation lost many thousands of dollars when it was in operation.

Mori's complaint also alleges that Hasiguchy transferred substantial company assets into capitalization of other companies in which he had a major interest.

The claim lists "fraud" as a cause of action. It says that the delay of action on the transfer of stocks was motivated by Hasiguchy's own later purchase of the stocks.

Another cause of action was "breach of fiduciary duty" based on the claim that Hasiguchi personally bought Olter's stocks for \$10,000.

It claims "intentional interference with contract" for the purpose of personally enriching Hasiguchy.

The last cause of action was "interfer-

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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...GMP Hawaii

Continued from front page

involve immunities Westerfield has as a function of his position. They say he cannot be sued because he is an individual acting on behalf of the US Government with respect to the activities of a recipient of US Compact Grant money.

GMP, for their part, complained that their rights were violated by both Westerfield and the FSM government both under civil statutes and under the FSM Constitution.

The GMP counterclaim listed 12 causes for action the last of which asks the court to keep FSM from hiring other contractors to do the work it was hired to do (they are seeking an injunction). It says that the FSM's actions in wrongfully terminating the contract between GMP and FSM are "causing great and immediate irreparable injury. If the FSM is permitted to continue on its course of actions in terminating the services of GMP pursuant to the contract and replacing GMP with one or more engineering firms and duplicating the work and payments thereto, such actions will cause delay in the fiscal year funded 04-05-06 projects, (and) increase the costs of those projects harming not only GMP but harming the four State Governments and the general public."

The FSM government in its response and motion to dismiss the counterclaim says that the request for an injunction comes too late as the actions have already been taken. They say that injunctions are used to preserve the status quo, to keep things the way they are. GMP waited too long to

file their motion for injunction because the FSM has already hired other contractors to do GMP's work.

The FSM further argues that the request for injunction does not meet any of the four tests required before an injunction can be issued. A plaintiff requesting an injunction must show that if an action is allowed to proceed they will suffer irreparable injury. FSM argues that the Supreme Court has already determined by precedent that loss of profits and contract money damages are not irreparable damages.

GMP must show that the public would benefit by the issuance of an injunction. The FSM attorney says that the public interest favors the continuation of all of the Compact infrastructure development projects.

If the court does grant an injunction GMP would be required to put up a very large bond or provide other security. The FSM says that since GMP is requesting to block all public infrastructure projects in the FSM the amount of the bond would likely be enormous.

GMP says that besides the monetary damages it has sustained due to the cancellation of the contract by the FSM, it continues to sustain damages to its reputation. The counterclaim says that FSM and Westerfield initiated the publication in The Kaselehlle Press of false, defamatory, and misleading information that was in a US Department of Interior Office of the Inspector General (DOI OIG) memorandum released on July 31, 2006. It says that the defendants knew that the material

was erroneous when they released it. They have claimed libel and slander against the FSM and Westerfield.

FSM argues that the FSM government did not write or publish the Memorandum which is the subject matter of the complaint. Westerfield was not even hired by the FSM Government at the time of publication and had nothing to do with it. The FSM claims that "everything in the DOI OIG memorandum is true" and that truth is an absolute defense against a defamation case.

Many laymen would find the court filings to be complex as did The Kaselehlle Press. The Kaselehlle Press did not obtain all of the paperwork surrounding the case but what we did obtain stands 3 1/2 inches tall. The FSM's response to GMP's counterclaim is 105 pages long they say because rather than simply give precedent citations they explained the rulings they refer to in their arguments in an attempt to avoid confusion.

GMP and Associates says that their rights have been violated and that they have been severely damaged by the actions of Westerfield and the FSM.

The FSM says that their claims should be dismissed because they raise "unjusticiable political questions." Their filing spends several pages explaining that concept though the Justices at the Supreme Court quite likely understand the concept well.

Essentially, the political question doctrine means that a court will not hear a case when the issues

raised are committed to another branch of government by the Constitution. For instance, Foreign Affairs is a function of the Executive and Legislative Branches of the FSM government, not the Judicial Branch and the court will not interfere in matters of foreign affairs.

The FSM government said in a summary of their "brief" that "most of all of GMP's causes for action are based upon 1) the 'termination' of the Contract for Consulting Services by the US Department of the Interior when it wrote to the FSM Government and stated that no more Compact grant money could be used to fund the GMP Contract and 2) the internal US Government memo written by DOI Office of Inspector General which was critical of the FSM Government and GMP's contract."

It says among other things that the FSM Supreme Court does not have jurisdiction, authority or power to grant GMP's requests because it cannot tell the US Department of the Interior to fund GMP's contract. It says that the US Government is an indispensable party to the claims of GMP which cannot be named due to the terms of the Compact treaty. "Therefore, based on Rule 19, the matter should be dismissed because it is unfair to litigate this case against the FSM Government when it was the US Government which pulled the plug on funding GMP's contract and wrote the alleged defamatory memorandum."

All parties in the complicated case before the court have a great deal at stake. The case has in no way been decided at the FSM Supreme Court.

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...Transco

Continued from page 2

ence with advantageous business relationship" also for the purpose of personally enriching Hasiguchy.

The December 22, 2008 counterclaim filed by Transco's legal counsel on behalf of Transco said that the stocks are still in the name of Barney Olter and that Hasiguchy did not buy them.

Mori, through counsel is asking for Transco to make him the legal owner of the disputed shares.

His counsel is asking for injunctive relief to prohibit the defendants from making any gain based on the ownership of the stocks including dividends until the matter has gone through the judicial system.

Mori has asked for punitive damages of \$500,000. If damages are awarded, Transco, and Hasiguchy, would each pay \$200,000. Lagradilla would pay \$100,000.

The suit also asks that Hasiguchy and Lagradilla be immediately and tem-

porarily removed from their positions by the court. It asked for a receiver to conduct an inspection and accounting of the company's books and operations to determine "other breaches of the defendants' fiduciary duties and its minority share holders."

Transco's counterclaim asks for the court to decide who owns the shares so that the company can transfer shares to the correct owner. It asks also that the costs of the legal proceedings including attorneys fees be "deducted from the dividends or stock whose ownership is to be determined."

The issues that the court will have to consider are complex.

When a citizen of Pohnpei dies intestate (without a will) his personal property is to be split amongst the heirs in a legally defined way. 1/3 of the estate is supposed to go to the surviving spouse and the remaining 2/3 is to be split amongst the surviving children. While other assets were split in the defined way, all of the stock went to Barney Olter.

Transco, according to their counterclaim

was concerned that the other surviving children might have a claim on the stocks.

Further, at the time of the sale of the shares, the language in the Pohnpei State probate court decision transferred ownership of three Transco shares to Barney Olter. Olter actually owned three share certificates; one for 20 shares, one for 100 shares, and one for 2040 shares of Transco stock.

Transco's attorney argued that company officials acted reasonably and in good faith when they requested that Olter seek an amended court order stating that he was in fact the rightful recipient of the shares.

The court amended its order on July 21, 2008 confirming Olter as the owner of all 2160 shares of stock. Shares were not actually transferred into Barney Olter's name until September 4, 2008, nearly six months after he sold them to President Mori.

The merits of both sides of the dispute will be weighed at the Supreme Court.



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Authors and publishers filed a class action lawsuit, claiming Google violated the copyrights of authors, publishers and other copyright holders ("Rightsholders") by scanning in-copyright Books and Inserts, and displaying excerpts, without permission. Google denies the claims. The parties have agreed to a settlement. This summary provides basic information about the settlement. "Books" and "Inserts" are described below.

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Google also will pay \$34.5 million to establish and fund the initial operations of the Registry and for notice and settlement administration costs, and at least \$45 million for cash payments to Rightsholders of Books and Inserts that Google scans prior to the deadline for opting out of the settlement.

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There are two Sub-Classes:

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- The "*Publisher Sub-Class*" (publishers of Books and periodicals, and their successors and assigns).

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...Public projects audit*Continued from front page*

voritism and political influences may unduly influence where and how public funds are spent.”

In October of 2006, Matthew L. Olmsted who was an FSM Assistant Attorney General at the time issued a legal opinion at the request of ONPA Audit Supervisor Donald Yamada. Yamada had asked for an opinion on the legal sufficiency of the Appropriations law 13-36. The law said that its purpose was to fund “social development and economic development” projects but it did not define those terms or provide guidance on which social or economic development projects were appropriated uses of the funds. The legal opinion from the Department of Justice said that the law was “defective” because it failed to provide sufficient guidance on how to determine what kind of projects qualified for the funds.

The audit recommended that Congress provide clarity of purpose for what “social development” and “economic development” projects are intended to achieve when legislating new CFSM appropriation laws in order to determine the kinds projects suitable for funding.

The auditor said that certain projects selected by individual Congress members gave the appearance that funds were used for other than public purposes or public use and gave as an example \$100,000 to assist in the construction of additional classrooms for a private school. They listed other expenditures that benefited municipal governments and the Election District offices themselves.

There was no documentation of requests for public projects funds. Senators said that they knew the kinds of projects needed in their communities through their interaction with municipal officials and constituents, but those interactions were not documented.

Pohnpei State senators spent \$265,000 for repair or construction of secondary roads and farm roads without coordination with State officials. At the same time there were not sufficient maintenance funds to repair potholes or improve safety along stretches of primary roads heavily used by cars, people, and school children. The auditor said that coordination of project funding between the State and National governments could have prioritized road projects for the safety and benefit of more people.

The audit also pointed out that Congress members were inappropriately involved in administering the funds they had appropriated by directing Election District office staff in the use of operating funds, some of which was spent for activities outside the office’s oversight function and can be consid-

ered questionable use of funds. The FSM Constitution requires separation of powers. Congress members cannot act to appropriate money and then participate in the process of implementing and administering the fund.

Election District staff hires were selected by the Congress members using Special Service Contracts without having to go through the normal hiring process of advertising a position, requiring applicants to have job related qualifications, or following the Personnel Service System for pay scale. Election District 2 (ED 2) had five employees to hand project administration duties for a total biweekly salary level of \$1650. Election District 1 (ED 1) had only two employees with a total biweekly salary level of \$1077. Election District 3 (ED 3) had only one employee to handle what the five employees at ED 2 were hired to handle. That employee was hired at a biweekly rate of \$611.

Funds in the election districts were used for purposes other than for oversight. \$10,999 was spent for travel. ED 2 purchased three vehicles for a total of \$14,000 that were ultimately given to municipal government officials. Construction materials were purchased for \$3000 and booked under the office supply account. ED 3 bought six cell phones for a total of \$1740. One was given to a bus driver, two to an elementary school and three of the phones disappeared.

The auditor also questioned whether or not the road construction projects were done at a reasonable cost. 15 road projects were performed for a total of \$265,000. Because the cost of many of the projects fell under the \$20,000 threshold required for a competitive bid process, contracts were awarded to a single contractor without price comparisons. As a result, the funded amount for a project became the target price for a contractor’s construction plans and estimated costs.

For phase II of the Nandon improvement project the allottee of the funds, Pohnpei Transportation Authority was also the contractor performing the work.

Of the 15 road projects three came in under the amount appropriated for the project, one cost more than appropriated. Eleven of the fifteen projects cost exactly the amount written into the appropriation law.

The auditors compared the unit cost per square feet of road constructed as an aid to determining the reasonableness of the cost of roads similarly constructed and found wide variances in the price that was paid for the road work. The cost among seven similarly constructed coral capped roads varied between 16 cents per square foot to as high as \$1.20 per square foot. Three asphalt paved roads had a per square foot cost ranging from \$2.80 to \$5.23.

The auditor said that the lack of road construction standards made it nearly impossible to compare the costs.

Project Control Documents (PCDs) were provided to the Department of Finance and Administration that contained only a very broad description of how the funds were to be used. The auditor provided an example, “to support the operation of the ED3 projects and administration.” The PCD provided no further descriptions of duties, function or responsibilities nor were there documents supporting the planned use of funds.

The auditors said that the lack of clarity and completeness of PCD’s limited its usefulness as a guide for controlling and managing projects costs.

The auditors provided examples of two PCDs. A PCD for Mwoakilloa public facilities improvement for \$20,000 was stated to be for “repairs and maintenance (of) any public facilities...as well as transportation expenses. From the money received the municipal government spent \$3900 on a Toyota pickup truck, \$6015 for provisioning fuel to conduct a field trip, \$4130 of gasoline and kerosene, \$1920 for a Yamaha outboard motor, and \$1920 for charter

flights.

A PCD for vocational training was stated to be for the purpose of providing “hands on work experience” in a hotel and resort in Guam under a vocational training project for non-paid student interns. At least some of the money was used for other purposes. \$2533 was used for round trip travel to Honolulu for one person, and \$2019 was used for round trip travel to Saipan for another individual. ED 2 charged \$4,442 of its 2005 salaries to the project. The auditors said that they could not determine how the expenditures related to the project purpose.

A letter written as a result of the audit by Assistant Secretary for the Department of Finance and Administration and dated November 26, 2008 says that changes have been mandated. She said that no certifications and disbursements of funds in the future will be made without proper PCD’s that are clear and fully defined.

The complete audit from which this article heavily quotes can be found at www.fsmopa.fm

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Federated States of Micronesia Statistician/Project Manager - MDG Capacity Building Project

Project Title: MDG Capacity Building Initiative Project
Duration: 1-2 Years
Location, Country: Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Expected starting date: January 2009
Closing date to apply: January 15, 2009

Brief Project Description:

The project seeks to assist the Government of FSM in developing the capacity to plan, budget, implement and monitor the achievement of the MDGs by:

- developing the capacity of statisticians in line ministries and the national planning authority (SBOC) to regularly collect, analyze, monitor and report on disaggregated data that will reveal trends towards progress on national development goals that are also in line with regional and international reporting requirements (including the MDGs).
- assisting with the development of a robust MDG based National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) that is linked to prioritized sector strategies and prioritized budget allocations to inform the formulation of appropriate pro-poor policy development, to ensure that necessary resources are allocated to the appropriate sectors and to be able to effectively negotiate with development partners for assistance for the implementation of the MDG based NSDS.

Description of Duties:

Under the supervision of SBOC, and in partnership with the MDG Taskforce, the project manager will be responsible for:

Project management

- Coordinate and plan for the delivery of project inputs; including international experts, national experts, training and equipment, and sub-contracts. Prepare annual/quarterly work plans based on inputs from stakeholders.
- Assist with the National Execution of the project based on UNDP procedures, rules and regulations.
- Manage all project staff including identifying training needs and providing such training or where necessary helping to identify courses or providers of training.
- Draft TORs for project activities and assist with recruitment of all project staff through close liaison with SBOC and UNDP Suva.
- Monitor and assist the delivery of inputs to achieve outputs according to UNDP procedures and produce quarterly costed work plans.
- Work closely with the MDG Core working Group, FSM Government counterparts, UNDP Suva on technical aspects of the project. Produce project progress reports and plan and implement technical reviews, and tripartite review meetings of project. Ensure that project reports, including the final report, include documentation on best practices and lessons learnt.
- Assist the implementing partner with the management and accounting for all project finances, including quarterly financial reporting and maintain project budget in liaison with the UNDP Fiji Country Office.
- To provide substantive technical guidance and support on data collection, planning and budgeting systems and undertake all activities identified in the project work-plan for which external support has not been identified through national/international consultants.
- To assist in documenting outstanding project experiences for dissemination to all stakeholders, including national policymakers, planners and donors;
- To assist in furthering ideals and values of volunteerism through linking up with local volunteer groups.

Host Agency/Host Institute: Office of Statistics, Budget, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management (SBOC)

Competencies:

- Computer skills:** Strong PC based computer skills, Microsoft applications (in particular, Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- Language skills:**
 - Fluency in written and spoken English.
 - Good interpersonal skills
 - Demonstrated work in multicultural environments is an asset.

Technical duties

- Act as secretariat and resource person to the national MDG Task Force with representation from Civil Society and Private Sector,
 - Facilitate technical sector committees at the state and sector level to provide technical advice to the National MDG Core Working Group
 - Take stock of existing analytical work or assessments related to the MDGs
 - Identify data needs and establish local benchmarks, targets and indicators relevant to the local context that can be integrated into the National Sustainable Development Strategy and Medium Term Expenditure Framework,
 - Finalize launch & publish first MDG Report
 - Draft progress reports on the current state of MDG achievement, capacity development needs and identify specific targets to be achieved using draft National MDG report as starting point of reference
 - Be the primary technical advisor in required reforms that will ensure closer linkages between the national budget and the national development goals which should include appropriately tailored MDGs for FSM;
 - Train relevant government statisticians to:
 - Regularly collect, analyse, monitor and report on disaggregated data that will reveal trends towards progress (or lack thereof) on national development goals, the MDGs, the Pacific Plan and international commitments,
 - Make better use of available data as a basis for evidence-based policy making
 - Streamline data collection, collation and analysis system,
 - Review existing monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the MDG based NSDS and recommend practical steps for establishing and finalizing monitoring mechanisms using appropriate indicators;
 - Recommend practical framework for integrating national planning process into national budget allocation process
 - Work with relevant state & national departments, especially Health & Social Services, Education and Emergency and Environmental Management to develop sector plans/strategies at the state and national level inline with the proposed Medium Term National Sustainable Development Strategy and Medium Term Public Sector Investment Programme,
 - Provide technical advice for the formulation of pro-poor policies that will help to ensure the most vulnerable and most needy are adequately targeted by government programmes, interventions and resources,
- Results/Expected Output:**
- Facilitate the Development of the National MDG Report
 - Building Capacity for data collection and analysis at the state, national and sector level
 - Mainstream MDG into national planning and budgeting framework
- Qualifications/Requirements:**
- A university degree, preferably at Masters or higher levels in relevant subject in statistics and second degree in economics would be preferable;
 - Relevant hands-on experience at sector, national and international levels in compiling and analyzing statistics from primary sources and from Census, HIES and Demographic,
 - Knowledge on compiling national accounts would be an advantage
 - Practical hands-on experience in facilitating the formulation of National Sustainable Development Strategies and MDG Reports
 - Ability to work in a small island context;
 - Ability and maturity to relate to and work confidentially with officials at the highest levels in government, private sector and NGOs and advocate for change; and
 - Cultural and gender sensitivity and ability to actively promote gender equity in all aspects of professional work.

Send a cover letter, CV and three references by January 15 to:

Fabian Nimea

Director

**Office of Statistics, Budget & Economic Management,
Overseas Development Assistant & Compact
Management (S.B.O.C.)**

P.O. Box PS- 253

Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

fnimea@sboc.fm

Applications can be sent either by e-mail or regular mail.



Conservation and Environmental Protection

Program (CEPP) STATUS UPDATE 2007-2008



Workshops completed:

1. Information sessions in all the 4 FSM states on the CEPP application forms, guidelines, and how to apply for a grant. The number of participants was 25 for Kosrae, 18 for Pohnpei, 36 for Chuuk, and 33 for Yap. These were conducted by the Program Officer, Mary Rose Nakayama. At the end of the workshop, participants would have learned the structure of the CEPP (i.e. role of National Authorizing Officer), which groups or organizations are eligible to apply, that projects must include the nominated thematic areas in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and a general understanding of how to fill out the intricate application form.
2. Project Design and Grants writing workshop specific to CEPP and conducted by Don Evans from Yap, Patterson Shed from Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Curtis Graham from Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) and Innocente Penno from Chuuk Department of Agriculture, and Andy George from Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO). The number of participants was 12 for Yap, 10 for Pohnpei, 20 for Chuuk, and 18 for Kosrae. At the end of the workshop, participants would have learned in detail the Guidelines for grant applicants, how to fill out the grant application form, how to create goals, objectives, and activities for projects, and the eligible NBSAP actions that are eligible for funding.
3. Basic legal, finance and reporting issues for community groups and non-governmental organizations in environment for Kosrae by Okean Ehmes from Micronesia Small Grants Program Pacific Environment Fund (MSGPPEF). Close to 40 participants were present. At the end of the workshop, participants would have learned how to get incorporated in Kosrae, how projects should be implemented, what donors expect to see in reports, and how important it is that records are well kept to facilitate reporting.

3 Calls for Proposals (CfP) advertised in the Kaselehlie Press:

1. CfP1 advertised on October 31, 2007; proposals submitted December 31, 2007; maximum 18 months project duration; grants between \$50K-\$100K
2. CfP2 advertised on May 07, 2008; proposals submitted July 07, 2008; maximum 12 months project duration; grants between \$25K-\$50K
3. CfP3 advertised on October 15, 2008; proposal deadline December 15, 2008; maximum 12 months project duration; grant between \$10K-\$25k

Funded Projects:

****13 grant applications submitted for the CfP1 and only 5 were awarded****

1. Micronesian Seminar (MicSem) based in Pohnpei (\$54,580): Educating FSM Citizens in the construction and use of non-polluting appropriate technology renewable energy systems; 12 months duration ending June 2009.
2. Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) based in Pohnpei (\$98,342): Protecting biodiversity through improved land management and environmental education in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia; 18 months duration ending December 2009.
3. Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) based in Kosrae (\$58,362): Awareness and Capacity Development for sustainable management of Ecosystems in Kosrae, FSM; 18 months duration ending December 2009.
4. Yap Community Action Program (YapCAP) based in Yap (\$100,000): Protecting the biodiversity and sustainability of Ngulu Atoll; 12 months duration ending June 2009.
5. Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP) based in Pohnpei (\$89,009): Capacity Building, Institutional Strengthening and Feasibility Assessment for Sustainable Mariculture Ventures for MPA communities and NGO's in the Federated States of Micronesia; 18 months duration ending December 2009.

****8 grant applications submitted for the CfP2 but only 3 were awarded*****

1. Yela Environment Landowners Association (YELA) based in Kosrae (\$50,000): Integrated Management and Protection of the Yela Ecosystems; 12 months duration ending October 2009.
2. Yap Institute of Natural Science (YINS) based in Yap (\$47,052): Terrestrial Rapid Ecological Assessments for Capacity Building and Public Awareness; 12 months duration ending October 2009.
3. Kaday Community and Cultural Development Organization (KCCDO) based in Yap (\$50,000): Enhancing communities' capability to safeguard marine resources-Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation Area; 12 months duration ending November 2009.

Next Steps for 2008-2009

1. Submission of project proposals on December 15, 2008 and start of the Evaluation process
2. Interim narrative and financial reports due December 29, 2008
3. Award CfP3 grants by January 2009
4. Start project monitoring after January 2009
5. Close out MicSem and YapCAP projects by June 2009
6. Close out CSP, MERIP, and KCSO projects by December 2009
7. Close out YINS and YELA by October 2009
8. Close out KCCDO by November 2009

For more information please contact:

Ms. Mary Rose Nakayama
P.O Box 2177 Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
Tele: (691) 320 5670/7214
Fax: (691) 320 8903
E-mail: mctcepp@mail.fm
Website: www.mctconservation.org

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...Emergency

Continued from front page

Ngetik, Nukuror, Oroluk, Pakin and Pingelap to be in a state of emergency because of the unusually high tides resulting in the inundations on the outer islands. The people on those islands being dependent upon agricultural land as primary source of their food products

have been deprived of their staple food and livelihood.

On December 24, 2008, Governor Robert Weilbacher of the State of Kosrae declared the existence of a state of emergency because of tidal surges that caused property flooding, damage and destruction of household and business infrastructures and crops. Residents in

the affected area had to be evacuated for their safety. The emergency declaration affected the municipalities of Tafunsak and Lelu and other communities of Kosrae State.

On December 26, 2008, Governor Wesley Semina declared a state of emergency throughout all the island municipalities of Chuuk because of unusual high tide and tidal surge during the period of December 8th to the 11th of 2008. The Chuuk State Emergency Task Force was activated in order to protect the affected population, to minimize threats to people's lives and properties and to prevent occurrence of contagious disease.

On December 26, 2008, Governor Sebastian Anefal issued a Declaration of Major Disaster for the outer islands of Yap citing the weather anomaly in the Pacific Ocean that caused high tides, severe coastal erosion, and damage to shoreline properties, including crops and community structures. The residents of the outer islands have suffered a food shortage as a result.

All the Governors requested for the National Government to provide assistance to the peoples in their respective States to remediate or minimize continued threats to people's health and safety, and their properties. Now that President Mori has signed the Presidential Emergency Declaration, he will com-

mit the available resources of the National Government to provide relief to the affected people. The FSM National Emergency Task Force has presented the President their action plan and the President has called the FSM Congress for a Special Session to address appropriations for the emergency plan, among other items. Relief efforts will begin with the two FSM patrol boats heading out to the Mortlock Islands of Chuuk State and the Northwest Islands of Chuuk State, continuing on to the outer islands of Yap State on January 1st. They will carry assessment teams and food and water supplies. The MS Voyager will steam on January 5th to the Southern Islands of Pohnpei State with a separate assessment team and food and water for these islands. The Emergency Task Force has set up its Emergency Operations Center at the FSM National Police Maritime Wing office in Dekehtik, Pohnpei State to monitor communication from the boats and they will provide daily situation reports to the President.

Within the FSM Constitution, once the President declares a state of emergency for the nation, he is empowered to make executive decisions to reallocate the resources of the National Government to address the needs of the people. After 30 days Congress must act to either extend the emergency declaration or to revoke it.

LEGAL CORNER

By Micronesian Legal Services Corporation

Mwolen Kopwung en Pohnpei kihda kosoandi nan November me kekeilaka kosonned me pid neitek en mohni de "interest".

Kosoandi wet kasalehda me kosonned me wia manaman sang 1966 lel rahnwet inda me Mwolen Kopwung sohte pahn sawese rikada interest me laudsang percent ehu nan sounpwong ehu ma pweipwand \$300 de pohngan. Ma pweipwand tikitik sang \$300 Mwolen Kowpung sohte pahn sawese rikada interest me laudsang percent riau nan sounpwong ehu.

Karesepe: Ma aramas ale small loan me \$100.00 oh kapwungala \$120.00 mwuhrin sounpwong ehu e wekwekhriki me e pwain interest \$20.00 de 20%. Kosonned mweidong 2% de \$2.00.

Pohnpei Supreme Court oh mu-

nicipal courts sohte kak sawese business de aramas en rikada interest me laudsang dahme kosonned mweidong. Ma mie municipal court me sawese rikada interest me laudsang dahme sansal powe e wehwehriki municipal court sohte wehwehriki me kosonned wet wia manaman lao Legislature pahn wekidala.

Kosoandi pil inda me soang en charge koaros me kohla pohn principal wia interest, menda ma ehu soang en ahd kohla powe. Met wehwehriki me business sohte kak rikada "service charge" de "late charge" de charge sohte lepilipil ma charge pwukat laudsang dahme kosonned en interest mweidong.

Kosonned pil inda me aramas me kihda interest me laudsang dahme sansal powe uhong kosonned en dipw.

M komwi emen me ahneki problem en small loan de problem en interest laud me kohla pohn pweipwand komwi kak ekir telephone 320 2404 de 320 3762 ni ehd lel ni alem sang 9:00 lel 3:00.

K-Press Perspective

Already weak Pacific Islands
Media takes another hit

The end of 2008 was also the end of an era in the Pacific Islands. On December 31, 2008 Pacific Magazine, which has been publishing for 32 years, posted its last article and walked away. For over 30 years Pacific Magazine has shined the media spotlight on events throughout the Pacific through informative articles and oftentimes spectacular photography throughout the region. Journalists and photographers from throughout the Pacific submitted articles and photos from their home islands. We will miss their unique insights.

The Pacific Magazine was more than

just a resource for current events in the Pacific, it attracted tourists to the region. Maybe tourists didn't come to the islands specifically because of the Pacific Magazine but they often used it as a resource to determine when and where to go. The resource is no longer available and island tourist bureaus will have to work harder than they already are to attract those lost tourist dollars

Pacific Magazine's glossy printed publication disappeared a year and half ago when the publication went to a strictly online format. The move wasn't enough to save the magazine in these difficult

economic times. Though the website continued to receive nearly a million hits per month they simply were not able to attract enough advertisers to keep their doors open.

Publisher, Floyd Takeuchi said that the magazine might have been able to continue to struggle through but for the financial meltdown of financial institutions. If the number of advertisers had begun to dwindle for Pacific Magazine before the financial crisis, afterwards they began to stay away in droves hesitant to use their remaining cash resources for advertising.

We bid Pacific Magazine a fond adieu. Pacific Islanders and those people who are interested in the Pacific Islands will long miss you.

into changing the concept of "country" into a reality.

Newspapers, radio and television broadcasts, and news websites; the media doesn't make a country. People make a country and the media's job is to help the people to communicate with each other and to be informed while they are doing it.

When media outlets like the Pacific Magazine close their doors the entire region they serve loses another vital source of information that helps you to make decisions about your country, your leaders and the decisions they have made. The mandate of the media is to correctly let you know what your leaders are doing whether the news is good or not.

"Kool-Aid/Ramen... No Water...!?!"

Kathy Lebehn
Our Lady of Mercy

Today there are many huge health problems in Micronesia. One of the new ones is the problem of people now eating lots of ramen and kool-aid without water. So, in this essay, I will write about the bad effects of this new eating habit.

As you all can see today, when looking closely, many young boys and girls have two red fingers from sharing kool-aid. This can lead to many future health problems such as ulcers and high blood pressure, which many young teenagers have already experienced. Some students, very young, have even had bleeding ulcers that cause them to vomit and defecate blood. Some have to take high blood medication, which young people should never be ex-

pected to take. Many other students have been admitted to the hospital because of this poor diet and other effects it has on their bodies, such as heart burn, chest pains and urinary tract infections. Most of them do not even understand what is happening.

Look around today and you will see that almost all boys and girls are making ramen and kool-aid their fast food. If it is their flavor or favorite, I hope they would minimize it soon, because they are really just slowly killing themselves. Last, but not least, to stop this sickness, I can only recommend they add lots of water to these foods now, so they can live long enough to help their families in the future.

1st Place Winner Short Essay Contest
Sponsored by COM/FSM

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Come one, come all! Let us join heads in an attempt to analyze the prices of goods in the FSM, particularly in Pohnpei. By goods I am referring to the commodities or products that the FSM imports as means of business transactions. Going back a bit, in or about the middle of this year, the price of fuel reached its highest peak of \$147 per barrel worldwide. The price of fuel in the pump stations, air ticket price on the plane, the price of cash power as well as the price of goods in the wholesale and retail businesses overwhelmingly skyrocketed. It was felt by all walks of life. The factor in which it caused these price hikes was clearly known, that was the \$147 mark.

As of this writing the worldwide price of crude oil is \$39.91. The State of Pohnpei is evidently lifted up a bit with a feeling of relief and excitement to pay for about a two dollars reduction in the price of fuel offered at the pump stations and about thirteen cents in cash power at the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation. Nonetheless, I believe these prices can further descent.

What about the prices of goods and airfare? This is where I want us to band our heads together. The price of goods and

airfare that Pohnpei drastically encountered about six months ago when the \$147 worldwide historic peak in the price of crude oil seems sadly as it continues to exist today. I am aware of this global food crisis as another factor that contributed to the increase of foodstuff prices worldwide. Taking in consideration the significant decline of the number one factor (fuel price) from \$147 down to \$39, there is absolutely no reasonable mind why the price of goods and airfare be remained intact. This is how I look at the situation. Hence, come on heads, what do you think? Have the same perspective or different.

I do not mean to insult anyone, specifically the business community of Pohnpei because even the locals are pricing anything that they sell outrageously. Some of these sold items do not require labor intensive works, tax free and collected and harvested wildy. I am only appealing to your hearts and soul during this time of giving. All in all let us be considerate and humane if and only if my analysis of the situation is right.

Sincerely,
Ausen T. Lambert
Concerned Citizen

At the Kaselehlie Press we understand the struggle. Though we were not affected on the level that the Pacific Magazine was, that was only because we are so much smaller than they are. But certainly, as is the case with most print media outlets across the Pacific, the cost of providing news services to the islands has been difficult to bear and we all are hampered by the same factors that hamper the development of our economies. We are dependent on outside resources to provide the services we provide. Not only are those resources a long distance from our remote islands; the service providers are being forced to raise their prices as well because of the meltdown of world finance.

Our printer in Guam, for instance has not raised its prices since 2004. In the last two weeks they felt they needed to increase the base price for a black and white print job by 36%. That is the reason that there is no color printing in this issue as there has been since May.

Someone said that when media is weak in a country so is democracy. Though I know this is going to open the door for all kinds of snide comments many of them, no doubt about my own abilities I'll say it anyway. Media is weak in the FSM.

The Kaselehlie Press is the only newspaper left in the FSM and we've only been around for nine years. We are able to do it only by sheer tenacity and an extreme personal and collective conviction by the board members and the two staff members that what we do is important, vital even. We believe so strongly in providing information to the people of the FSM that we are even forced to dismiss the financial stupidity of doing the job that needs to be done.

The fact is, the country needs more sources of independent information so that its people can be involved in the process of making the FSM a country, a real country with unity and pride, informed decision making and course determination; all of the factors that go

What to do with the information is your choice not ours.

During election times it's your job to sort through the issues and choose the best possible leader based on whatever standard you have decided is vital to your choice. If you choose to elect a leader based on how much that leader has given you personally that's your choice. Our job is to gather all of the information that we can and get it to you so that you will have more information to make a choice.

As an example, for several months now, The Kaselehlie Press has pursued every way we could think of to obtain the written platforms of two of the three candidates for Governor in Chuuk. We've had the written platform for one of the candidates for weeks but we felt that it was important that we not give the appearance of endorsing any one candidate by publishing that candidate's platform by itself. We've received multiple promises from the two other candidates who said that they would get their written platforms to us but it has not happened.

Even information like that is important for you to know about. In the January 21 issue The Kaselehlie Press will be printing all of the written platforms we have received from Chuuk gubernatorial candidates and we will be naming the candidates who did not follow through with their promises.

We will do this not for sensationalism but because the people of the FSM are truly great people and you deserve access to all of the information you can get as you make your daily choices.

We don't have a lot of resources and now our job is even harder due to the loss of the Pacific Magazine but we intend to be here for many years to come because you deserve it.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

Members of the Business Com- munity

You are cordially invited to attend workshops and one-on-one sessions on the Island Business Link, an online networking website designed to match business opportunities in the islands with potential partners worldwide. There are 131 members from the FSM and 42 members from Pohnpei on Island Business Link. We would like to solicit current members' feedback about Island Business Link, provide additional guidance on how to post clear, concise and engaging business and procurement opportunities, and share general tips on how to use the internet as a business tool. We also welcome to these workshops those from the business community who have not yet become members of Island Business Link.

Ms. Danielle Noto, 2008 Island Fellow for the U.S. Department of the Interior – Office of Insular Affairs, will be in Pohnpei conducting workshops from January 12th through the 14th. Additionally, she will share information about DOI's 2009 Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands, which is happening in Honolulu, HI from April 6-8, 2009. You may visit the conference website at <http://islandbusinessopportunities.com>.

- ★ Island Business Link is a web based business tool.
- ★ Facilitates ongoing private sector business development.
- ★ Developed for Business Links in the U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States.
- ★ Island Business Link allows island business owners to post business opportunities for potential partners.
- ★ Partner Members can view and shop from opportunities provided by the island entrepreneurs and island governments.
- ★ Island Business Link allows island entrepreneurs and potential business partners to make connections by simply clicking a button.

Information including workshop times and locations will be shared as soon as they are confirmed. If you have any questions or comments in the meantime, please contact Ryan Edgar at ryan_edgar@ios.doi.gov. After January 5, 2009, you may also contact Ms. Penny Weilbacher, Director of COM – Pohnpei Campus at pennyw@comfsm.fm or 691-320-3795. Please feel free to invite friends and family members who could benefit from and would be interested in these workshops.

COM-FSM graduates first six under UOG partnership program

Pohnpei – The College of Micronesia – FSM graduated six bachelor's degree students under its partnership Bachelor of Arts degree program at its spring 2008 commencement exercises. The Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education Program was established through a memorandum of understanding and agreement signed by the two regional institutions in September 2006.

The first graduates who marched at the COM-FSM spring 2008 commencement exercises included Ceaser Ripwo, Genevy Samuel, Mike Ioanis, Sylvia Henry, Peter Remirez and Edward Masiwemai. Sylvia Henry of Pohnpei received the highest award of MAGNA CUM LAUDE while Mike Ioanis also from Pohnpei received the CUM LAUDE from among the six graduated. These were the first graduates since the program was implemented during summer 2007.

Another student, Marissa Semens, completed her coursework at UOG and returned to Pohnpei where she completed her practicum under the partnership program and with COM-FSM faculty supervision.

During COM-FSM's spring 2008 graduation at the National campus, President Robert Underwood of UOG was able to address the partnership BA students through a prerecording captured from a live video-conference he delivered from his office via the Peacesat videoconferencing network.

According to a COM-FSM Education professor, twelve possible candidates for the program are being reviewed to do their student teaching and internship during spring semester 2009. This cohort is expected to graduate by May 2009.

Every summer, UOG faculty members come to COM-FSM and teach courses under the BA partnership program. According to COM-FSM's vice president for administrative services, Joseph Habuchmai, "this

collaboration has strengthened the working relationship between the two institutions". Habuchmai also said that COM-FSM plans to collaborate in other areas like BA in Accounting and Agriculture soon.

This partnership effort with UOG has put COM-FSM on the step toward implementing Option 2 as recommended through a report the college submitted to FSM's President Mori on Improvement at the College of Micronesia-FSM: Review of Options. The three options discussed in the report included: 1) COM-FSM to remain a two-year college offering only associate's degrees and at most one baccalaureate degree; 2) COM-FSM to remain a two-year college offering only associate's degrees and partner with other institutions of higher education to bring undergraduate and graduate degree programs to learners in the FSM; and 3) COM-FSM to become a full pledged university offering baccalaureate, master's and doctorate degrees. Consideration of many factors including feasibility of all options was carried out and Option 2 was recommended.

The College of Micronesia – FSM is also offering U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) registered journeymen certification as part of its efforts to help bring training to learners in the FSM. COM-FSM representatives were present at a ceremony in Yap on December 12, 2008, where five Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC) linemen were certified. The five newly certified journeymen included Steven Ken Libmad, Steven Ken, Charles Laman, Florentino Ruwowyoch and Hilary Figir. This recently certified cohort completed eight lineman courses with Pacific Lineman Training and served many hours under the USDOL registered apprenticeship program to meet their on-the-job-training requirements.

This certification was made possible through a sponsorship agreement obtained by YSPSC from the USDOL through COM-FSM.

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Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com

Vice President Alik Pleaded to World Leader's for Immediate Action to Address Adverse Impacts of Climate Change

By *FSM Information Services*

Palikir, POHNPEI – The Honorable Vice President Alik L. Alik attended as Head of Delegation the recently concluded Climate Change Conference under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol held in Poznan, Poland from 01 – 12 December 2008.

The Vice President delivered a statement at the high-level plenary laying out the scenarios for what he said many leading climate change scientists are referring to as tipping points beyond which abrupt climate change shifts become unavoidable.

In his statement, Vice President Alik called on world policymakers to find timely and urgent solutions and reactive climate change governance in order to fast-track mitigation measures necessary to avoid such tipping points.

Speaking also at the Ministerial

Roundtable in which he was invited to lead its discussion, Vice President Alik delivered an emotional plea appealing to World leaders not to view the lives of some people as more important than others or some cultures more worth saving than others.

Mindful of the recent series of sea surges in the State of Kosrae and some parts of the Federation, he said ‘we are truly the victims not of our doing and you must help us adapt to the impact of climate change.’ He went on to say “on behalf of the people of my islands, I demand action”.

Accompanying Vice President on the delegation were Mr. Andrew Yatilman, Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (EEM), Ambassador Nakayama of the FSM Mission in New York, staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and advisors from relevant non-governmental organizations

President Calls for Emergency Meeting in Response to State of Emergency Declarations

By *FSM Information Services*

Palikir, POHNPEI - President Mori called together a Task Force this morning to discuss the National Government's response to the State of Emergency declaration of Pohnpei State and the impending declarations from the states of Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. All four states suffered severe damage from the recent tidal surges caused by two circulation weather systems and high tides caused by the perigee of the moon during the week of December 8th through the 12th. Other Pacific countries affected by this Pacific tidal surge were Solomon Islands, PNG, Kiribati, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Task Force consisted of Mr. Andrew Yatilman, Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (EEM), Ms. Oleen Paul, Hazard Mitigation Officer with EEM, members of the Department of Justice, and Secretaries from the Departments of Resources and Development and Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure. The President also invited members of Congress to join the meeting and Senators Moses Nelson and Peter Sitan were present and confirmed the seriousness of the damage in Chuuk State and agreed with a need for a declaration of a State of Emergency.

As reports come in from the low lying outer islands, mostly by shortwave radios, the Office of EEM is getting a better picture of the state of emergency. They referenced a video shot in Kosrae that showed the actual event happening, with waves crashing on the island and photos from the outer islands of Chuuk and Yap showing the intrusion of saltwater into taro patches and agriculture crops. President Mori was on the MS Voyager for his official State Visit to the Northwest Islands of Chuuk during this time and was

witness to the large tides and surges on the reefs and islands. Although he was not briefed on the reasons for the occur-

rence, he took pictures to document the force of the tides and the damages caused by them.

Once all the states have declared a State of Emergency, President Mori can declare a National State of Emergency and react with immediate relief and assessment efforts. Food and fresh water are the immediate needs of the people of the outer islands in Chuuk, Yap and Pohnpei. Airplanes and ships will be sent to these islands to provide this relief and assessment teams will carry out inspections to assess the effects of the tidal surges and make plans for further recovery needs.

Pohnpei State has already provided for fuel and provisions for the MS Voyager to make an emergency run to the Southern Islands of Pohnpei, namely Sapwuahfik, Nukuoro, and Kapingamarangi and bring relief supplies on January 5th, 2009. The Task Force, led by Director Yatilman of EEM, is meeting later today to plan relief and assessment efforts in all of the States, and FEMA, the US Federal Emergency Management Association, is expected to also play a part in these relief efforts.

Once President Mori declares a State of Emergency for the nation, he is given the authority to pool the resources of the national government and allocate them as he deems necessary to address the threats posed to the people. In a second meeting today, the President received an update from the Finance Department on the status of revenue available and unappropriated in the General Fund that can be used to help support the relief and administrative costs, which are estimated to be in the millions of dollars. President Mori will be meeting with our Development Partners over the next few days to inform them of the situation and ask for assistance in relief efforts.

Lusitana Apartment Fire Leaves Family Homeless

A Micronesian family of 10, three of them children, lost everything after their apartment burned.

By *Honolulu Star-Bulletin staff*

Fire investigators were trying to determine the cause of a spectacular fire yesterday morning in a Punchbowl apartment. The blaze engulfed the second-story walk-up unit at 1445 Lusitana St., displacing the family of 10 living there. It caused about \$130,000 in damage. Firefighters responded to the alarm at 7:50 a.m. Smoke from the blaze billowed over the neighborhood and was visible for miles. The 10 people who lived in the apartment were home at the time but escaped without injury, according to Honolulu Fire Department spokesman Capt. Terry Seelig. Residents of the three other apartments in the building also escaped without injury. No other apartments were burned, but some sustained smoke and water damage, Seelig said.

The building is makai of the H-1 freeway near the Punchbowl onramp to the Waianae-bound lanes of the H-1. The

fire was extinguished by 8:27 a.m. Salome Pisaram, 30, who has lived in the rental apartment for two years with 3-year-old son Shawn, said she lost all her possessions, including her passport, birth certificate, money and bankbook. She works as a cook at a Waikiki eatery part time so she could stay home with her son.

Pisaram said she could start working full time, but wonders if that would even begin to repair the life she has lost. She said she may consider moving back to Chuuk.



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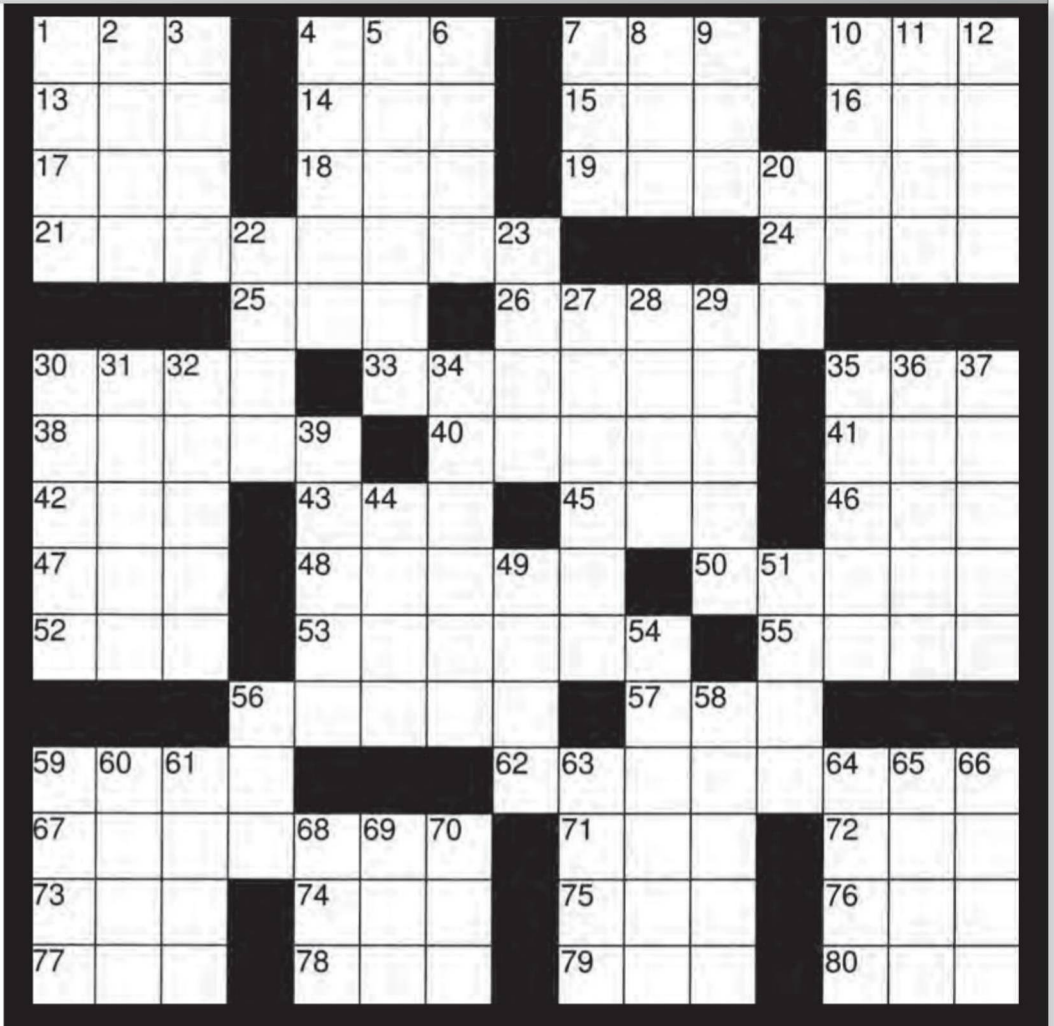
Crossword - T V / F i l m 2

ACROSS

- 1. Top ___ (Astaire film)
- 4. Actor Vigoda
- 7. Actress Peeples
- 10. Malcolm X director
- 13. ___ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
- 14. Actress Wray
- 15. TV's Byrnes
- 16. Another role for the guy who played Twiki
- 17. Late-night TV fare since 1975: abbr.
- 18. Jim Carrey role
- 19. War drama of 1981
- 21. Show on TV
- 24. Actress Chlumsky
- 25. Actor Benicio ___ Toro
- 26. The Maltese Falcon actress
- 30. 21 Jump Street role
- 33. ___ Weapon (Gibson/ Glover film)
- 35. Director Van Sant
- 38. 1985 film ___ Dancing!
- 40. Actress Anne
- 41. Actor Camey
- 42. What Carol Burnett tugs
- 43. Gregory Hines film
- 45. Actress Grey
- 46. Old movie studio
- 47. Chances ___
- 48. Sigourney Weaver film
- 50. Actress Mamie Van

- 52. Cadillac ___ (Williams movie)
- 53. Knowledge (Nichols film)
- 55. Actor on ER
- 56. Exodus actor
- 57. Certain movie planet resident
- 59. Frasier actress Gilpin
- 62. Actress Eggar
- 67. Home state in a Reese Witherspoon movie of '02
- 71. Movie studio
- 72. Actor Ziering
- 73. Green Acres role
- 74. Director Lars ___ Trier (Dancer in the Dark)
- 75. Anything ___ Love
- 76. The 5,000 Fingers of ___ (Dr. Seuss movie)
- 77. Ben in the film Ben
- 78. Actress Irving
- 79. Meyers of Kate & Allie
- 80. Dolls based on a film

- 7. Actor Beatty
- 8. Actress Lupino
- 9. TV "clutter"
- 10. Bert Lahr role
- 11. A Yank at ___
- 12. ___ Plum, Little House on the Prairie role
- 20. Cheers setting
- 22. What Herman might do at work on Herman's Head
- 23. Soap sur-name
- 27. Actress Reed (Major Dad)
- 28. Movie plantation
- 29. Charlie Chan's portrayer
- 30. Mr. T's TV group
- 31. Only the Lonely actress
- 32. Actress Black
- 34. Star Wars group
- 35. TV personality Moore
- 36. Jaleel White cameo role that took over the series
- 37. Platoon director
- 39. Step by Step actress Keanan



- 44. Actor Rickman
- 49. Sonny Shroyer role
- 51. Throw Momma from the Train role
- 54. Dorothy of "Road" pictures
- 56. Movie starring Smith and Jones, briefly
- 58. Actress LuPone
- 59. Former Tonight Show host
- 60. Actress Joyce of Roc
- 61. He often played bad guys who flipped coins
- 63. Star of Dark Angel
- 64. Sub thriller Crimson ___
- 65. Wagner role
- 66. Them, in Them!
- 68. Burt's TV wife in Evening Shade
- 69. Mr. ___ (Keaton film)
- 70. ___ Which Way But Loose

K P r e s s P u z z l e P l e a s u r e

Express Yourself

If you can finish this puzzle quickly, you can **DECLARE** yourself a master word search solver. Each word below refers to a mode or manner of expression. We won't take up any more of your time with our **BANTER**; we'll just let you get right to the solving

- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|-----------|-------|
| AFFECT | CHAT | EXCUSE | NOTE | SNEER |
| ANNOUNCE | CHORUS | FIB | ORATE | SPEAK |
| ASSERT | DECLARE | GREET | PAGE | SWEAR |
| BABBLE | DELIVER | HERALD | PROMISE | TALK |
| BANTER | DEMAND | INDITE | QUIP | TELL |
| BECKON | DENY | INSIST | QUOTE | UTTER |
| BID | DICTATE | INVOKE | REFER | VOICE |
| BLURT | ECHO | JIVE | REITERATE | WARN |
| BROACH | EVOKE | MIMIC | SAY | YARN |



Solutions in Next Issue - Solutions in Next Issue - Previous Solution on Next Page

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Our abovementioned clients have instructed us and wish us to bring to the notice of the trade and public that they attach singular importance to their abovementioned Trade Mark and that legal action will be taken against any person or persons who act in infringement of the rights of our clients.

Any inquiry relative thereto may be referred to ourselves being their agents:

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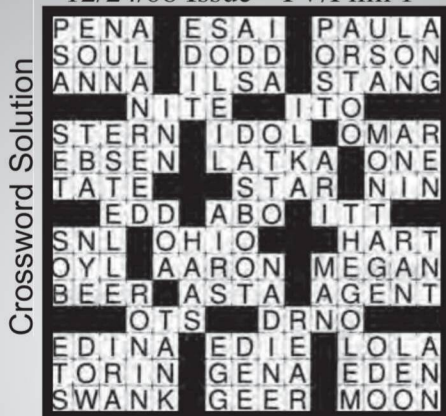
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association 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:

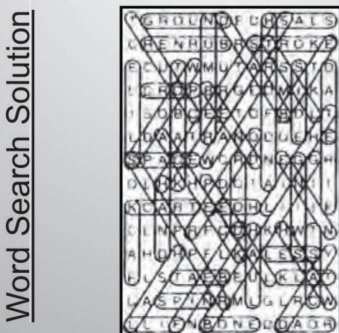
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Puzzle Pleasure Previous Issue's Solutions

12/24/08 Issue - TV/Film 1



12/24/08 Issue - Back to Basics



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You know why to marry is neat?
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Island Food Community of Pohnpei trains new group of Let's Go Local High School Club members

By *Kathay Larsen*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) held the first training of the 2008/2009 school year for the Let's Go Local High School Club on Monday November 3, 2008, at the IFCP Training Center, located in the Botanical Garden. The club has over 50 students signed up as members this year, the majority new, so IFCP and returning members decided to conduct a series of short trainings to educate the students as to the important messages that IFCP brings to the public. There were more than 20 people in attendance at the training, including past members of the club that have now moved onto college. Their passion about IFCP's message brought them back to help educate this new group.

This first session focused first on making sure all members knew each other and shared a little as to why they had joined the Let's Go Local High School Club. The club is not exclusive to PICS students, as the past president and vice president (both 2008 graduates) were from Seventh Day Adventist School. Next, they learned a bit about the human body itself and how what you eat will travel through the body and is either used, or discarded, or stored as fat. They learned how important it is to eat food that is healthy in order to stay healthy, have plenty of energy, and ward off preventable illness. This transitioned into teaching the importance of the "yellow-fleshed" varieties of food that are local to Pohnpei. IFCP has three important posters on this. These posters help visually reinforce the specific foods and varieties which have the highest amount of Beta-carotene, or provitamin A, and rice contains ZERO. The students first familiarized themselves with the contents of these posters, then worked in groups to learn how to teach about the posters. They will be using these skills in order to teach in the elementary schools. They developed "skits" to present the messages. To wrap things up, they learned the "Let's Go Local" song from the movie "Going Yellow". They will teach this song and its actions to the elementary students. We have found that the "Going Yellow" movie is one of the favourites of Pohnpei children.

It is encouraging to see the high school youth in our community take such a marked interest in their local food, their health and in their future. They are anxious to spread the word about how important it is to take advantage of the bounty of local food that we have around us. They enjoy talking about the "CHEEF" benefits of local food, those being "Culture, Health, Economy, Environment and Food Security". As "Let's Go Local" and "Go Local" have become well recognized slogans in the community, the students are using the "brand name recognition" to draw in more people to listen to their important message. They enjoy being part of a fun group that spreads a vital, life saving message. Island Food Community of Pohnpei is very excited to again be working with the Let's Go Local High School Club. IFCP thanks all members of the community that continue to support both Island Food Community of Pohnpei and the Let's Go Local High School Club in their efforts to keep Pohnpei healthy and secure, and encouraging a great club for our youth to be active in. We thank the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grants Program and Secretariat of the Pacific Community Forests and Trees Program for funding this project and the Japanese Embassy, Australian Embassy, Papa Ola Lokahi, Pats Foundation, and GGF for support for the Training Center.



**Astronomical Tide Prediction
December 24, 2008 through January 6, 2009**

	Pohnpei		Chuuk	
Wednesday	01/07 Wed 04:46AM 1.4 12:33PM 3.5 08:08PM 1.1	01/14 Wed 05:25AM 2.9 10:55AM 0.7 05:22PM 4.3	01/07 Wed 12:19PM 1.7 09:36PM -0.5	01/14 Wed 04:57AM 0.3 08:16AM 0.2 03:52PM 2.0 11:40PM -0.1
Thursday	01/08 Thu 01:23AM 1.9 06:12AM 1.2 01:28PM 3.9 08:48PM 0.7	01/15 Thu 12:02AM 0.3 06:00AM 3.0 11:34AM 0.9 05:53PM 3.9	01/08 Thu 12:53PM 2.0 09:49PM -0.7	01/15 Thu 05:12AM 0.5 08:55AM 0.3 04:00PM 1.7 11:32PM 0.0
Friday	01/09 Fri 02:20AM 2.1 07:15AM 1.0 02:14PM 4.3 09:23PM 0.3	01/16 Fri 12:29AM 0.6 06:37AM 3.0 12:14PM 1.2 06:20PM 3.4	01/09 Fri 01:29PM 2.3 10:11PM -0.8	01/16 Fri 05:34AM 0.8 09:29AM 0.5 03:52PM 1.4 11:13PM 0.1
Saturday	01/10 Sat 03:03AM 2.3 08:07AM 0.8 02:56PM 4.6 09:57PM 0.1	01/17 Sat 12:54AM 0.8 07:18AM 2.9 12:59PM 1.6 06:42PM 2.9	01/10 Sat 02:04PM 2.4 10:36PM -0.8	01/17 Sat 06:04AM 0.9 09:57AM 0.8 03:25PM 1.2 10:48PM 0.0
Sunday	01/11 Sun 03:41AM 2.5 08:52AM 0.7 03:35PM 4.7 10:30PM 0.0	01/18 Sun 01:17AM 1.0 08:09AM 2.9 02:03PM 1.9 06:47PM 2.4	01/11 Sun 02:38PM 2.5 11:01PM -0.7	01/18 Sun 06:49AM 1.1 10:11AM 1.0 02:37PM 1.2 10:30PM -0.1
Monday	01/12 Mon 04:16AM 2.7 09:35AM 0.6 04:12PM 4.7 11:02PM 0.0	01/19 Mon 01:35AM 1.2 09:33AM 2.8	01/12 Mon 03:08PM 2.4 11:21PM -0.5	01/19 Mon 01:24PM 1.2 10:23PM -0.3
Tuesday	01/13 Tue 04:51AM 2.8 10:15AM 0.6 04:48PM 4.6 11:33PM 0.2	01/20 Tue 01:46AM 1.4 11:46AM 2.9 10:08PM 1.4	01/13 Tue 04:49AM 0.2 07:31AM 0.1 03:34PM 2.3 11:36PM -0.3	01/20 Tue 12:40PM 1.4 10:24PM -0.4

Recipe of the Week

In this KP, we are excited to again "treat" you with a recipe from the World Food Day 2008 Cooking Contest. This delicious recipe was prepared by Petrina Beniknos. This dish was entered in the giant swamp taro category and was beautifully presented inside a coconut shell, set atop banana leaves. It tasted as wonderful as it looked. Now you have the opportunity to enjoy this healthy, local creation in your own home with your family. When you see Petrina Beniknos, be sure to thank her for sharing this delectable creation with the good people of Pohnpei! Thank you again



to all of our sponsors, and of course to all of the participants, without whom this year's World Food Day would not be possible!

**Taro
Dumplings:
Mwahng
Kekih**

Ingredients:
1 good-sized giant swamp taro
6 sugarcane pieces
Water

- Method:**
1. Peel and clean taro. Grate and knead for 30 minutes.
 2. Take off sugarcane skin and grate.
 3. Put grated sugarcane in the coconut palm fiber to squeeze juice out.
 4. Mix together taro and sugarcane juice and leave for 30 minutes
 5. Heat pot half filled with water until boil.
 6. Make taro mixture into small dumplings and put one by one into the hot boiling water.
 7. Cover the pot for 5 minutes to cook, take off pot cover and stir for 1 minute and cover again cook for 3 minutes and remove from heat.



JOB OPENING

TITLE:	Accountant
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Deputy Executive Director
CLOSING DATE:	January 22, 2009

Summary Of Responsibilities: Under the supervision of the Deputy Executive Director, performs professional accounting work, including auditing, analyzing and verifying fiscal records and reports, preparing financial and statistical reports, providing information to MCT staff regarding accounting practices and procedures, and reconciling general ledger accounts; assists in preparing MCT's annual budgets; prepares year-end audit reports and schedules; trains and provides technical advice administrative personnel, and NGO partners as needed, and performs related work as required.

The incumbent works with a high degree of independence in performing accounting and financial activities for MCT. Successful performance of the work requires good knowledge of non-profit accounting practices and procedures, fund accounting and fiscal management. Responsibilities include direct contact with all MCT program staff and special program staff regarding monthly reports, revenue and expenditure accounts, financial reporting system and payroll activities.

Qualifications:

Education and Experience: Graduation from a four-year college or university with major coursework in accounting, finance, economics or a related field and one year of general fund accounting experience

Knowledge of: (at entry)

- Generally accepted accounting practices and principles;
- Fund or non-profit accounting practices and principles;
- Auditing practices and principles;
- Non-profit budgeting practices and principles;
- Computer applications related to the work;
- Standard of practice practices and procedures;
- Applicable laws, codes and regulations; and

Skill in: (at entry)

- Maintaining accurate financial records and preparing clear and accurate reports for informational, auditing and operational use;
- Reconciling accounts, records, reports and journals;
- Preparing financial and/or auditor statements, schedules and reports;
- Interpreting, applying and explaining complex laws, codes, regulations and ordinances;
- Reviewing and verifying accuracy of data;
- Maintaining accounting records for special accounts and projects;
- Making sound, independent judgments within established policies and procedures;
- Organizing own work, setting priorities and meeting critical deadlines; and
- Communication to interact effectively with co-workers, managers, subordinates and the general public sufficient to convey information and to receive work direction.

Examples of Key Duties: (Duties are illustrative)

- Prepares journal entries and reconciles general ledger and subsidiary accounts; prepares monthly financial statements, including distributing monthly revenue and expenditure reports to departments.
- Analyzes and reconciles expenditure and revenue accounts, including investment reports.
- Makes wire transfers and journal funding transfers and reconciles monthly bank statements.
- Monitors grant revenues and expenditures, ensuring data is recorded in MCT's financial accounting system.
- Calculates and prepares reimbursement billings and tracks receivables; reconciles monthly accounts receivable.
- Prepares audit schedules for external auditors and acts as a liaison between MCT and auditors.
- Prepares and files annual financial statements.
- Assists with the preparation of the annual budgets.
- Assists with the fiscal year-end and fixed asset accounting.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

Salary: US\$15,000 to \$18,000 depending upon qualifications and experience

Submit To:
Lisa Ranahan Andon
Deputy Executive Director
P.O. Box 2177 Kolonia
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