

The
KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Oceania Optimism High After Meeting with State Officials

Cannery still planned for Pohnpei

By **Jeff Martin**
 for *The Kaselehlie Press*

After meeting with key Pohnpei state government officials this week, including Governor John Ehsa, Oceania representatives said they now believe the company is back on track in assisting the state with the expansion of its environmental resources, infrastructure, social programs and, ultimately, the development of a cannery.

“I don’t think we could have asked for them to be more welcoming and cooperative,” said Bob Rosen, board director for Oceania. “We have a completely new level of understanding with each other.”

Other officials meeting with the company during the week included Pohnpei State Legislature Speaker Nelson N. Pelep, FSM Assistant Attorney General Timoci Ro-

manu, State Attorney General Scott Garvey, and Senators Dion G. Neth, Dohsis Halbert and Fredrico O. Primo. Company officials also met with U.S. Ambassador Miriam K. Hughes.

Rosen said the first order of business was to let officials know that Oceania had taken care of a major management “problem” and that they were ready to move forward. While he wouldn’t elaborate on exactly what the problem was, he did say it concerned removing someone involved with Oceania from the process.

“When we arrived we thought we were coming into a buzzsaw,” he said. “To be honest, we made mistakes. But after apologizing profusely and making amends, we received nothing but warmth and hospitality.”

Rosen said that since a complete econom-

ic growth engine for the area would entail more than just a cannery, Oceania is especially focused on assisting the FSM in six key areas: ocean resources, agriculture and aquaculture, infrastructure (roads and transit as well as health, education and welfare), energy resources and development, tourism, and financial management.

“Everyone is focused on the cannery but right now these issues far outweigh that,” he added. “We have an impressive list of both American and Global companies who will act in concert with us to build not only for-profit companies in the FSM, but social programs and infrastructure as well.”

Rosen said Oceania has had serious discussions with a number of companies including the Trump Organization, Beatrice Foods,

See “Cannery” on page 2

EPA concerns could put a halt to construction at Nanpei Memorial School

By **Bill Jaynes**
 for *The Kaselehlie Press*

Kitti, Pohnpei – Pacific Landscaping, Engineering and Construction has already begun the construction of additional classrooms at Pohnpei’s Nanpei Memorial High School based on the design of Lyon and Associates. The design for the addition was intended to be adaptable for all of the school projects slated for construction in Pohnpei. According to Pohnpei’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) there are problems with the location of the leaching field for the septic system which is intended to be buried beneath the ball field. All other school con-

See “Nanpei Memorial School” on page 9

New Congress maintains officers, reshuffles committee heads

FSM Congress Information

(Palikir, Pohnpei, May 13, 2009) -

The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia convened in Palikir on Monday at 10am for the Opening Session of the new Sixteenth Congress to seat the recently elected members of the new Congress.

Opening Sessions not only mark the First Regular Session of a new Congress, it also provides the platform for reorganization of the Congress leadership. Members of the new FSM Congress elected to maintain the presiding officers of the 15th Congress, but decided to re-shuffle the Chairpersons of the Congressional Committees.

The Presiding Officers of the new Sixteenth FSM Congress are:

Speaker: Senator Isaac V. Figir
 Vice Speaker: Senator Resio S. Moses
 Floor Leader: Senator Joe N. Suka



President Manny Mori, Chief Justice Andon Amaraich, Vice President Alik Alik, and Former Presidents John Haglegam and Leo Falcam attended the opening session of the 16th Congress of the FSM

The Chairperson for the seven Congressional Committees are:

1. Senator Dohsis Halbert, Committee on Ways and Means;
2. Senator Peter Sitan, Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations;
3. Senator Roger S. Mori, Committee on Resources and Development;
4. Senator Joseph J. Urusemal, Committee on Education;

5. Senator Dion G. Neth, Committee on Transportation and Communications;
6. Senator Setiro Paul, Committee on Health and Social Affairs; and
7. Senator Paliknoa K. Welly, Committee on External Affairs.

Memberships in the Committees will be decided by the each delegation.

Chief Justice Andon L. Amaraich admin-

istered the Oath of Office of Senator to the states recently elected two-year senators and to the at-large or four year senators alike. In alphabetical order of States, sworn in members of the new Sixteenth FSM Congress are:

State of Chuuk

1. Senator Setiro Paul, At-large

See “Congress” on page 3

...Cannery

Continued from front page

the Fluer Group, and Cerberus Capital Management, and that all are interested in the project.

Oceania has commissioned the University of Florida to look into the six key infrastructure and social issues and produce a 20-year strategic development plan. The company also commissioned the Kennedy School at Harvard to look into legal and governance issues. Both studies are expected to be completed by early fall of this year.

Rosen added they are only in the early-to-mid stages of developing funding initiatives and that much of it is dependent on the studies being conducted.

"I can't overemphasize the importance of the public/private partnerships between Oceania, FSM and our partners back in the U.S.," he said.

The meetings this week bode well for Oceania, whose relationship with the government of Pohnpei has been anything but smooth sailing since the company came in on a wave of excitement two years ago.

In August of 2007 Oceania announced it would work with Pohnpei's Economic Development Authority (EDA) and invest between \$80 - \$100 million in a cannery that would bring approximately 3,000 jobs to Pohnpei. The company planned to build on the southeast side of Dekehtik, with land constructed at the company's cost, and include a new dock for staging on the east side of the island. The cannery was originally proposed to have four operations: cooking, canning, loining, and fish meal.

The EDA also announced the Authority had entered into a contract with Oceania, Inc. to manage and operate on behalf of EDA all of their port functions including the transshipment plant facility, Ship Agency (provisioning services), bunkering services, and transshipment privilege fee collection.

Almost one year later, however, the Pohn-

pei government filed a complaint against Oceania and asked the Supreme Court to declare the contract invalid claiming it had never been approved. The State additionally filed a motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction on the management agreement between Oceania and EDA.

The state provided an affidavit from Acting EDA Manager Hernet Ringlen that said that he could find no records in EDA files that the Board had ever approved the agreement. Oceania, however, provided two affidavits that listed the people that were at the meeting of the board when the agreement was first approved.

The State also said that at the time the agreement was signed, Oceania, LLC did not have a Foreign Investment Permit as they were required to do and that their violation of that law invalidated the agreement.

Fredrick Ramp, an attorney for Oceania, called that argument a "red herring" and added that "Oceania, LLC does not do business in the FSM." He said that after the agreement was signed, Oceania, LLC formed a new corporation in the FSM named Oceania, Inc. that has a Foreign Investment Permit (FIP). Despite the state's claims to the contrary, he said the types of businesses that they can operate according to that permit are broad enough in scope to cover their management agreement with EDA and that the agreement itself allows for the assignment of the contract to Oceania, Inc.

The state alleged in its complaint that the agreement is "Usurpation of Government Power; Illegal Exercise by Private Persons of Governmental Regulatory Powers." It says that the agreement assigns governmental functions to Oceania, Inc to manage. "This wholesale relinquishment of governmental authority to Oceania is irreconcilably at war with State laws..."

After hearing both arguments, FSM Supreme Court Justice Andon Amaraich issued an order and memorandum in July of 2008 denying Pohnpei's request for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) and preliminary injunction that would have set

aside the agreement between the EDA and Oceania, Inc. until after a full hearing takes place on the matter.

The Chief Justice added the court would address the issue of Pohnpei's standing in due time but for purposes of the order on the request for the TRO the court would proceed on the basis that Pohnpei State does have standing to bring the lawsuit.

Oceania then issued a counterclaim contending "tortious interference" with the contract and that the actions of Pohnpei State "falsely cast aspersions on the honesty, integrity, credit, financial, and technical capability, efficiency and business character of Oceania." The company also claimed the actions of Pohnpei State, including "the seizing of EDA assets, repeated wrongful attempts to force EDA to rescind the Management Agreement and attempts to destroy the business endeavors of Oceania in the FSM and other similar acts constitute fraud and intentional negligent misrepresentation."

The counterclaim by Oceania seeks compensatory damages and reimbursement for attorney's fees.

However, Rosen said Kembo Mida, Jr, a local attorney with Ramp's office, recently had several productive meetings with State Attorney General Garvey and that the legal issues should come to a close soon. "I believe there are no remaining issues," said Rosen. "Right now it's just paperwork and rewriting clauses in the agreement to achieve greater clarity."

In another development, during an earlier press conference held in May of 2008, Governor Ehsa announced that one of the results of his recent trip to China was that they had agreed to provide a grant to build a fish processing facility (a cannery) in Pohnpei. He said the cannery might employ as many as 700 people. When asked about the status of Oceania's plans to open a cannery in Pohnpei he said that he thought that Oceania's interests had waned.

A bill introduced later that month then offered the Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation (PFC) a 30-year no-cost lease agreement for

land in Dekehtik for fisheries development. The designated site is the land currently leased to the Misko family for use as the Pwohmria Beach Resort.

The bill passed in the legislature establishes the China-Pohnpei fisheries project to be built on the site and specifically waives the requirement for a foreign investment permit. The Government of the People's Republic of China, under the agreement will provide a grant of up to \$15 million for construction of a "fish processing plant." Pohnpei State Government would then sell the plant to PFC with the requirement that PFC leases the plant or outsources management of the facility to a company that will be designated in the grant from China.

Making matters even more complicated, in November of 2008 the Pohnpei legislature then passed a bill terminating the existence of the EDA and PFC, bringing their functions under the direct control of the Governor through the creation of a new executive Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The bill transferred all contracts and obligations, including those of Oceania, to the new executive office.

The earlier May 2008 bill, however, made allowances for the fact that PFC might not be an entity when the law is passed, if it is passed. The bill often referred to PFC as, "Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation or its successor in state law."

According to Rosen, the possibility of a China-Pohnpei fisheries project is of no concern to Oceania. "We'll compete with anyone as long as there is a level playing field," he said and added that Oceania has already begun screening and interviewing local FSM applicants for port facility management positions.

Nothing in the bill would preclude Oceania Inc. from carrying out its previous plans to build and operate the cannery project. The bill does not say that the China-Pohnpei partnership would operate as a monopoly.

At press time the case between Pohnpei and Oceania is still pending before the Supreme Court.

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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...Congress

Continued from front page

2. Senator Peter Sitan, Election District 1 (Mortlock Islands);
3. Senator Roger S. Mori, ED. 2 (Northern Namoneas);
4. Senator Joe N. Suka, ED. 3 (Southern Namoneas);
5. Senator Tiwiter Aritos, ED. 4 (Faichuuk Region); and
6. Senator Tony H. Otto, ED. 5 (North-western Islands)

State of Kosrae

7. Senator Claude H. Phillip, At-Large
8. Senator Paliknoa K. Welly, ED. 1

State of Pohnpei

9. Senator Resio S. Moses, at-Large;
10. Senator Dohsis Halbert, ED. 1 (Sokehs, Kolonia, Sapwuahfik, Nukuoro and Kap-ingamarangi);
11. Senator Dion G. Neth, ED.2 (Madol-enihmw and Kittti); and
12. Senator Fredrico O. Primo, ED 3 (U, Nett, Pingelap and Mwoakilloa)

State of Yap

13. Senator Joseph J. Urusemal, At-Large
14. Senator Isaac V. Figir

The Opening Day was crowded as usual with leadership from both the national government and the state governments along with traditional leadership and members of the Diplomatic Community. Lending their presence to the day's proceedings were former Presidents John Haglelgam and Leo A. Falcam along with former Speakers Jack Fritz and Peter M. Christian. The National Anthem was sung by Mrs. Judy S. Penias. Those who were not in the Chambers on May 11th, were able to tune in to the local radio stations for the day's proceedings via a live-broadcast through the FSM Telecommunications Corporation.



The First Regular Session of the 16th FSM Congress is expected to last for 20-days, unless shortened or extended by resolution and pursuant to the Constitution, the

two-year cycle for the Sixteenth Congress of the FSM would be from May 11, 2009 through May 10, 2011.

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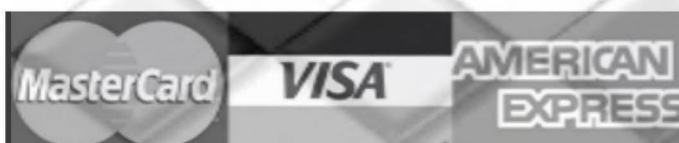
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Negotiating Climate Change

PacNews

(Apia, Samoa 19 May 2009) -

Ensuring that the voice of Pacific Island countries is heard at the international level is critical for the success of the climate change negotiations. This was one of the many lessons stressed during a week of negotiation training and consultations at SPREP Headquarters in Apia, Samoa.

The world is now only six months away from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 15th Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP15) in Copenhagen, where a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol is slated for adoption. In preparation for the meeting, Pacific Island countries party to the UNFCCC received in-depth training in negotiations strategy and techniques.

Dr Ian Fry, a prominent climate change specialist and a negotiator for the Government of Tuvalu conducted sessions to help prepare participants for key issues that will be addressed at COP 15.

SPREP's Climate Change Adviser Espen Ronneberg is pleased that this training has brought many new faces to the climate change negotiations table. He feels it will help strengthen the capacity of the Pacific at the negotiating table by providing additional trained negotiators that will have a strong understanding of the issues to be discussed.

"The training component provided valuable inputs in negotiation techniques, as well as expert knowledge on preparation for the very complex meeting arrangements at the international level. In addition, the Pacific has had an opportunity to also discuss the key issues that are still under negotiation, which will allow them to gather information back home to address concerns arising from those key issues," Ronneberg said.

The training is an important component of activities planned during the 2009 Pacific Year of Climate Change. "Our Century's Challenge, Our Pacific Response" is the theme of the year, which hopes to build momentum in the Pacific before December's meeting of the COP in Copenhagen.

Ronneberg believes that strengthening the climate change negotiation skills of Pacific island country parties to the UNFCCC will also contribute to greater participation in climate related discussions at both the national, regional and international level.

In addition to the negotiations training, the Pacific held consultations with the European Commission on the implementation of the Pacific-EU climate change declaration in the Pacific Islands. This represents a new and additional financing opportunity for climate change work in the region, and could expedite action on the ground in the Pacific on responding to the adverse effects of climate change.

The training was held 11 - 15 May at the SPREP Compound in Apia.

President Mori sets task force on Continental Shelf Project

FSM Information Services

(Palikir, Pohnpei May 19, 2009) -

President Mori has selected three Departments within the Executive Branch to work together with the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) to prepare the legal and other justifications to support the submission of the FSM to the UN Commission on the Continental Shelf. The Departments of Foreign Affairs, Resources and Development and the Department of Justice will assist NORMA on the task force now that the technical work has been completed on our submissions to the United Nations through the FSM Mission to the UN.

The Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) will set a time where this task force will go before the Commission to justify FSM's claims.

As background information:

On 5 May 2009, the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands submitted jointly to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, in accordance with Article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, information on

the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured concerning the Ontong Java Plateau.

It is noted that the Convention entered into force for the Federated States of Micronesia on 16 November 1994, for Papua New Guinea on 13 February 1997 and for Solomon Islands on 23 July 1997.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, a communication is being circulated to all Member States of the United Nations, as well as States Parties to the Convention, in order to make public the executive summary of the joint submission, including all charts and coordinates contained in that summary.

The consideration of the joint submission made by the three coastal States will be included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission to be held in New York from 10 August to 11 September 2009.

Upon completion of the consideration of the submission, the Commission will make recommendations pursuant to Article 76 of the Convention.

Tuna stocks in danger SPC tells Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee

Pacific Islands Foreign Fisheries Agency

(Alofi, Niue, 14 May 2009) -

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC-OFP) provided its annual report on the status of tuna and swordfish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific region to the 70th meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee Officials Meeting held in Alofi, Niue. This meeting of officials will draft recommendations to go to Ministers for high level decision making next week.

SPC-OFP is the region's mandated centre for tuna fisheries data, stock assessment and related research. This science informs the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Committee's decisions on fisheries management and the work of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency in providing expertise and support to its 17 members on fisheries management issues.

Despite the continued increase in the catch of skipjack tuna, this highly productive re-

source is considered by the scientists to be in a healthy state. However, there are significant concerns over the status of bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna and mounting evidence of overfishing. Overfishing of these species is a serious concern for the Pacific, as they are important for locally-based fisheries and yellowfin in particular is an important food resource for many coastal communities.

Albacore tuna, which is the basis of Pacific Island longline fisheries, appears to be in healthy condition, although the numbers of larger albacore targeted by longliners have declined in recent years.

SPC-OFP reported that the regional tuna catch reached 2.4 million tonnes in 2007, worth approximately USD3.9 billion. This record catch was dominated by skipjack tuna (1.7 million tonnes) caught by purse seine fishing vessels.

SPC-OFP will be updating its assessments of bigeye, yellowfin and albacore for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Com-

mission Scientific Committee meeting in August this year. They will also be evaluating the management measures supported by the Pacific Islands and agreed by Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission last December to see if they will eliminate the overfishing currently occurring on bigeye and yellowfin.



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Sustainability of success in immunization crucial

UNICEF

(JAPAN, 13 May, 2009) – The successes achieved in the National Immunization Programmes in Pacific island countries need to be sustained for continued improvements in health in the region.

These thoughts were conveyed in the opening remarks of World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Dr Shin Young-Soo, presented by WHO Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Regional Advisor, Dr Yang Baoping at the 5th Pacific Immunization Programme Strengthening Workshop on Monday.

He said that while EPI had helped member states achieve a polio free status, interrupt endemic measles virus transmission and substantially reduced chronic hepatitis B infection rates among children, sustaining and building on the successes required even greater effort.

Other success stories in the region include the drastic reduction of vaccine-preventable diseases such as diphtheria and tetanus.

The Pacific island countries have also been proactive in assessing the need for and introducing new or underutilized vaccines.

“Continued efforts are needed to make immunization services more effective, safe and efficient if we are to maintain the confidence that communities and policy makers have in immunization services. Primary health care services need to be better integrated at the grassroots level, taking advantage of synergies across different primary health care programmes.”

According to Dr Young-Soo, experiences from the Pacific showed how failure to sustain high routine immunization coverage had resulted in pertussis (whooping cough) outbreaks in some islands in recent years and that follow-up supplementary immunization activities for measles needed to be implemented in several countries between now and 2010.

“Partners and member states need to work

together to address weaknesses and to increase the public health impact of immunization services. This workshop provides an appropriate framework to discuss these issues and coordinate the efforts of all partners.”

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Pacific Representative Dr Isiye Ndombi said while good progress had been made in immunization in the region, for health care to be more effective, it needed to be comprehensive, accessible and affordable drawing comparison from a Gambian study in the early 1990s where mortality remained high despite high levels of immunization coverage.

“Children saved from measles soon died of diarrhea, malnutrition, malaria and other illnesses. The lesson here was that the immunization programme on its own could not save children.”

“My encouragement is for you to focus on having strong immunization programmes that reach all children and communities with comprehensive health care.”

Director General of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Human Development Department, Mr Hidetaka Nishiwaki said cooperation between partners was necessary if they were to meet their immunization goals.

“JICA started the J-PIPS (Japanese support to PIPS) project in 2005 with the ambitious goal that each and every child in the target area in the Pacific Region will be given access to immunization. This goal will never be attained by JICA alone. It is essential to work together with the PIPS partners who endeavor to promote the immunization programme.”

The PIPS Workshop, which runs from 11 - 15 May, is jointly organized by WHO and UNICEF and is held at the Nagasaki University in Japan. It features representatives from 20 Pacific island nations’ ministries of health and regional, global and international health experts.

The workshop also has representatives from donor agencies, which include the Australian Agency for International Development, JICA, New Zealand Agency for International Development, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Rotary International District 2650.



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Security Response to Terrorism Course

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
Public Affairs Office

May 12, 2009, HONOLULU – Legislative Counsel, Congress of Federated States of Micronesia, Mr. T. Lam Dang, from Pohnpei, graduated May 12th from the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies' Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism (CSRT) Course in Honolulu. Dang received his diploma from APCSS Director, retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Ed Smith.

Dang joined 89 other military and civilian participants who attended the three-week course, from 46 locations, primarily throughout the Asia-Pacific region, as well as other far reaches of the globe.

Participating in the CSRT course were representatives from Afghanistan, American

Samoa, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Guam, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives and Mauritius. They also came from Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, United States and Vietnam.

The Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism Course provides key states in the Asia-Pacific region and other designated countries, the operational and strategic-level skills necessary to enhance their ability to combat terrorism and to cooperate with other regional nations. The course is designed to build relationships between and among the United States and current and future counterterrorism practitioners of participating countries, develop the trust and confidence necessary for increased information

sharing, and identify ways to reduce obstacles to cooperation in the international struggle against those who use terror to promote their goals.

The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies is a Department of Defense academic institute that addresses regional and global security issues. Military and civilian representatives of the U.S. and Asia-Pacific nations participate in our comprehensive program of executive edu-

cation, professional exchanges and outreach events, both in Hawaii and throughout the Asia-Pacific region. APCSS' mission is to educate, connect, and empower security practitioners to advance Asia-Pacific security.

Since opening in 1995, the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies has had representatives from 72 countries attend courses at the Center for a total of 4,433 alumni.



APCSS Photo/Visual Information

In this photo released by the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, Honolulu, Legislative Counsel, Congress of Federated States of Micronesia, Mr. T. Lam Dang is presented his graduation certificate from APCSS Director, retired Lt. Gen. Ed Smith on Tuesday, May 12th, 2009. Dang is one of 90 graduates from 46 locations who successfully completed the three-week Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism Course.

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Position: Pohnpei State Watershed Coordinator**Location: Kolonia Pohnpei****Deadline for Application: June 10th**

Job Opening

**Introduction:**

The Pohnpei State Government is committed through policy instruments to take actions for planning, selecting, establishing, strengthening and managing a protected area systems and sites, developing capacity for these activities, and completing a comprehensive sustainable finance plan for the state wide system of protected areas. Specifically in the state effort to protect its important watershed areas Pohnpei state established through policy the Watershed Forest Reserve and Mangrove protection Act of 1987 to ensure integrity of Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve (WFR) and eco-systems resiliency.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has the responsibility for implementing and administering the above policy instruments. The Watershed Coordinator (WC) will be contracted to coordinate the Department's responsibilities under these various instruments in particular those responsibility areas addressing watershed management. The WC will also work closely with Municipal partners and key community and traditional leadership in moving the WFR and Mangrove Forest Reserves (MFR) effort forward utilizing best approaches to gain grass root support.

The Watershed Coordinator (WC) will be housed at the DLNR and work with the Director of DLNR. S/he will report directly to the Chairman of Pohnpei Resource Management Committee (Lt. Governor). The WC will be supervised/ trained by the Conservation Society of Pohnpei's Terrestrial Program Manager for the first six months on the job.

Duties and responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

- The WC will provide technical support to all implementation activities concerning the WFR and MFRs including but not limited to boundary demarcation, forest monitoring, research, permits concerning road building and other development occurring near the WFR and MFRs;
- Establishing and administering a State-wide advisory/consultative group of WFR stakeholders to advise, review and assist with activities;
- Liaising with and developing positive and productive relationships with other State government agencies, National government agencies, Pohnpei State Legislature, municipal government, regional organizations, NGO, traditional leadership, church leaders, and other community stakeholders;
- Develop and implement an island-wide communication strategy and associated materials including development of a management plan;
- Arrange and facilitate annual symposium that brings together all stakeholders
- Undertake fundraising for activities supporting management of WFR and MFRs, including the preparation of proposals and budget submissions;
- Maintaining all records, documenting activities and lessons learnt;
- Preparing all financial and progress reports;
- Any other duties as requested by PRMC Chairman (Lt. Governor), Director of DLNR, and Director of CSP

Qualifications:

1. Bachelors degree or higher in protected areas or natural resources management, or a closely related environmental or planning field
2. Must be an FSM citizen
3. Experience in managing and implementing protected areas projects, or equivalent
4. Demonstrated ability to organize complex projects and move several objectives forward simultaneously. Proven project management and administration skills
5. A positive work attitude, and an ability and willingness to be innovative and adaptable. Demonstrated ability to work with a broad range of people and organizations
6. Knowledge and experience in working with FSM national and state government agencies, customary, and community groups
7. Excellent and demonstrable interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills in both Pohnpeian and English and comfortable in speaking Meing.
8. Familiar with computers and relevant word processing, spreadsheet, database, and communications software. Knowledge of geographic information systems an advantage

Service Period and proposed salary:

The Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) commits to funding the salary of this post for 2 years with the understanding that the State Government would continue to support salary for the post for future years.

The proposed annual salary for this post would be between \$10,000-\$16,000 depending upon qualification and experience.

Other Terms and Conditions:

All other Terms & Conditions will be based on the standard FSM contract conditions for FSM citizens hired within FSM

Please send a letter of interest, your resume and two letters of reference to the Office of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), at the Micronesia Office Supply Building (MOS), or by email to cspdirector@mail.fm For more information please call 320-5409 or write to csp@mail.fm

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Deadline for submissions quickly approaching

Press Release

Two writers from Micronesia, Dr. Evelyn Flores, a Chamoru associate professor of English at the University of Guam (UOG) and Emelighter Kihleng, a Pohnpeian poet and English instructor also at the UOG, are collaborating on a project that is the first of its kind. Flores and Kihleng have sent out a call for submissions for an Anthology of Micronesian Writing. They are seeking work from indigenous or Native writers from Micronesia including Guam, Palau, the Northern Marianas, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, and Kiribati. "We want stories, poems, essays and other writing from indigenous Micronesians for possible inclusion in this ground-breaking anthology" says Kihleng, "there are Polynesian and Melanesian anthologies, but none from where we come from, Micronesia, and our voices need to be heard too!"

Kihleng taught ESL at College of Micronesia, Pohnpei Campus last year and relocated to Guam to be closer to her parents. Her first collection of poetry, *My Urohs*, was published by Kahuaomanoa Press in Honolulu in 2008. It is the first book of poetry to be published by a Pohnpeian. "We decided it was time to get our region's literature into the classroom big time; we've been left out for too long," explains Flores. Flores is the author of a series of three children's books entitled *The Island Cousins Series* and teaches Pacific Island Literature at the UOG where she wants to teach more literature written by Micronesians. "Our anthology is a start; we hope that once more people from Pohnpei, Palau, Saipan and the other islands in Micronesia start seeing our stories in print, they'll want to keep on writing" state Flores and Kihleng, "so send us your stories and they may end up in our book!" The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2009.



The full Call for Submissions is available through various channels:

- 1) Through the UOG website (www.uog.edu). Click the link to News/Events.
- 2) By request from microanthology@gmail.com

...Nanpei Memorial School

Continued from page 1

struction projects funded in Pohnpei by the U.S. Compact of Free Association Infrastructure funds might also have the same kind of problems. The resolution to the problem at Nanpei Memorial School will be the test case that may determine whether any of the other projects go forward.

In a septic system liquids are channeled into leaching pipes buried underneath the ground. Lyons' design would require the contractor to bury the leaching pipes at least 30 inches under the ground. Leaching pipes have holes in them to allow the liquids to escape into the ground. The solids in a septic system stay in a tank and are required to be pumped out periodically. Lyon's design would require pumping every three years for proper maintenance. Without proper maintenance of the septic system, accumulated solids could cause the tank to overflow but not the leaching pipes.

Lyons conducted a thorough study of the ground's percolation abilities (the ground's ability to dissipate fluids introduced to it). The EPA said that they reviewed the results of that study and found them to be acceptable. But they also said in an April 20 letter to Robert Westerfield, the Contracting Officer for the FSM's Program Management Unit, "This construction scheme is very new to us and therefore presents us with the uncertainty that it will pose no health risk should the project be completed and the field opened again to the general public for activities."

Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa said that the Lyons design was approved by the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before construction was contracted out. He said that he didn't understand the technical reasons why EPA had changed their position. He wants to be sure that the problems at Nanpei Memorial School are resolved fully so that other school construction projects in Pohnpei don't encounter the same problems.

The EPA said in their April 20 letter that the board's final decision was that the design is unacceptable and they will not sign off on it.

"It wasn't only us, but the community that didn't agree with the location (of the leaching field)," said Albert Roby, the Executive Officer of Pohnpei's EPA.

On May 6, Jack E. Yakana, the Program Manager of the PMU sent a letter to Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa

saying, "in the absence of some other resolution, the PMU will have no alternative other than to stop work on the project and terminate the contract for construction of the Nanpei Memorial School classroom addition. Because construction has already started, sizable termination costs will be incurred all of which will be charged to Compact funds allocated to Pohnpei State."

Governor Ehsa characterized the letter as a "bad letter" saying that it wasn't appropriate for a National Government employee to send a letter to a Head of State telling him that he would unilaterally stop construction of a project in his State without offering alternative solutions to the problems. Governor Ehsa met with President Mori on the 8th of May and asked for two weeks to work out the problems with EPA.

EPA's Roby seemed confused about the problems of the ball field as a leaching field when he talked in a phone interview about the weight of accumulated people and heavy equipment in the area on top of a leaching field. He said that though leaching fields are common in the yards of many people in Pohnpei the accumulated weight of gathered people on a ball field might pose a problem.

His April 20 letter didn't mention that factor but it did mention that the EPA and Public Health is currently conducting a joint effort to visit the schools to help raise awareness of how a Hepatitis A outbreak can be avoided. It said that the EPA wants also to avoid any possibility of another Cholera outbreak such as occurred in Pohnpei in 2000. He said, "Should the contents of the leaching field get into contact with somebody during recreation, then it will pose a health risk."

Roby said that on Monday, May 18 the EPA had submitted a new plan to Pohnpei State Government for a leaching field that would not require it to be located underneath the ball field for the school. He said that he didn't know the details about whether or not new land for a leaching field would need to be acquired but that he felt that the situation had been resolved through the introduction of an alternative treatment solution.

Governor Ehsa said that he had spoken with the contractors and was told that they could continue to work for two months before they have to deal with the problem of the septic system.

PMU needs an assurance that a solution can be found before proceeding with any more of the work. "We're just not going to build a school without bathrooms," said Westerfield.

Pohnpei EPA Environmental Surveillance Laboratory Certified

Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency

(Kolonias, May 18, 2009) – The U.S. Freely Associated States Laboratory Certification Program has certified the Environmental Surveillance Laboratory of the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (Pohnpei EPA) to analyze marine and other surface water samples under the Enterolert™ Method. The certification is effective until 2011. Clayton Santos, Laboratory Supervisor, and analyst Fermin Scaliem were also certified as Laboratory Technicians for the Enterolert™ Method. In addition, new analyst Quinton Lawrence was certified as

was performed by FAS Certification Program Manager Edna Buchan and LT Elena Vaouli of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Certificates were presented to Pohnpei EPA Laboratory and to Laboratory Supervisor Santos, technician Scaliem and Lawrence at an awards ceremony held at the Pohnpei EPA office on Monday, 18 May 2009. With the presence of Senator Fernando Scaliem, he expressed his sincere appreciation to the USEPA & FAS Certification Officers for their assistance to Pohnpei State. He



a Laboratory Technician for the Colilert® Method for drinking water.

Pohnpei EPA Laboratory was certified for drinking water analysis under the Colilert® Method in May 2008.

Certified labs and technicians are necessary to ensure that the water quality data used for protecting public health is accurate and reliable. Certification provides assurances that the lab produces scientifically valid and legally defensible data, and that the staff are qualified to analyze water samples for bacterial contamination.

Labs receive certification when they meet specific criteria, pass an on-site evaluation at least every two years, and have a certified technician on staff. Technicians are certified when they successfully pass a written exam and a practical demonstration of proficiency test. The Pohnpei EPA audit

expressed his support to Pohnpei EPA to help make sure the people of Pohnpei have a healthy environment and congratulated the Pohnpei EPA & staff for their successful achievement.

According to LT Vaouli, "Pohnpei EPA has an excellent laboratory and well qualified staff." During the ceremony, Ms. Buchan recognized the accomplishments of the lab in becoming fully certified for both drinking water and marine water. "Executive Director Albert Roby and his staff are very deserving of this certification, and we are extremely pleased to find that Pohnpei EPA has continued to uphold the highest level of laboratory practice standards since our audit last year. The certification assures the Pohnpei State will have water quality data necessary to move forward with protection of public health and sustainable economic development."

Bizarre Lawsuits

Mrs. Merv Grazinski, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma purchased a new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On her first trip home, from an OU football game, having driven on to the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go to the back of the Winnebago to make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the motor home left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Also not surprisingly, Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not putting in the owner's manual that she couldn't actually leave the driver's seat while the cruise control was set. The Oklahoma jury awarded her, are you sitting down, \$1,750,000 PLUS a new motor home. Winnebago actually changed their manuals as a result of this suit, just in case Mrs. Grazinski has any relatives who might also buy a motor home.

Congress calls in departments and offices for budget hearing

FSM Congress Information

(Palikir, Pohnpei May 19, 2009)

Following last week's Opening Day ceremonies, the President's National Address and the State and National Leadership Conference, the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia is back on track with its national budget session.

The Congress sessions in May, in addition to seating new Congress, have always been the session for the national government budget. Along with a busy week at the national government, the new Congress was also in the middle of its own reorganization to place members of the Congressional Standing Committees, especially in the newly created committee.

During the final session of the 15th Congress in May, a resolution was adopted to separate the Committee of Education from Health and Social Affairs, thus creating a new committee to mirror the same divorce at the Executive Branch.

With the new Committee on Education, the FSM Congress now

has seven Congressional Standing Committees: Education; Ways and Means; Judiciary and Governmental Operations; Resources and Development; External Affairs; Transportation and Communications and the recently divorced Committee on Health and Social Affairs. In order to accommodate all seven committees, the public hearing schedule has been extended to also include Saturdays.

Having been reorganized, is now in the middle of its public hearings with the departments, offices and agencies of the national government for their Fiscal Year 2010 budget which starts on October 1, 2009.

The 16th FSM Congress recessed today to allow ample time for the various committees to meet with entities relevant to each committee. The committees are expected to be in meetings all day throughout the week.

The public hearing schedule is available on the website of the FSM Congress: www.fsmcongress.fm

Funding Received for 2010 FSM-Wide Census of Population and Housing

FSM Information Services

(Palikir, Pohnpei May 18, 2009) -

The Division of Statistics of the Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance, and Compact Management (SBOC) is gearing up to launch the 2010 FSM-Wide Census of Population and Housing, after being granted from various donors about \$550K. The estimated budget needed for the project stands at \$1.4 million.

The financial contributions received thus far are provided by the following sources: UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), US Department of Interior (US DOI), and the Public Sector Capacity Building Grant. About \$850K is yet to be sourced and the Division of Statistics continues to seek financial and technical assistance from other potential donors, including the FSM Congress.

President Mori had issued a Proclamation on July 31, 2008, declaring April 4th 2010 as the FSM Census Day and April 2010 as Census Month. He further emphasized statistics as foundation for development planning.

The 2010 Census aims to take an inventory

of population and housing. It aims also to compile benchmark information on the socio-economic characteristics of the population. Census statistics determines eligibility for grants and funding for public works, education, infrastructure projects, etc. Up-to-date social and economic information enable planners, both from the government and the private sector, to make effective plans and sound decisions; and, to formulate meaningful policies and appropriate strategies.

The Census will cover all households and all usual residents of the FSM, including expatriates. The Census is authorized by Public Law 5-77, otherwise known as the Statistics Act of 1988. This same Act protects the confidentiality of any data gathered by the Division of Statistics, preventing it from being disclosed to the public in any form that may identify an individual.

The Division of Statistics is the official statistics agency for the nation, so the government is highly dependent on it to produce timely and accurate results. Mr. Mathew Chigiyal, the Assistant Director for Statistics stated that the role of the communities and households is important for the successful conduct of the project and calls upon their cooperation.

Micronesia Transnational Crime Unit in the Pacific

*By Steve Lamborn
Advisor, M-TCU*

The Micronesia Transnational Crime Unit [M-TCU] celebrates one year of operation in Pohnpei on 23 April 2009. The M-TCU is a joint initiative between the United States and Australian governments to combat transnational crime in the region.

Transnational organized crime undermines the rule of law, breaks down good governance and affects the economic health of the Micronesia region. But transnational crime is not just about illicit drugs. You only have to examine cases such as the notorious Peter Foster who defrauded the Bank of FSM of US\$500,000.

The M-TCU is one of six TCUs located throughout the Pacific area. The other TCUs are located in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Together the M-TCUS forms part of the wider Pacific Transnational Crime Network.

However, the M-TCU is the only regional TCU in the Pacific and has representatives from Palau, the SNMI and the Marshall Islands as well as members from the FSM National Police and FSM Customs and Tax Administration. There are also mini TCUs located in Palau, the CNMI and the Marshall Islands. Thus the TCU has a true regional focus.

What is transnational crime? Transnational crime is essentially crime that has no geographic boundary and by their very nature have border crossing as an essential component of the criminal activity.

Examples of transnational crime are: illegal fishing, money laundering, human trafficking and people smuggling, large scale international fraud, sex slavery and terrorism are to name but a few.

Transnational crime undermines democracy, drains national assets, and threatens the country's security. It is an abuse of both the country and its people and destructive of their reputation. It is important to understand that there does not have to be a crime committed in your country, it may be that the crime is committed elsewhere with legitimate activity conducted in your country in support of the criminal activity in other places.

The M-TCU deals with information. It takes information from various sources, analyzes, collates, and disseminates the information to various law enforcement agencies within Micronesia and elsewhere. If the information received purely relates to an individual country in Micronesia, then the M-TCU ensures that the appropriate law enforcement agency within that country receives that information through the mini TCUs.

Yap Legislature asks Congress to repeal new law and fund Social Security program operation

Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

By unanimous vote, Legislative Resolution no. 7-142 was adopted requesting the FSM Congress to repeal relevant provisions of Public Law No. 15-73 on the FSM Social Security Act. The provision are specific to the recent amendments that if repealed would allow retirees at age 60 to receive 100% of their social security benefits and nullified increased premium under the amendments.

Furthermore, it requests Congress to appropriate money if necessary from the national general account to supplement collected revenues to allow full payments of benefit obligation as they become due and payable to the beneficiaries. The resolution also speaks to subjecting the system's administrative costs to annual Congressional budget appropriations in the same manner as other legal entities created by the FSM Nation laws, and allow the System to retain 100% of its revenue collections for beneficiary payment.

With the new public law in place, FSM Congress "has effectively placed on the citizens and residents of the FSM, and business establishments and employers in the FSM the extra burden to pay additional revenues to keep the pension plan solvent". This is an added hardship on potential beneficiaries who are now prevented by the law from realizing full benefits until reaching age 65. Congress should therefore appropriate the needed funds for the program for "benefit and welfare of the citizens and residents of the FSM and minimize the impact of financial and other related hardship on the people". It state, the Congress should also refrain from appropriating funds for projects in the States which the States may not be adequately prepared to implement within a reasonable time.

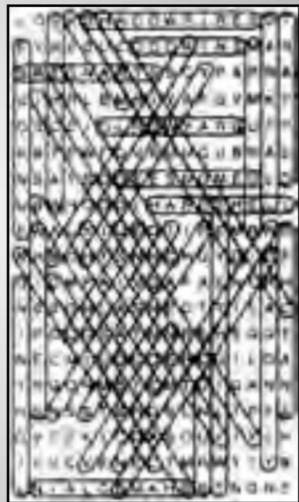
Resolution No. 7-142 was offered by Sen. Jesse Raglmar-SUBOLMAR, Sen. Clement Mulalap, and Sen. John E. Mooteb. It was transmitted to the Speaker of the FSM Congress, the President, the FSM Social Security Administrator and all State Governors.

Puzzle Pleasure Previous Issue's Solution

Crossword Solution



The I's
Have It



Master of Suspense

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

- 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

ANOTHER CLASSIC
LIMERICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TRASHBUSTERS

The old woman who lived in a shoe
Was quite pregnant and soon would be due.
But her HMO said,
"Unless you're near dead,
Your maternity benefit's through."

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(5,000 Meters)

\$1.25 Each

Elementary School Students Learn about Bananas at the Pilot Farm Banana Collection (Genebank)

By Dr. Lois Englberger

An excited group of over 80 Class Six students from Nett Elementary School visited the Pilot Farm Banana Collection Genebank in Madolenihmw on May 12, 2009. This field trip was a highlight of a year-long activity of the Youth to Youth program, led by the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, in collaboration with the Island Food Community of Pohnpei and other collaborators, learning about the valuable bananas of Pohnpei.

Kiped Albert, Pohnpei Agriculture Officer of the Office of Economic Affairs, coordinated the visit at the Pilot Farm. He explained that the Banana Collection includes 33 varieties.

A major point that he made was this:

- It is important to maintain a diversity of bananas, for conservation purposes and for helping against the development of disease and pest problems.

He showed the entire banana collection, which includes Utin Iap, Karat, Mangat,

Ihpali, Iemwahn, Utiak, Karat en Iap, Daiwan, Peleu, Akadahn Weitahata, Akadahn, Kudud (also called Utin Reis) and Utin Kerenis. These are all yellow-fleshed and carotenoid-rich. They are presented on the Pohnpei Bananas (Uht Kan en Pohnpei) poster.

All bananas are very healthy, providing vitamin C and potassium, and other essential nutrients, but yellow-fleshed varieties have additional health benefits. They contain provitamin A carotenoids, mainly beta-carotene, alpha-carotene and beta-cryptoxanthin. These are turned into vitamin A in the body once they are eaten. They protect against vitamin A deficiency disorders, such as infection, night blindness and poor eye health, as well as anemia (weak blood).

Separate to provitamin A carotenoids, there are other carotenoids that bananas contain, including lutein and zeaxanthin. Research now shows that carotenoid-rich foods protect against cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, providing further health benefits.

Thanks are extended to the Nett Elementary teachers for their work with this program this year, Cartwright Xavier, Joe Eherem, Johnnyber Hairens, and Brian Iriate,

and to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Land Resources Division Genetic Resources for assistance in maintaining the genebank collection.



Nett school students learn about bananas at the pilot farm banana collection

Astronomical Tide Prediction				
May 27 through June 9, 2009				
	Pohnpei		Chuuk	
Wednesday	05/27 04:45AM 4.6 11:52AM 0.6 05:34PM 2.5 10:34PM 1.2	06/03 12:20AM 3.4 06:55AM 1.6 12:21PM 2.6 06:09PM 1.4	05/27 03:30AM 2.6 01:07PM -0.2	06/03 12:57AM 1.6 11:00AM 0.5
Thursday	05/28 05:28AM 4.4 12:42PM 0.8 06:28PM 2.4 11:18PM 1.5	06/04 01:00AM 3.7 07:49AM 1.3 01:17PM 2.6 06:45PM 1.3	05/28 04:01AM 2.5 02:37PM -0.1	06/04 12:48AM 1.9 10:35AM 0.3
Friday	05/29 06:16AM 4.1 01:37PM 1.0 07:34PM 2.4	06/05 01:37AM 4.0 08:33AM 1.1 02:01PM 2.5 07:19PM 1.2	05/29 04:29AM 2.3 04:08PM 0.0	06/05 12:59AM 2.1 10:32AM 0.1
Saturday	05/30 12:14AM 1.7 07:10AM 3.7 02:37PM 1.2 08:59PM 2.5	06/06 02:10AM 4.2 09:11AM 0.9 02:40PM 2.4 07:51PM 1.1	05/30 04:46AM 2.0 04:46PM 0.2	06/06 01:18AM 2.2 10:35AM 0.0
Sunday	05/31 01:39AM 2.0 08:17AM 3.3 03:40PM 1.3 10:26PM 2.7	06/07 02:43AM 4.3 09:45AM 0.8 03:15PM 2.4 08:22PM 1.1	05/31 04:39AM 1.7 04:52PM 0.3	06/07 01:42AM 2.3 10:44AM 0.0
Monday	06/01 03:45AM 2.1 09:42AM 3.0 04:38PM 1.4 11:31PM 3.1	06/08 03:14AM 4.3 10:18AM 0.7 03:49PM 2.3 08:52PM 1.1	06/01 03:43AM 1.5 04:36PM 0.5	06/08 02:09AM 2.4 10:59AM -0.1
Tuesday	06/02 05:39AM 1.9 11:10AM 2.8 05:27PM 1.4	06/09 03:44AM 4.3 10:49AM 0.7 04:22PM 2.3 09:22PM 1.1	06/02 01:54AM 1.4 04:01PM 0.5	06/09 02:37AM 2.4 11:19AM 0.0 03:34PM 0.1 05:50PM 0.0

Green Mango Salad

- 4 small green mangoes
 - 1 1/4 cups coconut cream
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice or vinegar
 - 1 small onion, chopped
 - Salt and pepper to taste
1. Wash, peel and grate the mangoes.
 2. Mix the coconut cream and lemon juice or vinegar in a bowl
 3. Add the grated mango and chopped onion and mix well. Add salt and pepper to taste
 4. Leave to stand for at least 10 minutes before serving.

Kehngid Salad

- 4 Kehngid pwul
 - 1 1/4 cups pilen mwangas
 - 2 tablespoon pilen karer de piniker
 - 1 onion, lekepene
 - Soahl de pepper mehn kihong nemen mwonge
1. Widenda, khsang kili, koh iding
 2. Doaloda pilen mwangas, pilen karer de piniker nan ehu bowl
 3. Kihong kehngid me idihdi o nan ehu pan iangahki anien, ekis soahl oh pil peper, kowe eri ariarih lau lel minit eisek
 4. Komwi kakehr sakan de tungoale ma e lou wer.

Micronesian accepted to Stanford University



Marcia Moana Levitan, daughter of Bareana Soulik of Nukuoro and Bob Levitan of Montana, has been accepted to and will be attending Stanford University in Palo Alto, California for the school year beginning in the Fall of 2009.

Marcia is a graduate of Capital High School in Helena, Montana. She has maintained an A average as well as being active in the Cadette Dance Team.

In her spare time Marcia enjoys snowboarding, reading, scuba diving and kayaking.

Pohnpei State High School Debate Contest winners

By *Mary Berman*

Margaret Damarlane and Leighton Edward of Pohnpei's SDA School won first prize at the Pohnpei State level in the FSM Law Day debate program this year, which is on the topic: "Resolved, that the government should ban the import of unhealthy foods such as Spam, canned corned beef, and ramen." Six Pohnpei high schools competed in this year's Pohnpei State debate. This is the first time in 12 years that the Pohnpei SDA School has won this coveted first prize. The school will receive a plaque engraved with the winners' names. Last year, Ms. Damarlane's team won the second prize for Pohnpei's SDA School in the Law Day debate at the State level. Margaret Damarlane's parents are Kadalino Damarlane, Chief of Pohnpei State's Workforce Development, and Mary Berman, private attorney; Leighton Edward's parents are Franky Edward, of the FSM Development Bank, and Maureen Edward, of the U.S. Embassy. The debates are an annual program organized by the FSM Law Day Committee, whose Chairman this year is Atarino Helieisar, the FSM Supreme Court librarian. Winners at the State level may proceed to the national Law Day debates which are held this year in Chuuk in mid-July. Cash prizes for the winners of the State and National debates are funded by an act of the FSM Congress and supplemented by donations members of the FSM community.

President Mori delivers the State of the Nation Address before Congress

FSM Information Services

(*Palikir, Pohnpei May 14, 2009*) -

President Mori stood before Congress and a full chamber and gave his second State of the Nation Address. The address was attended by Vice President Alik, the members of the 16th FSM Congress, Chief Justice Amariach, former Presidents Leo A. Falcam and Joseph Urusemal, the resident Diplomatic Community, members of the President's Cabinet, state governors, employees of the National Government and the public. The speech was broadcast live over the radio in all four FSM States via FSM Telecom and will be released to public television with the day.

After welcoming all leaders, dignitaries, and the public who were in attendance and listening live on the radio, the President got into his speech by recognizing the 30th anniversary of the FSM Constitution that was signed on May 10th, 1979. He then

got into the State of the Nation Address by talking about the economy and our own national recession, which has been on-going since 2005. He spoke of the "unprecedented financial challenges" before the nation and pointed out that because of the global economic recession and stock market fall, the FSM Trust Fund has lost \$22.8 million in 2008.

In response to this economic crisis, President Mori pointed out the more than \$144 million worth of infrastructure projects that are either on-going or are in the planning process, and the \$100 million worth of U.S. Federal Aviation Administration funded FSM-Airport Improvement Projects that are already underway that will help stimulate the economy in terms of creating at least 1000 new jobs and infusing \$65 millions of dollars of income to the states.

'Angels and Demons' buried in Samoa

Radio New Zealand

Samoa's principal film censor has banned the movie, *Angels and Demons*, which was due to screen in Apia later this week.

The principal censor, Lei'ataua Olo'apu, says the film is critical of the Catholic Church and that is why he is banning it.

The movie, based on the best selling book by Dan Brown, is currently the highest grossing movie around the world.

The censor, who is Catholic, says the ban will avoid any religious discrimination by other denominations and faiths against the church.

Three years ago, Samoa banned the movie *Da Vinci Code*, which was based on the book of the same name, also by Dan Brown.

Lei'ataua says the management of the only cinema, the Magik Cinema, has accepted his decision and will not appeal it.

Junior Statesman scholarship winners

By *Mary Berman*

Four high school students in the FSM received full scholarships from the U.S. Department of the Interior, and four more will raise money in their communities, to attend the Junior Statesman summer program at Stanford U., California and at Georgetown U. this summer, June 28 to July 21, 2009. These eight FSM high school students will also travel together for a one-week preparation program in Guam in early June. The students are: Pohnpei SDA School students Margaret Damarlane (DOI scholarship

winner), and Leighton Edward, who will both attend Stanford University, California; Kosrae High School students Selika Isaac (DOI scholarship winner), Krystle Livae, Laniilyann Park, Julian Abraham, and Neelma Skilling (DOI scholarship winner), all going to Stanford; and Chuuk's Xavier High School student Hage-Ae Paul (DOI scholarship winner) who will attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The scholarships cover full tuition to the summer school (\$4,395 or \$4,695 depending on the campus) and transportation to and from the summer school, as well as to and from the preparation program in Guam.

He spoke of further reform of the National Government, one of his major focuses on his first year in office, continued State Government reform in Kosrae and Chuuk States, and energy and tax reform. One major accomplishment in energy reform that the national government and the state governments began last year was the creation of the FSM Petroleum Corporation to purchase cheaper bulk fuel. This project has been able to significantly reduce the cost of fuel in the FSM.

The President also highlighted the upcoming connection of Pohnpei State to the submarine fiber optic cable in March 2010, and the need to connect all four states to this cable so that "the benefits will flow to all four states."

President Mori spoke of the FY 2010 budget that he has presented to Congress to work on this session and stated that it "is one of restraint and is in line with our initiatives to transition from past years of budgetary growth towards a precautionary approach during this period of recession." President Mori stressed that, "Our ultimate objective is to stabilize the economy and continue to develop our economic base to ensure sustainability and greater self-reliance over

the long-haul." There were many points in the speech where the President stressed that cooperation and collaboration of the Executive Branch and Congress are needed to move things forward, including the creation of a National Museum to protect and preserve FSM cultures.

Other areas the President touched on were health and education, strengthening the business environment in the FSM, reduction in government workforce coupled with investment in private sector development, agriculture and aquaculture opportunities, the environment, the 5 Year Compact Review, and international and regional initiatives that he is focusing on.

The President ended his address by calling "on all of the People of this country (FSM) to rise to the occasion and to innovatively grasp your own opportunities. We must view the current crisis as a test to our resolve and our national solidarity and a chance for our family to unite together as we did thirty years ago."

For a complete version of the President's State of the Nation Address, please go to http://www.fsmpio.fm/Speeches/mori/state_of_the_federation_09.html