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KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Pohnpeians capture the hearts of U.S. hip hop band “Dangerflow”



By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 24, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—Before the Miami based band, Dangerflow left Pohnpei this afternoon they had appeared in front of 6200 people on the island. More than 2000 people, many of them dancing and screaming, attended their last concert at Spanish Wall ballpark. Actually, many of them didn’t just “attend” the concert—they participated in it.

As exhilarating as that last concert was, it was really just evidence of the connection the band had made with the people of Pohnpei before the downbeat of that last concert was struck by “Mo” Estrada, the percussionist for the band.

Band members insist that they have never been received with so much love as the people of Pohnpei gave them. Pohnpei was their first stop on their first ever overseas tour. When the wheels of their plane lifted off this afternoon they were bound for Majuro, Marshall Islands. The tour will also take them to Seoul, South Korea and to Manila, Philippines.

See “Dangerflow” on page 8



Featured in this issue:
Kimiuo Aisek Memorial Museum Dedicated in Chuuk

Page 3

USCG Cutter Rush hosts on board reception in Pohnpei

Page 4

Migrant Resource Center opens in Chuuk

Page 5

COM-FSM establishes Center for Entrepreneurship

Page 10

China and FSM celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations

Page 16

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FSM Petrocorp would like to inform the public that from Monday, September 8 to Tuesday, September 30, the former national Coconut Development Authority (CDA) in Dekehtik, Pohnpei will be closed for an end-of-year inventory, refurbishment and facility upgrade. All CDA products will remain available at your local retail stores. The Vital Coconut Development Unit (CDU) will reopen for business on October 1, 2014. We thank you for your patience through the transition period.

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IF YOU HAVE ANY INQUIRY REGARDING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, PLEASE CALL THE MAIN OFFICE IN POHNPEI AND/OR THE FIELD OFFICES AT YOUR RESPECTIVE STATES.

THANK YOU,

THE MANAGEMENT MICARE HEALTH PLAN

Fish and Wildlife officers can and will confiscate undersized turtles



Bill Jaynes



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM—On September 17, officers of Pohnpei's Division of Fish and Wildlife confiscated three undersized turtles from fishermen in Kittu.

The officers stopped by the office of The Kaselehlie Press so that we could witness the release of the three magnificent creatures back into the wild. The officers would not provide the name of the errant fisherman. They said that while it is currently turtle season so it is legal to catch and retain turtles, they must be a certain minimum size before they can be retained. Under the law, Green Turtles must have a shell size of at least 34 inches, and Hawksbill turtles must have a shell size of at least 27 inches.

Fish and Wildlife officers confiscated two green turtles, and one hawksbill turtle and released them into the waters at Misko's Beach where the turtles sped off into the distance, home again at last.



Bill Jaynes

Bill Jaynes

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Kimiuo Aisek Memorial Museum Dedicated in Chuuk

The Kimiuo Aisek Memorial Museum was dedicated on 13 September 2014. It is located next to Blue Lagoon Dive Shop and Truk Blue Lagoon Resort in Neauo village, Weno, Chuuk. The first museum in the state of Chuuk, this is the finest collection of Pacific War nautical artifacts and history in Micronesia.

Founded by his son, Gradvin K. Aisek, the museum honors the man who founded the diving industry in Chuuk in 1973. Today divers from around the world visit Chuuk, known by many as the "world's greatest wreck dive."

Kimiuo Aisek was born on 13 September 1927, during the Japanese times. As a 17-year old, the native Chuukese witnessed the American attack on Truk in 1944. The legendary wreck finder and dive guide passed at age 74 on 4 January 2001. Blue Lagoon Dive Shop closes each year on its founder's birthday.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Chuuk State Governor Johnson Elimo welcomed the museum, confident that it would provide a safe repository for artifacts for all – both residents and tourists – to appreciate for years to come. The governor seized this opportunity to encourage people around the world to donate items to the museum.

Seventy years ago on 17 February 1944 American forces attacked Truk in Operation Hailstone. Truk then served as the headquarters for the Combined Japanese Navy Fleet. The two-day aerial attack sent more than 40 ships and airplanes to the sandy floor of the lagoon, making world history and providing a unique cultural heritage for the people of Chuuk.

Truk Lagoon Historical Monument

In March 1972 the Truk Legislature passed Truk District Law 21-5 creating the Truk Lagoon Historical Monument. The law prohibits disturbing any of the Japanese ships and airplanes in the Lagoon, and requires that all divers purchase a dive permit. In FY13 a total of 2,276 divers purchased permits, thus contributing \$68,280 to the Chuuk General Fund. Of this amount 25% is earmarked "for the administrative protection and development" of the Monument. The dive permits are valid for 12 months.

Along with many private donors, the Aisek family funded the 2400-square foot museum. The only government funding was a \$5,000 grant for floor tiling from the FSM Congress. Chuuk's Senator-At-Large Wesley W. Simina originated the bill that led to the funding. Simina also spoke at the museum dedication.

Amnesty for Donations

Senator Simina echoed the words of Governor Elimo, urging the return of any artifacts that had been removed from the lagoon. He explained that donations would be accepted, "no questions asked." The amnesty program will also be broadcast via the media to scuba divers around the world.

The Underwater Monument in Truk Lagoon has yielded precious nautical artifacts never before seen in one location. With special permission, Blue Lagoon Dive Shop staff have salvaged and carefully restored many of the items on display.

Upon hearing of the planned opening of the museum, retired Continental-Air Micronesia Captain Ed O'Quinn donated the 1929 bell from the converted Japanese passenger liner Rio de Janeiro Maru. He had recovered the bell prior to the passage of the law. O'Quinn wrote that he was thrilled the beautiful bell was finally "home." He had been "safeguarding" the bell for 43 years.

Guam's United Airlines Chief Pilot Pierre Frenay personally supervised the bell's transit from Houston, TX, to Chuuk. Capt. Frenay is an avid diver and supporter of the Kimiuo Aisek Memorial Museum.

The museum's nautical displays include eight ships' bells -- one from the Destroyer Oite -- three telegraphs, a diving helmet, an optical rangefinder which was being carried in cargo aboard the Nippo Maru for island gun emplacements, a ship builder's plaque, china, ceramic sinks, gas masks, medical kits, a glass urinal from the Aikoku Maru, and a trumpet from the Nippo Maru.

Also on display are a carbonated filter water dispenser from the Heian Maru -- a passenger liner converted to a submarine tender, Arisaka Type 38 rifles, a Nambu pistol, samurai swords that had been donated to Aisek, sake and beer bottles, and various ordnance, amongst other artifacts.

The 48-Star Flag

After an absence of 69 years, the first US flag to be raised over the former Japanese territory of Truk has returned to the island. Elmer "Hap" Eckert, Motor Machinist Mate Third Class, USN, was assigned to Landing Craft Unit 34 on Truk. When ordered on 2 September 1945 to replace the first US flag with a larger one, Sailor Eckert kept the original flag as a souvenir. Hearing of the museum's planned opening, Eckert's son, Master Gunnery Sgt. Don Dilbeck, USMC (Ret), donated the flag. Dan Bachmeier, a technical diver based in Seattle, hand carried the precious flag to Chuuk.

The USS Portland

While many know that the Japanese surrendered to the United States in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945, few are aware that they also surrendered in Truk Lagoon the same morning. A copy of the English language surrender document and photos from the USS Portland are exhibited above the US flag. The heavy cruiser served as flagship for Guam's Vice Admiral George D. Murray, who for the historic occasion served as the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPAC).

The flag of the State of Chuuk and the country of Japan are also on display. Hiroshi Yoshida, honorary "Mayor" of Jeep Island—Fanang -- donated his country's flag. He also made a large monetary gift for the museum's construction that took several years.

Chuukese Cultural Ethnographic Exhibit

For the first time in many years, Chuuk's cultural history and heritage is on display as part of the Chuukese Cultural Ethnographic Exhibit. A traditional thatched hut built authentically from local materials houses shelves with war implements, including the likumuch (war ring), lifotufot (war club), and the kupen (slingshot stone).

Visitors can also see the chofonu (peace symbol), sele (adze for wood carving), and the num (bailing pail). Several miniature wafotun (canoes) and waseres (sailing canoes), including one donated from Polowat, are on display, as well as fotun (paddles), body ornaments, an uros (lavalava), and the fenai, Trukese love stick.

Food preparation tools on display include the pwo (breadfruit pounder made from coral), ulong (bowl with stand), pweiker (coconut grinder), and pwil (shell peeler).

Two entire walls of the Kimiuo Aisek Memorial Museum are dedicated to traditional fishing. Among the items are several types of uu (fish traps), the senga (fishing basket), pisekin for eping (women's hand nets), and takkich (flying fish spear).

The museum dedication was a family affair for the Aiseks, who are from Tonoas Island, formerly called Dublon. Kimiuo's only living brother, Mengumy, a resident of Kuchua Village, Tonoas, was among the speakers, as was Guam resident Dr. Dianne Strong. The retired University of Guam writing professor is Aisek's biographer and his "adopted American daughter." Two of Aisek's seven great grandchildren, Kalani Aisek, 10, and Vicky Aisek, 14, cut the ribbon for the new museum.



Aisek's grandson, Ngawan, is manager of Blue Lagoon Dive Shop, and a PADI certified scuba instructor. His brother, Advin, is manager of the 54-room Truk Blue Lagoon Resort, also owned by the Aisek family. Kimiuo Aisek purchased the hotel from Continental Airlines in 1998. It was built in 1970.

"Witness To War: Truk Lagoon's Master Diver Kimiuo Aisek," was released 13 November 2013, in celebration of Blue Lagoon Dive Shop's 40th anniversary. More than \$23,000 was raised via Kickstarter to publish the biography. Strong donated a portion of proceeds from the sale of her book for construction and maintenance of the museum. All museum donors will be acknowledged in future signage. Strong has also donated copies of the book to regional schools and libraries.

People can order the \$40 book by e-mailing Dr. Strong at strong@guam.net. The book is on sale in Chuuk at the gift shop of Truk Stop Inn, and Truk Blue Lagoon Resort and Dive Shop. On Guam the book is sold at all Bestseller locations, including the airport, Faith Book Store, most dive shops, and the War in the Pacific National Park.



USCG Cutter Rush hosts on board reception in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 19, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—Today, the United States Coast Guard Cutter Rush opened its decks for public tours during the day. In the evening, dignitaries and invited guests were treated to a reception aboard ship.

“Our mission here while patrolling the... Pacific is two-fold, one is to provide an enforcement arm that will deter illegal fishing in both the Pacific Island Nations and the United States’ fishing grounds,” USCG’s Captain Vinciguerra said during his speech. “Our goal is to maintain and enhance the sustainability of the migratory fish stocks that populate these areas. The second part of our mission is to partner with our Pacific Island Nation friends to include the Federates States of Micronesia, where we can continue to improve our cooperation and coordination as we both look to increase our ability to prevent illegal maritime activity in Oceania.

“A recent example was this past March, which marked the second iteration of the U.S.-FSM shiprider agreement, where Micronesian officers embark on U.S. Coast Guard vessels to enforce FSM laws in the Exclusive Economic Zone, better known as your fishing grounds. Our partnership also includes protecting the marine environment through efforts to prevent the illegal dumping of oil, chemicals, and other hazardous waste products. One of the

ways we accomplish this is by increasing environmental compliance through our at-sea boarding program,” Captain Vinciguerra said.

The Captain spoke about the history of the Coast Guard which began as the Revenue Service on August 4, 1790. It began with 10 sailing vessels commissioned to protect the young U.S. nation’s fledgling economy from illegal activity.

Though the size of the service has changed since then, “the principle mission set still remains the same—to be a maritime service who works closely with our allies, like FSM, to prevent illegal activity on the Oceans, and to protect the maritime environment from those who would cause it harm,” Captain Vinciguerra concluded.



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Empowering migrants for united communities: Migrant Resource Center opens in Chuuk, immediately begins operations

International Organization for Migration

The Chuuk Migrant Resource Center opened on September 15th. As in Pohnpei, the Chuuk Migrant Resource Center activities will include Pre-Departure Orientation Training, as well as anti human trafficking education activities, and referrals to existing support services in the United States. The opening ceremony was attended by over 40 dignitaries, including Honorable Thomas Mailo, Sou Puun, former FSM Vice President Redley Killion, Assistant Secretary Carl Apis, FSM National and Chuuk State government and police representatives including Chuuk State Chief and Deputy Chief of Police, and representatives from NGOs and civil society.

The Honorable Sou Puun Thomas Mailo, representing the traditional leaders of Chuuk, welcomed the attendees and gave his blessing to the MRC, urging all Chuukese to "learn more about the MRC services and participate



in the trainings as they are very important and will prepare you when migrating to the United States."

The Pre-Departure Orientation provides FSM citizens with training on migration into the US especially Guam and Hawaii, pre-departure cultural and orientation training, awareness raising on the risk of human trafficking, referral to service providers in Guam and Hawaii on legal, medical and other social

welfare matters. The Migrant Resource Center located in Pohnpei has trained 250 individuals, including women, youth, and civil society representatives, since opening in 2013.

Human trafficking and migration remain priority issues for the governments of many Pacific Island Nations. The Migrant Resource Center is working in partnership with the FSM Department of Justice and Department of Education to conduct additional human

trafficking awareness training at the state and national level. Over 6,000 students, government personnel (including law enforcement), and nongovernmental organization affiliated persons in the FSM have received this training. During his address at the Chuuk MRC opening, Assistant Secretary Carl Apis stated, "This year, we noted that the 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report by the U.S. Department of State has indicated that the FSM has improved from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2. We thank the IOM and our development partners for their assistance towards our efforts to improve our status."

Emeliana Musrasrik, MRC Coordinator, concluded with some remarks prepared by IOM Chief of Mission Ashley Carl:

In the future, we hope that the MRC will also support the reintegration of Micronesians into their home countries following their return from abroad. In this way, the MRC will contribute to all 360 degrees of the migration cycle. In addition, the MRC may provide services to Micronesians relocating to other countries such as Japan and Australia, as I understand an increasing number of Micronesian students are choosing to travel to these destinations. And when the Center is ready, it may provide services to migrants already residing in the FSM. The advantage of the MRC concept is that it can be as big or small as we collectively decide.

The Chuuk MRC wasted no time in commencing operations. The previous day, on Sunday the 14th, MRC Chuuk conducted an anti-human trafficking awareness raising in Mechitu, Weno, for 30 people including - members of the womens' organization, faith based community and youth. According to the President of the women's group, Mrs. Diana Manuel of Logan Memorial Church,

This is a very important issue and one that needs public awareness. The victims of human trafficking are our own women from the state of Chuuk and therefore, as mothers, we need to understand the issue in order to protect our family.

Subsequently, on Tuesday the 16th, MRC conducted pre-departure orientation training for 25 participants, including: college and high school students, members of the FSM Immigration, World Teach volunteers, IOM staff and volunteers. Shawn Mori, a COM student stated, "I wish I had this training prior to going to the United States. It would have made my life more easier".

Pakin Atoll cleaned up by JICA Alumni Association

JICA Alumni Association (JAA-FSM) in collaboration with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Office of Fisheries & Aquaculture (OFA) where some of the JAA Members belong to, Sokehs Municipal Office, Pakin community, and JICA volunteers conducted a clean-up activity on Pakin atoll from 12th to 13th of September 2014. The program was funded by the JICA FSM Office and in addition received special donations from the Honorable Speaker Dohsis Halbert.

Pakin Community has been maintaining the cleanliness of their atoll from on land and on their shorelines, where many trash are being washed upon. However, proper disposal of the waste is a challenge for the people of Pakin.

Pakin community greeted the delegation which was also accompanied by the Iso Naniken of Sokehs, Mr. Jack Artui, with the sakau ceremony followed by a dinner reception at the Pakin Community Center.

By the end of the 2-day clean-up program, one hundred twenty of 33gal trash bags were collected and transported to Pohnpei Dumpsite at Dekehtik.

Some of the up-coming JAA activities this year include Publishing of Japanese / Chuukese /English dictionary by Chuuk JAA Chapter, which is a guidebook for basic Chuukese language for Japanese visitors to Chuuk; Creating a web page by the Yap JAA Chapter to build a network among ex-participants of all four states; Conducting an outreach program focusing on environment, health, and climate change to the community and schools by the Kosrae JAA Chapter; and Establishing a Pohnpei Chapter during the JAA Annual General Meeting in this coming November. .

JICA Alumni Association was formally established in 2006 with the purpose to gather and create friendship among the JICA Training Program alumni and those who studied in Japan; to develop relationship between JICA and its alumni with the frame of the official development assistance program of Japan; and to support economic, culture, scientific and technical cooperation between FSM and Japan.



Saving lives and not just in theory!



International Organization for Migration

In Pohnpei, an individual trained by IOM in Emergency First Response (EFR) was able to save a drowning 8 year-old child at Awak Elementary school by performing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) he learnt during training with an IOM team member: "Without the training I received through EFR, I would not have been able to help that drowned child. I believe more community members, especially people who live or work in remote areas, should be trained in CPR and basic First-Aid so they are able to provide some immediate assistance," stated Kesydy-Ray Ladore, from Pohnpei.

Today, fifty schools throughout the FSM and Marshall Islands are safer places to study, work and play, thanks to an innovative component of IOM's Australian-funded CADRE program. Through this program, 207 educators have been trained and certified in emergency first aid, which includes the lifesaving technique of, as well as, as instructions on how to apply the contents in the large medical evacuation kits provided to each school by IOM. The CADRE team working at IOM is committed to increasing the safety of schools and communities in the RMI and FSM through widespread propagation of life saving first responder skills.

Most items in each kit are re-usable and the contents are designed to accommodate a situation where the school serves as an evacuation center for a displaced population. Many schools and churches in the RMI and FSM serve as evacuation shelter for the wider community. IOM ensures that school personnel at each CADRE school site have the requisite skills to use the items in the kit before it is handed-over to the school leadership and the willingness to restock the kits when items are exhausted. Top date, IOM has certified 207 education personnel in Emergency First Response (EFR).

A second life was saved in Fefen, Chuuk when the attempted suicide of a teenager was thwarted by life-saving services conducted at the school by an educator who was certified in the IOM CADRE training. "If it weren't for the EFR training by IOM, I wouldn't have been able to save my nephew's life," stated Paula Fritz, of UFO Elementary School, in Fefen, Chuuk.

The CADRE program has been engaging 50 schools and communities in the FSM & RMI since 2012. The program includes 34 elementary schools in the FSM, 14 secondary schools in the RMI and non-formal Youth to Youth in Education locations in Majuro and Ebeye. The final medical evacuation emergency kit was handed over to the deaf center in the RMI on 17 September, following the EFR training for personnel.

School buses to Chuuk High School students

Chuuk High School received a grant amount of \$104, 287 through Japan's Grassroots Human Security Projects for the procurement of 2 school buses

On February this year, this project was initially signed over to Chuuk High School and on September 17 the project was finally kicked off.

Following Chuuk High School's report that a large portion of students walk to school and on rainy days don't attend school at all due to transportation problems. On worst days, classes are cancelled due to low student attendance.

Ambassador Masaki Sakai who was recently appointed as Japan's Ambassador to the FSM this year, handed over the project and it was received by Mr. Paul Hadik, Principal of Chuuk High School.



Handing over the keys with Ambassador Sakai and Principal Hadik

The ceremony was witnessed by distinguished members of Chuuk State Government and school staff.

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The Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in the Pacific

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – PIRMCCM Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency Representative

The Pacific Islands Regional Country Coordinating Mechanism (PIRMCCM) was established in February 2002 to coordinate and support the development, implementation and management of grants funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). THE PIRMCCM acts as the regional governing body for multi-country Global Fund grants.

In December 2013, the PIRMCCM endorsed a comprehensive governance reform, changing the structure of its membership so that it better represents the needs of key affected populations in the fight against the three diseases. Where in the past, a CSO representative was elected from each member country, the new PIRMCCM structure calls for CSO representatives from targeted regional CSO constituencies. This change will ensure that key at risk communities have a strong regional voice in the development and governance of the grants.

This reform has necessitated the election of new PIRMCCM members representing the new set of constituencies. There will now be one Country representative from each PIRMCCM member country (total of 11), and ten (10) CSO constituency representatives and three (3) members from donor, multilateral/ bilateral development partner agencies.

Election of Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency representative to the PIRMCCM

The Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency is now required to openly and transparently elect an organisation as their representative to the PIRMCCM, and to nominate an Alternative member (whether from the same organisation or a different one).

It is suggested that when selecting civil society organisations as PIRMCCM representatives, participation of the CSO/NGO director or deputy director should be encouraged.

Responsibilities of the PIRMCCM Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency member include:

- Attend the twice annual PIRMCCM meeting (travel and per diem funded by the PIRMCCM budget);
- Ensure the needs of, and issues affecting the communities in the Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency are represented in PIRMCCM planning and policy discussions, and when project proposals are developed;
- Ensure that feedback from the Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency is included in oversight discussions;
- Ensure PIRMCCM developments, and updates are provided to organisations who work with Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency in the community;
- Raise issues relevant to your constituency to the PIRMCCM Executive for lobbying at the GF Board.

As the Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency is a regional one, the election process will be conducted electronically via email. The following organisation has been appointed by the PIRMCCM to facilitate and document the Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency election process:

Name of Organisation: PIRMCCM Secretariat

Name of contact person: Ms. Sala Tupou-Tamani/ Mr. Filipe Nagera

Title: PIRMCCM Secretariat Coordinator/ PIRMCCM Secretariat Governance Adviser

Email address: pirmccm@jointsecretariat.net

Organizations or individuals interested in nominating for this position should submit an expression of interest note to the Constituency Coordinator, Key Populations at Higher Risk Representing Gender with Gender Based Violence Focus CSO Constituency by 26th September, 2014.

Expressions of Interest may be submitted until 4 October 2014. Contact mhrdc@mail.fm for further information.

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...Dangerflow

Continued from front page

Before the band's performances, US Ambassador Doria Rosen told the gathered crowds that when "American Music Abroad" (AMA) asked the Embassy if they'd be willing to sponsor performances by an American Hip Hop band, they jumped at the chance. "Our answer was a resounding 'yes'", she said.

If the stated goal of American Music Abroad, which according to their materials is to "help promote a positive image of the U.S. through arts and music and give overseas audiences the chance to directly interact with American artists", the goal was met and exceeded during Dangerflow's visit.

Eric Stinnett, Angel Alvarado, Nate Stanford, Kevin Callo, and Mauricio "Mo" Estrada have been playing music together as Dangerflow since 2007. Unlike most Hip Hop bands, Dangerflow has eschewed the genre's pervasive record spinning DJ's in favor of analog musical instruments like guitars, keyboards, and even a tasty little Moog synthesizer. Theirs is a signature fusion of Hip Hop, rock, and danceable rhythms.

Their music works—it works really well. It works so well that songs from their debut album, "Win Lose or Die", released in 2011 featured popular singles that were featured on several networks including MTV and ESPN, as well as at the Monster Energy/X Games, the NBA finals, and the Australian Open Tennis Championship. The Miami Heat basketball team took on their song, "The Crown" as their championship theme song. Since 2009, Dangerflow has done a lot of work with the Miami Heat developing promotional videos and performing at Miami Heat games, including the NBA Finals.

Besides their music, what made them a big hit in Pohnpei was their positive message. They didn't develop the message in order to participate as an AMA band on a Pacific and Asian tour. The band, and its individual members have been carrying that message for years. In Miami they have collaborated with community-based organizations, governmental agencies and public schools to conduct workshops and classes to raise awareness about social issues that youth face today.

At presentations at the College of Micronesia, Nanpei Memorial High School (NMHS), Madolenihmw High School, and Pohnpei Islands Central School, the band members used their own honest life stories to encourage the students to live their lives with passion, pride, positivity, perseverance, and planning in order to achieve their life goals. They presented their message in an entertaining way but it was clear that the message was sinking in.

They also encouraged local musicians. Local musicians, Micro Family opened for



them at their College of Micronesia and NMHS concerts. They also performed numbers with Youth 4 Change during all of their concerts.

I was privileged to spend a good deal of time with the band members, though not nearly enough before the wheels of their plane left the tarmac at Pohnpei International Airport. I photographed them while they presented their messages to the students at Pohnpei High Schools and while they performed their concerts

at COM, NMHS, and Spanish Wall. They freely shared with me and with their fans on social media that they had cried many tears of joy because of the love they had been given by the people of Pohnpei. More importantly they shed tears because their positive messages seem to have been received loud and clear by the young people of Pohnpei.

As they say, "It's how they do".

Dangerflow's new album, "Fall before

You Fly" is scheduled for release in the fall of 2014. Follow them at www.dangerflowmusic.com.



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COM-FSM establishes Center for Entrepreneurship

September 10, 2014

Palikir, Pohnpei - The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) will establish a Center for Entrepreneurship, a program that will be the first of its kind. In July 2014, the Micronesia Registration Advisors (MRA), Inc., a corporation registered and headquartered in the Federated States of Micronesia, made

a generous donation of \$250,000 USD to establish the center.

Chairman and President of MRA Steven K. Baker pledged to provide \$50,000 a year for the next five years in support of the center.

The College is given an exceptional opportunity to provide a unique program that will be based at the National Campus' Learning Resource Center (LRC). The Center for Entrepreneurship will provide services, training programs and activities exclusively in support of innovation, entrepreneurship, and business "start ups." The center will be staffed by an executive director and an administrative assistant.

In a meeting with the Director of the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Shidler College of Business, President Joseph M. Daisy EdD identified several steps and activities that would be ideal for the College to develop and implement. The College will continue to dialogue with PACE and will begin to establish the Center for Entrepreneurship in September 2014.

A mobile clinic for Chuuk State Hospital

In further support of the development and improvement of FSM and its 5 governments, Chuuk State Public Health received a grant amount of \$25,470 through Japan's Grassroots Human Security Projects for the procurement of a mobile clinic vehicle and basic medical equipment to support the Chuuk Hospital's efforts to expand health care to the remote areas on Weno, Chuuk State. The funding for this project was realized last year on September 7, 2013. On September 17, 2014, Ambassador of Japan to the FSM Masaki Sakai was in Chuuk as the representative to officially hand over the vehicle and medical equipment.

The objectives for this project was to extend needed health care to the people in remote areas of Chuuk and to improve

statistical data that stated Chuuk Hospital's low coverage on child immunization and NCDs being the leading cause of death in Chuuk.

Remarks were given from Ambassador Sakai stating Japanese Government's continued support for strengthening ties of friendship not only through grant aid assistance but also the people to people exchanges b/w two countries and in response, Mr. Julio Marar, Director of Department of Health Services, Chuuk State also gave his remarks on behalf of Chuuk State.

The ceremony was witnessed by distinguished members of Chuuk State Government and Hospital staff.

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- 2. IDENTIFY ABUSIVE AND FRAUDULENT CLAIMS BY EACH CLINIC;**
- 3. PUBLISH 10 COPIES OF REPORT OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MICARE MANAGEMENT AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITHIN 1 MONTH OF COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT;**
- 4. IF NEEDED, ASSIST MICARE, FSM AUDIT OFFICE AND THE FSM AG'S OFFICE, OF ANY LITIGATION RESULTED OUT OF THE AUDIT FINDINGS;**
- 5. PERFORM OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE DENTAL CLAIM AUDITS.**

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Email: nena@micareplan.fm or info@micareplan.fm

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Consultancy Period: Nov. 1, 2014 to Dec. 30, 2014

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Work Station: MiCare Office, Pohnpei States Federated States of Micronesia

Language: English (communication and report)



Chuukese Trades Academy grads placed in lucrative construction jobs on Guam

Unemployed Micronesians attain construction jobs on Guam during 120 day CME Program

The Center for Micronesian Empowerment (CME), a Guam based non-profit training and placement program that has been serving the Micronesian workforce since 2007 has announced that 16 Micronesians including 11 Chuukese men and 5 RMI citizens ranging in age from 21 to 46 have successfully completed three weeks of basic construction skills training at the Guam Contractors Association Trades Academy. All 16 are now gainfully employed by major construction companies on Guam.

Less than three months ago all 16 were unemployed when they applied and were selected for the 120 day program in their home islands. Funding for the training came from the Chuuk Department of Education and the RMI National Training Council. Over the last three years, CME has placed over 200 workers from Palau, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and American Samoa into construction jobs with major construction companies on Guam.

Three weeks at the Guam Trades Academy and NCCER card is just the start in the CME program.

The “core curriculum” of construction skills students complete at the Trades Academy consists of introductory courses in basic safety, construction math, hand tools, power tools, blueprints, rigging, communication, employability, and materials handling. All successful participants received an NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) card. That card allows potential employers anywhere in the world to verify on line that the students completed their course work.

Housing at Palmridge Hotel with meals, transportation, health insurance plus extensive acculturation training.

Students were housed at the Palmridge Hotel near the Guam International Airport in Barrigada where, for the first half of the program, each day began with physical exercise followed by CME van transportation to and from Trades Academy classes and meals.

In the evenings, various instructors, presenters and speakers came to the Palmridge to provide extensive acculturation and assimilation classes to help the students to prepare for life on Guam. CME HR Specialists explained US labor laws (OSHA, the Family Medical Leave Act, HIPPA laws, Sexual Harassment, etc) so that students would know how to protect themselves from unfair employment practices. Representatives from StayWell Insurance came to explain their health insurance policies and what students should do should they become sick or if they are injured.

A specialist from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse led a discussion on the pitfalls of drugs and alcohol. A representative from the Guam Police Department explained how to stay out of trouble on Guam. Representatives from the Bank of Guam came to help the participants to set up savings accounts. Pohnpeian educator and CME board member Sohlanse Roponei taught them remedial math and reading skills and “Play by the Rules” content regarding Guam law and good citizenship. Guest speakers included FSM Consulate General and CME board member Robert Ruecho; CME board member and former Governor of Chuuk, Ansito Walter; and Mr. Al Silverio from the Department of Public Health and Social Services who explained the cultural differences between Chuuk and Guam.



CME Program Participants (standing): Tom Malon, Stephen Rappa, Parson Sally, Benjamin Dinney, Isaiah Lorenzo and Paul Auputiw; (middle row): Richy Emanuel, Rombert Paul, Ainsworth Kuor, Renter Narian and Sinchu Ludwig with RMI classmates in front row.

Students were also provided guidance, counseling and supervision throughout the program and spent several sessions with Campus Director Bob Dames who addressed life skills, team and character building, goal setting, values clarification, journaling, budgeting, and writing and communication exercises based on stories in the local Guam newspaper.

Students’ proficiency at math, reading, and locating information were assessed at the beginning of the program using the American Job Center’s computerized WorkKeys program. The Guam Humanities Council also provided facilitators who came to the Palmridge for three hours each Saturday for 10 weeks to present their very successful Motherhead/Fatheread literacy program.

The students were taken on various tours of the island and to organized visits to the Guam Community College (GCC), the University of Guam (UOG) and the Pacific Islands University (PIU).

Students receive a \$50 per week stipend for their incidental expenses such as soap, toothpaste and laundry and are provided transportation to apply for US Social Security cards, Guam ID cards and Guam Public Library cards.

With employment in private sector accomplished, successful transition to the community is program focus:

Upon the completion of the Trades Academy classes, CME used its contacts in the Guam Contractors Association to identify construction companies who were hiring, helped the students complete employment applications and transported them to and from any interviews or medical screenings such as drug testing and physicals that were required. While they waited to hear the status of their applications or while they were being processed for employment, students got hands-on experience by making repairs to Guam’s Southern High School classrooms on a voluntary basis through GDOE’s Facilities Work Training Program. By the half-way point of the 120 day program, all 16 of the CME classmates were working for major construction companies on Guam. CME continuing to provide housing, meals, van



Repairing classrooms at Southern High School under GDOE’s Facilities Work Training Program

transportation and \$50/week stipends for incidental expenses to maximize participants’ savings before graduation/transition.

Participants are earning \$7.50 - \$8.50 per hour and saving for transition.

Five of the eleven Chuukese were hired by DCK Pacific for the Guam Regional Medical City project (GRMC), Guam’s new state-of-the-art hospital near the Micronesia Mall which is due to open by December of this year. Ainsworth Kuor (21) from Houk, Richey Emanuel (25) from Weno, Benjamin Dinney (26) from Kuttu, Isaiah Lorenzo (26) from Weno, and Paul Autupiw (22) from Piis were hired by DCK. They often work overtime on Saturdays at time and a half (one and a half times their usual rate of pay).

Four Chuukese were hired by Black Construction Company for a wharf project on Cabras Harbor. Renter Narian (20) from Tol, Parson Sally (28) from Weno, Sinchu Ludwig (34) from Udot and Stephen Rappa (44) from Tonas were hired by Black Construction.

Tom Malon (24) from Umon and Rombert Paul (46) from Weno were hired by Ian Corporation to work in their shop.

CME will continue to provide transportation to and from their various job sites up until the time of their October 25th graduation to allow them time to save for their transition into the community.

The students are working hard as general laborers and saving substantial amounts of money.

For Campus Director Bob Dames and Case Manager Ladd Bell, the target now is successful transition into the community as they meet regularly with each student to help them identify where they will stay and how they will get to work after their graduation. With CME’s track record, it will be done and idle islanders will be supporting their families while contributing to the regional economy at major construction projects where they can be proud to have been a part of constructing the future.

Micronesian Shark Sanctuary provides identifying vests to OFA Officials

On the afternoon of September 19, the Pohnpei State Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) received a donation of new vests for all OFA staff. The donation of 34 vests at a value of \$1,224 was made to the OFA by the Micronesia Shark Sanctuary.

The donation was the result of a request made by OFA Administrator, Mr. Joseph Saimon, to Micronesia Conservation Trust Executive Director, Mr. Willy Kostka.

"The OFA is one of the Pohnpei Government offices that provide direct service to the Pohnpei Public. Wearing the vests will make OFA staff visible when providing service to the public therefore avoiding unnecessary confusions especially when OFA staff carries

out official functions," Saimon said.

As a Pohnpei Government office that is also responsible for the protection of sharks, OFA was able to receive the support of the Micronesia Shark Sanctuary to fund the printing of the vests.

The vests were officially handed over to the OFA on September 19, 2014, by Mr. Willy Kostka of Micronesia Conservation Trust and Ms. Jennifer Sawada, Senior Associate Global Shark Conservation of Pew Charitable Trust.

"The Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture is very thankful to the Micronesia Shark Sanctuary and Mr. Willy Kostka of the Micronesia Conservation Trust for the generous donation," Saimon said.



Invitation for Bids

The FSM Program Management Unit (PMU) invites interested Contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the following projects:

1. Construction of Sekere to Nahnpei Memorial School Waterline Project –Phase 1, Segment 2 –Pohnpei State, FSM.
2. Library/Classroom Facility for Nahnpei Memorial High School, Kitti Pohnpei State, FSM

The plans, specifications, and the Solicitation, Offer and Award, contract documents and the bid documents for each project scope can be viewed and downloaded via the following instructions:

1. Go to <ftp://www.pmu.fm/>
2. Click the directory entitled, "Sekere to Nahnpei Memorial School Waterline Project Phase 1, Segment 2" and "Library/Classroom Facility for Nahnpei Memorial High School".
3. Download the Solicitation, Offer and Award and other contract documents as needed.

Printed copies of the bid package are not available for distribution.

A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 9:00 A.M. local time on Wednesday, October 24, 2014, in the PMU Conference Room, Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM.

The Contracting Officer strongly recommends attendance at the Pre –Bid Meeting and Site Visit for all Contractors interested in submitting a bid for either of these two projects.

Questions and request for clarification will be accepted in writing through November 21, 2014, at 4:00 PM, to the attention of: Mr. Bruce E. Howell, P.E., PMU Contracting Officer via email howellbruce@yahoo.com or via US mail at Bruce E. Howell, P.E., Program Management Unit, P.O. Box PS-4, Palikir, Pohnpei FSM 96941.

Bid closing date is Friday, November 28, 2014 at 4:00 PM Pohnpei time, in Palikir, Pohnpei FSM. Electronic bids will not be accepted.

Letter to the Editor

When one finger points at another, three point back at the accuser

Dear Editor,

Rick Newman of the Yahoo Digest wrote an article on the World Economic Forum (WEF) that was published on September 4, 2014. Newman entitled the article, "America Bounces Back". In it he wrote that the World Economic Forum's annual competitiveness ranking "provides useful snapshots of what is going right and wrong in 144 economies."

Newman noted that the "WEF rankings are based on surveys of business leaders and focus on more than 100 indicators that provide insightful detail on each country's economic performance".

Note that unlike some other ranking systems performed by biased government agencies, the rankings for the WEF report were provided by the private sector.

"While America's university system ranks No. 3 in the world, the overall quality of U.S. education, at all levels, ranks 27th", Newman reported in his article.

Of special significance when evaluating Chuuk's secondary school overall performance when compared to the problems in the US, the World's wealthiest economy, please, think about the following statistic on which Newman reported:

"Secondary education, aka high school, (US) ranks 59th due to dropout rates and poor student performance on math and science compared to other countries."

59th place amongst 144 member countries participating in the 2014 World Economic Forum places the US in the 41% bracket. Bear in mind that the US is arguably the wealthiest and most technologically advanced country in the entire world. The big question in my mind is where does OIA and JEMCO (controlled by the US) come off threatening the FSM (Chuuk specifically) with sanction threats to withhold sector grant funding for FY 2015 unless Chuuk fully and unconditionally implements "The Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform" plan?

I have read the Advisory Group (AG) documents and while there are many good points within it pertaining to much needed reform, I do see inconsistencies, flaws, and concerns possibly conflicting with culture and the Chuuk State Constitution in regards to the mandate creating the Chuuk Board of Education (CBOE) and it's By-Laws.

Gathered from conversations with several CBOE members, it seems that the report rendered on August 14, 2014, is laced with embellishing exaggerations seemingly with the intent to present the reform package as 100% scholarly.

It certainly is "wordy" but not scholarly in my opinion.

Larry Bruton

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President Mori attends Small Islands Developing States international conference, Samoa

FSM Information Services

H.E. President Emanuel (Manny) Mori attended the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Apia, Samoa from September 1-4, 2014. The conference garnered more than 3,000 participants from members of the United Nations, representatives from the Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society and relevant stakeholders for a four (4) days meeting. It was the biggest U.N conference held in the Pacific. The theme of this year's conference is the Sustainable Development of SIDS through Genuine and Durable Partnership, which produced an outcome document, titled 'SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and adopted during the closing plenary in Samoa.

In his remarks, H.E. President Mori emphasized the importance of the conference to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the designation of 2014 as the International Year of the SIDS to highlight their challenges and resilience. He further indicated the importance of partnership to achieve sustainable development. He called on our partners to help us make this happen through new, additional, and predictable funding. He urged our partners to help us build our human resource capacity and also to transfer SIDS-appropriate technology to help build our resiliency to climate change. For Micronesia, we are determined to reduce our dependency on fossil power generation 50%

by the year 2020 replaced by renewable energy. President Mori concluded his remark by wishing the Spirit of friendship, cooperation, and the genuine and durable partnership enshrined in the SAMOA Pathway guide us all as we move forward throughout this Conference and beyond.

In the margins of the SIDS conference, President Mori participated in various side meetings and activities, including the signing of the Treaty establishing the Micronesian Trade and Economic Community (MTEC) with Palau and the Marshall Islands. The President had also attended the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) side event and highlighted the FSM's support to the Micronesia Challenge.

A number of documents were signed at the margin of the SIDS Conference: the National Indicative Program under 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for the period 2014-2020; a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Spanish Government on common interests and cooperation in the areas of climate change, renewable energies, fisheries, ocean protection, natural disasters, educational and cultural exchanges and others; and the SIDS Dock.

The President was accompanied by First Lady Emma, Secretaries Lorin Robert, Marion Henry, April Skilling, Director Andrew Yatilman, Ambassador Jane Chigiyal and other key officials of the FSM Government and representatives of Civil Society.

Marshallese poet moves UN summit

*September 24, 2014
New York, (RNZI) ---*
World leaders at the United Nations climate change summit in New York have heard how climate change is a challenge that few want to take on.

Marshall Islander Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner was selected from more than 500 candidates to represent the voice of Civil Society.



*Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner (L), Civil Society Representative from the Marshall Islands, is greeted on stage by her husband and her baby after speaking during the Climate Summit at United Nations Headquarters in New York, September 23, 2014
Photo by Mike Segar/Reuters*

Jetnil-Kijiner told delegates that the price of inaction over climate change is too high and that a radical change of course is needed to tackle it.

"The people who support this movement are indigenous mothers like me. Families like mine and millions more, standing up for the changes needed and working to make them happen. I ask World leaders to take us all along on your ride. We won't slow you down, we will help you win the most important race of all, the race to save humanity."

Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner then delivered a two-minute poem to her daughter that spoke to the world about her fears of climate change and the need to fight through roadblocks that are preventing action to solve climate problems.

She received a standing ovation at the UN Climate Summit following her poem. You can watch her deliver her speech and poem at: <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/09/marshall-islands-poet-un-climate>



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FSM Telecommunications Corporation is looking for suitable candidate for the following position:

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- > The position is based in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
- > Closing date: **October 7, 2014**

ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED

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Pohnpei's young fishers give it a go for prizes

Pohnpei Fishing Club

40 children showed up on Saturday, September 20 for the Kid's Tournament held by the Pohnpei Fishing Club. The tournament was sponsored by Blue Nile, Oceanview Hotel West Wing, Cupid's Bar & Grille, Pohnpei Surf Club, Pohnpei Cinemas, and FSM Telecom.

First prize was a surfboard donated by the Pohnpei Surf Club. That prize created quite a competitive environment.

The rules of the tournament called for fishing from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. inside the reef. Some good catches were made.

The top four prize winners each caught Grand Trevalles (GT).

Sean Michael Sohl came in fifth place overall for his catch of a barracuda and was awarded \$10.00 cash plus a pizza from Ocean View. Balick Sohl's GT earned him \$15.00 cash plus a \$20.00 gift certificate to Cupid's Bar and Grille. Gemma Piasente's GT earned her 25.00 cash, a pizza from Ocean View, and a \$20.00 Cupid's gift certificate. Daiman Perman caught the second biggest fish of the day which won him \$50.00 cash, a pizza from Ocean View, and a \$20.00 Cupid's gift certificate.

Overall, Lance Reheir took home the big prize for his Grand Trevalle. He took home the much coveted surfboard and a \$20 gift

certificate to Cupid's Bar and Grille.

In the 12 and under category, Hiwitt Mora's third place grouper earned a \$10.00 gift certificate from Blue Nile and a \$5.00 gift certificate from FSM Telecommunications Corporation. Destiny Etscheit's second place grouper earned \$5.00 Blue Nile gift certificate, a \$5.00 Telecom gift certificate, and a pizza from Ocean View. Sean Etscheit's grouper took top prize and earned him a 20.00 gift certificate from Cupids and a pizza from Ocean View.

In an especially "aw" moment, Harrison Perkins was awarded a pizza from Ocean View for landing his own reef fish. Congratulations to Harrison!

Special thanks to Mangrove Bay for hosting the event, and to Kumer and Antonia Panuelo for assisting with the barbecue. We also want to thank Tina, Praise, and Paul for helping out on scoring and weighing. We didn't need a crane this time.

All the kids seemed to have a great time, and they gained some valuable fishing experience. If last weekend's tournament is any indication there are a lot of young fishermen and women who will be ready to join the Pohnpei Fishing Club when they get older.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club still has two tournaments left before the end of the year. The True Value tournament will be held in October, and the Budweiser tournament is set for November 15.



Shawn Etscheit - 12 and under category top prize winner



Harrison Perkins with his Dad



*First place winner Lance Reheir
Photos by Sandy Perkins*

COM-FSM Division of Education becomes member of IFCP

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

COM – FSM Division of Education recently became a member of Island Food Community of Pohnpei. This partnership was lead by the Chairperson Dr. Richard Womack. Informal discussions were also held about solidifying and building the partnership. Staff, Teachers and students from the division and IFCP staff, family

and friends witnessed the lively discussions and transactions. Coconuts were served while people shared ideas, expectations and aspirations.

Annual membership for institutions costs \$100 with money supporting the promotion and consumption of local foods for their CHEEF benefits.



Chairperson, Dr. Richard Womack (COM – FSM Division of Education), Mr. Jim Curry (VP CRE), Dr. Dacanay (Nursing and Public Health Program), IFCP Board Members Adelino Lorens (Chairman), Mr. Engly Ioanis, Mr. X-ner Luther, and others

IFCP begins strategic planning process

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Island Food Community staff and Board Members spent 16-18th September working together to start the process of strategic planning for 2015-2017. This process was facilitated by The Nature Conservancy Micronesia Program Policy & Partnership Advisor Mae Bruton-Adams in an in-kind support to IFCP.

institutional structures and processes. The Board and staff want to see a strengthened and focused IFCP that builds on our partnerships and targets our awareness activities where we will see greater impact.

The process began by evaluating the past Strategic Action Plan and our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It will take several months to complete a quality framework that will guide and focus IFCP's activities.

This planning process goes beyond the objective of a workable plan, but incorporates an internal and external assessment of IFCP's goals, activities and

IFCP stakeholders will be contacted shortly for confidential interviews that will enable IFCP to strengthen its partnerships to achieve its mission.



Tara, IFCP Office Manager, sharing thoughts on the 2015-17 Strategic Plan

IFCP office renovation and temporary location

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

visitors.

With the assistance of Governor Ehsa through the generous support from the United States Government Embassy, Island Food Community's office, based in the Botanic Garden, will be renovated over the next two to three months. The local NGO's office faced closure due to extreme termite damage that risked the safety of staff and

Island Food Community of Pohnpei has temporarily relocated to the 20/20 building, across the road from the entrance to the Botanic Garden, for the renovations which began on September 22, 2014. The large premises at 20/20 building have been donated to IFCP for the duration by the Adam's family. Yvonne Hawkins is a Board

Member of IFCP and strong supporter of IFCP's mission to promote the production and consumption of local foods among island communities to achieve CHEEF benefits of Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food security.

The 21 person team of the United States Navy Seabees, under the US Department of Defense "Construction Civic Action

Detail" program have now begun working hard to create a renovated office space for IFCP. The Board and staff are very grateful for the efforts and the fully funded support from the United States Government.

IFCP remains contactable through the existing phone number 320-3259 and email info@islandfood.org as well as the website www.islandfood.org

MiCare executes one-stop-service agreement with the Medical City Hospital

September 15, 2014

After about six months of face-to-face and email negotiations, MiCare and The Medical City Hospital in Manila signed a mixed Capitation- Fee for Service Package Agreement to become effective October 1, 2014. The Agreement is the first tertiary affiliation agreement that has ever been executed in the Federated States of Micronesia and first agreement to designate one referral hospital as the sole receiver of the approved Basic Referral patients.

During the Board of Directors meeting last February 2014, the Management was issued the instructions to seek ways to reduce the ever growing referral costs in Manila. The initial negotiations involved several affiliated Hospitals in Manila last April, 2014. One of the Hospitals opted out early during the discussion, and the other Hospitals stagnated in providing the needed information by MiCare, The Medical City Hospital, however, continued with the discussions even when there are some disagreements on some aspects of the endeavour.

The new One-Stop-Services agreement was executed September 11, 2014 in Pohnpei and this signifies that all the approved basic referral patients will be sent to the Medical City Hospital beginning October 1, 2014.

Although self referral patients may select other affiliated hospitals in Manila to go to for consultation and treatments, in this agreement, the self-referral may also enjoy the discounted prices for room and board and medical service if they have their medical check ups in the Medical City hospital.

Under this new agreement, it is projected that MiCare could save up to at least \$200,000 per year from Basic Referral programs.

There is an ongoing serious discussions among the MiCare Management and the Board of Directors to alleviate the costs of the on-island medical treatments. Recently, the pharmacy and medical claim audits were conducted at all the private clinics. Based on the findings and recommendations in the audits, there is strong anticipation on substantial enforcement and requirements to curb runaway expenditures due to so called "inappropriate," "abusive" and "fraudulent" medical claims.

Recently, MiCare Management staff presented to the Health Summit last August 18-20, 2014 the need and justification to establish a diagnostic facility in the FSM. Such project, if implemented, will reduce cost of medical referrals up to almost \$.5 million.

MiCare will continue to proactively search for ways and means to control costs of medical expenditures to avoid eventual imposition of, or to delay, premium increases to the members during the coming years.

China and FSM celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 23, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—On September 11, the 25th anniversary of the FSM’s diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China, the FSM and China celebrated at a gala celebration at Cupid’s Bar and Grille. Both Ambassador Zhang Weijun and FSM Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert gave speeches lauding the long and fruitful relationship between the two countries.

As a continuation of the celebration, the Chinese Embassy sponsored two shows they called “The Charm from China” at the China Friendship gym at the College of Micronesia National Campus. On the evenings of September 17 and 18, the Shenzen Art Company presented a “feast of Chinese Arts Essence, Martial Arts, Dance, Acrobatics, Singing and much more,” including a short magic performance drawing upon a volunteer from the enthusiastic audience.



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