

# PNG Accident Investigation Committee releases final report on crash of Air Niugini in Chuuk

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 19, 2019

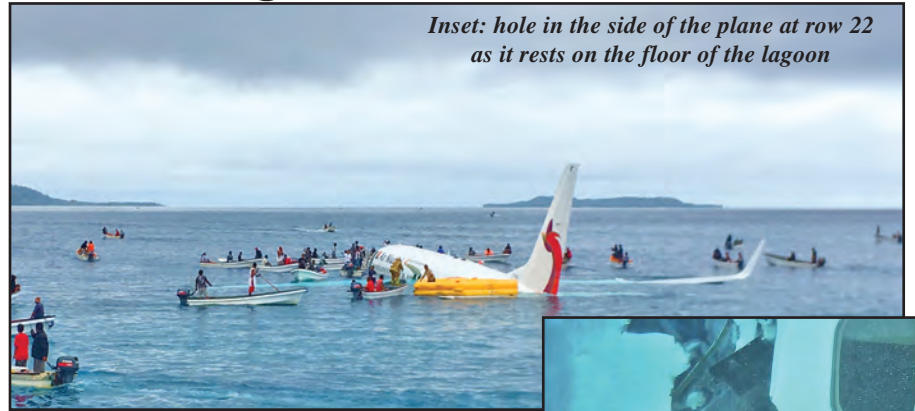
FSM—“Too low! We’re too low! We’re too low! We’re too low,” the co-pilot exclaimed but it was too late. Two seconds later, the nose of Air Niugini, Boeing 737-8BK aircraft, Flight PX0073 slammed into the hard surface of Chuuk’s lagoon, 1500 feet short of the runway in Weno, killing one passenger, seriously injuring six, and causing relatively minor physical injuries among the 35 passengers and 12 crew members.

Reading the words of the co-pilot in the final report on the crash issued on Thursday, July 18 by Papua New Guinea’s

Accident Investigation Committee (AIC), I noted how similar those words were to the ones that had been going over and over in my head from seat 24F for much longer on that flight than just two seconds before it slammed into the water.

The report is careful to say that the sole objective of the investigation is the prevention of accidents to promote aviation safety. “Fact based statements in the report should not be interpreted as apportioning blame...AIC reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purpose,” wrote AIC Chief Commissioner Hubert Namani as a prologue to the report.

Air Niugini is Papua New Guinea’s national airline.



*Inset: hole in the side of the plane at row 22 as it rests on the floor of the lagoon*



See “Crash Report” continued on page 5

# Jennifer Dugwen Chieng wins gold again at the Pacific Games

By Adam Milburn

July 19, 2019

Samoa—FSM boxer Jennifer Chieng has become a two time Pacific Games gold medallist. She achieved this amazing feat by defeating her PNG opponent in the Final of the women’s lightweight 60kg class.

Samoa is hosting the 2019 Pacific Games and the boxing competition was held on the beautiful island of Savaii. After winning gold at the 2015 Pacific Games, held in PNG, and competing at the Rio 2016 Olympics, Jennifer was among the favourites for the gold medal this time around.

In her first bout, which was also the semi-final, she came up against a fast and skilful boxer from New Caledonia. During three competitive

rounds Jennifer brushed off the ring rust and grew in confidence, picking her shots and marshalling her opponent with her superior ring craftsmanship.

In the Final, Jennifer put on a boxing masterclass, outpointing her opponent in all areas, forcing a standing eight count in the final round and winning comprehensively with a unanimous decision in her favour. Her efforts embody the fierce competitiveness and determination to win of the FSM team at this Pacific Games. She has done her team and her nation proud.



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# Though FSM efforts against Human Trafficking increase more to be done TIP report says

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 16, 2019

**Federated States of Micronesia**—On June 20, 2019, the United States State Department released its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, which rates human trafficking eradication efforts of the world’s recognized countries on a three tier system. Since 2014 the State Department has ranked the FSM’s efforts as Tier 2, which means that the government does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.

“Human traffickers continue to exploit domestic and foreign victims in the FSM, and traffickers exploit victims from FSM abroad. Sex traffickers exploit Micronesian women and girls through commercial sex with the crew members of docked Asian fishing vessels and on vessels in FSM territorial waters, or with foreign construction workers. Some family members exploit Micronesian girls in sex trafficking. Local authorities claim many sex trafficking cases are unreported due to social stigma and victims’ fear of possible repercussions in their home communities. Foreign and domestic employers in FSM exploit low-skilled foreign migrant workers in forced labor, including in restaurants. Foreign migrants from Southeast Asian countries report working in conditions indicative of human trafficking on Asian fishing vessels in FSM or its territorial waters. Traffickers recruit FSM women with promises of well-paying jobs in the United States and its territories but upon their arrival they

are subsequently forced into commercial sex or domestic service,” the report says.

The FSM government and some of the State governments have significantly increased prosecution efforts. Earlier this year an FSM Supreme Court in Chuuk judge sentenced the mother and stepfather of a child sex trafficking victim to seven years and eight months in prison and also ordered them to pay the victim \$40,000 each in restitution, one of the largest restitution judgments in the history of the court.

Also in March of 2019, the Pohnpei State Court sentenced a cab driver who used his taxi to recruit, transport and deliver girls to have sex with men between 2015 and 2017 between 2015 and 2017 to 10 years’ imprisonment and ordered him to pay a total of \$14,000 restitution to two identified victims. The court allowed for the prisoner to be released during certain hours on Sundays to attend church and visit his children during the duration of his incarceration.

The FSM government reported investigating nine alleged trafficking cases, compared with eight in 2017, and prosecuting seven alleged traffickers, compared with two in 2017. Courts convicted six traffickers during the reporting period, an increase compared with two traffickers convicted in 2017.

The TIP says that the government provided \$270,000 for anti-trafficking efforts, designated a full-time assistant attorney general to prosecute all human trafficking cases, and hired four investigators to support that work.

The report said that the government increased efforts to protect victims. In August 2018 it finalized and approved standard operation procedures for victim assistance and referral to State law enforcement. “The government did not report the number of potential victims it identified but reported providing food, clothing, medical services, psychological evaluation, counseling services, assistance with the appointment of legal guardians, and academic and social reintegration support, in partnership with an international organization, to 10 Micronesian girls who were victims of

sex trafficking,” the report said.

In January 2019, the government opened its first shelter, available to all victims of crimes, in Chuuk. It also provided \$70,000 to support a trafficking victim psychologist as well as the hotline established in the previous reporting period.

To aid in protecting a victim, a judge in Chuuk granted the implementation of special trial procedures by agreeing to

See “TIP Report” on page 11

## Court allows work release for convicted human trafficker

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 19, 2019

**Pohnpei**—On July 18, FSM Supreme Court Chief Justice Dennis K. Yamase granted a temporary work release request made by William Chunn.

In March of this year, William Chunn was convicted of six counts of human trafficking and sentenced to ten years in jail. He is also to pay \$14,000 in restitution at the rate of \$50 each month. His original sentence allowed for Chunn to be released for a few hours on Sundays in order to go to church and to visit his family. He has been serving his sentence as ruled since late March of this year.

By Chief Justice Yamase’s order, Chunn’s sentence has been revised to allow for Chunn to additionally be released from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on the other six days a week in

order to work on a farm in Lewehtik, Kitti. According to the order, Chunn’s request was supported by a letter offering employment by Mrs. Memory Route. The letter offers employment from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and says that she would provide supervision and transportation to and from the worksite on a daily basis. The letter also told the court that monthly deductions from Chunn’s pay would be paid to the Court to go towards his restitution payments.

The court allowed for the arrangement under the direct care and supervision of Mrs. Route. The order requires her to take the most direct route to and from Chunn’s new worksite. The \$50 payment of restitution will be due to the court by the 20th of each month.

The order was issued during the time that a conference on elimination of Human Trafficking prevention was taking place in Pohnpei

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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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# Court rules that Misko must vacate land she formerly operated as Pwohmaria Beach Resort

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 19, 2019

**Pohnpei**—The case filed in 2006 by Misko Edwin regarding leased land in Dekehtik is nearing closure after the Pohnpei Supreme Court issued an order denying plaintiff’s motion for summary judgment and partially granting Pohnpei Port Authority’s (PPA) motion for summary judgment issued on July 9.

The Court vacated its March 3, 2017 order granting Misko’s motion for injunctive relief and granted PPA’s motion for summary on its claim for eviction. It gave the plaintiff until August 8, 2019 to vacate the premises and issued a writ of possession ordering the Pohnpei State Chief of Police to enter and take possession of the premises on August 9 and to give possession of the premises to PPA.

The 21 page order listed in detail legal precedents backing its conclusions. It concluded and ordered that PPA Defendants have standing to evict Misko (Plaintiff) from the premises she once leased and operated as Pwohmaria Beach Resort. It ruled that she has no right to remove, or to receive damages for, the coconut trees planted on the premises. She also has no right to remove, or to receive damages for, the sand and coral used as land-fill on the premises, and has no right to remain on the premises.

There are still several issues yet to be settled and the court has set a hearing for August 30. During that hearing it will decide which buildings on the premises were intended to be part of the material consideration for Misko’s lease. It will decide which buildings, apart from those intended to be part of the material consideration for her lease, constitute removable trade fixtures. It will decide the amount of damages to be paid by PPA in the event that the Court finds that one or more buildings are removable trade

fixtures. It will also decide the amount of damages sustained as a result of Misko’s wrongful possession of the premises.

The order said that Misko has made it clear that she no longer wishes to remove her improvements, but only seeks monetary damages. PPA has made it clear that they wish to obtain possession of the premises as soon as possible for potential seaport expansion. It said that the Court has already made a site visit to the premises. Finding no just cause for delay, the Court directed immediate entry of judgment.

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# Young Sun continuing its multi-million dollar counter claims against Conservation Society of Pohnpei

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 17, 2019

**Pohnpei**—Young Sun International Trading Company notified the FSM Supreme Court that it objected to the dismissal of its counter claims against the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP). The notification came on the very last day the FSM Supreme Court had allowed for the company to respond when the Court memorialized in writing the plaintiffs’ and defendants’ mutual agreement to dismiss civil action 2016-014, popularly known as the “sea cucumber case”.

attorneys for each side. The court ruled on none of those motions or oppositions. It has been nearly two years since the last filing regarding Young Sun’s counter claims against CSP. During that time, CSP has not been involved in the ongoing case other than as an outsider looking in.

It had been so long that at the time that Young Sun filed its last minute objection to dismissing its counterclaims against CSP, the respected environmental non-profit organization had no attorney to represent it. Attorney Marstella Jack, who is a CSP Board Member made a limited appearance on behalf of CSP only for the purposes of the status conference since CSP did not have legal counsel and she was qualified. She said that CSP needed time to retain regular counsel. She made an oral motion to dismiss Young Sun’s counter-claims but told the court that she was not familiar enough with the voluminous filings in the case to make a comprehensive motion at that time.

On July 9 the FSM Supreme Court held a status conference on the case which now includes only Young Sun’s counter claims against environmental NGO, CSP. In 2016 Young Sun counter sued CSP for millions of dollars in damages for “Tortious Interference with Defendant Counter Plaintiff’s Contractual Relations”, and for “Tortious Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage”. Those counter claims have not yet been heard and Young Sun now insists that they should be.

The Court provided a deadline date of July 31, 2019 for CSP to file the motion to dismiss in writing and has given Young Sun until August 12 to file its response to CSP’s motion to dismiss if that motion is filed.

In September 2016, the FSM Supreme Court ruled that CSP did not have legal standing to file suit against Young Sun. CSP had filed suit along with the Mwoalen Wahu asking the court to put a stop to a planned sea cucumber harvest. For the next several months, attorneys for Young Sun and CSP went back and forth, filing motions for summary judgment on Young Sun’s counterclaims against CSP, motions to dismiss, and oppositions from each side on motions and oppositions filed by

During the status conference, Joseph Phillip, attorney for Young Sun maintained his client’s objection to the dismissal of their counterclaims and asked the court to officially recognize that Mwoalen Wahu was no longer a party in the case. The court recognized that fact and again memorialized it in the report on the status conference.

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## Couples For Christ-Pohnpei conducts Christian Life Program

Alvie B. Cabañez

Couples for Christ (CFC)-Pohnpei conducted a week long Christian Life Program (CLP) from June 13-21, 2019. Participants from different walks of life gathered at Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Church hoping to renew and strengthen Christian values in a community of like-minded individuals. According to Brother



Numeriano A. Ilagan, the main purpose of staging the event was to enhance and rekindle the faith of the members as well as the participants as CFC is committed in renewing the face of the earth.

CFC is a global Vatican recognized Catholic lay organization committed to live in God's righteousness and holiness, evangelizing people through a life of love and service; work for the renewal of families that will serve God and build generations of Christian leaders; and pursue Total Christian Liberation through social justice, respect for life, and work with the poor. The organization is guided by its vision, "moved by the Holy Spirit, one with the Catholic Church, blessed to witness to Christ's love and service, Couples for Christ is a united community of family evangelizers that sets the world on fire with the fullness of God's transforming love." At present, CFC is evangelizing in over 120 countries worldwide.

The organization is divided into Family Ministries namely: Handmaid of the Lord (HOLD), Servants of the Lord (SOLD), Youth for Christ (YFC), Kids for Christ (KFC), Singles for Christ (SFC) and of course Couples for Christ (CFC) as the umbrella Family Ministry.

Last 2016, CFC-Pohnpei started an Outreach Program at Pohnpei State Jail. They also initiated financial assistance to selected students at Pohnpei Catholic School (PCS). Currently, they have seven students' and counting who were granted the assistance they need to support their studies.

One of the highlights of CLP was the focus group discussion wherein participants shared their thoughts on a certain topic. It was divided into three modules, Module 1 as the Basic Truth about Christianity that includes God's Love, Who is Jesus Christ, What it Means to be a Christian, and Repentance and Faith. Module 2 is the Authentic Christian Life with four talks, The Christian Ideal: Loving God, then Loving your neighbor, The Christian Family and Life in the Holy Spirit. The third and final module is Living a Spirit Filled Christian Life with four topics, Receiving the Power of

the Holy Spirit, Growing in the Spirit, The Life and Mission of Couples for Christ and Transformation in Christ. Participants openly shared their realizations how God made an impact on their lives. The God that is loving and merciful that holds no judgment, has nothing but a forgiving heart.

The event was graced by the couple missionaries from Manila, Philippines, Bro. Ramon Pagdagdagan and his loving wife, Sis. Brigette Pagdagdagan, Couple Country Head Coordinator-FSM. They served as the main speaker for the entire program. Bro. Jess M. Ferrer and his beautiful wife Sis. Mercy Ferrer, Mission Regional Head for Micronesia, also made a short appearance and talked about What it Means to be a Christian and The Christian Ideal: Loving God.

By the end of the week, six SFC, three YFC, three couples (CFC), and five SOLD graduated from CLP during the culminating activity, the Lord's Day celebration. The ceremony was also an evangelization for the participants to be officially part of the organization. It included blessing of the wine and bread. They were given a prayer kit and special awards for perfect attendance and more freebies. The ceremony was highlighted by the dance presentation of Scholastica Ibeilam and Yatilman Darla, both Yapeese, to a local upbeat music. The different ministries also belted their hearts out to a song, dance, and impromptu presentation. The event was made possible through the efforts of Bro. Jojo Togonon and Sis. Roselle Togonon, CFC-Pohnpei Country Head and the rest of the team.



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## Handover ceremony takes place at newly upgraded V6AH Radio Station.

Representatives from Pohnpei State Government, IOM, the PPBC Board, and Pohnpei V6AH radio station staff gathered on the afternoon of Friday the 28th of June for the property acceptance ceremony and celebration of the newly installed solar power panel system at the V6AH Radio Station.

Pohnpei's V6AH Radio Station plays a vital role in keeping our communities informed with news, public service announcements, and early warning messages ahead of hazards such as typhoons and droughts. Since July last year, IOM has been implementing a technical upgrade of the Station to increase the coverage and clarity of public information messaging and sustainability of operations. The overall long-term goal of the project is to increase the technical and financial capability of the station to regularly transmit at full capacity, leading to improvement in the safety and resilience of communities both on Pohnpei island and remote, outer island locations.

Prior to IOM starting work on this technical upgrade, the station's 12 kW AM transmitter was in good condition but operating at less than half capacity due to high costs of operations. In July 2018, IOM hired Pohnpei Hardware to install a 10-kW grid-tied solar panel system. The electricity generated by this solar panel system offsets the operational cost of transmission through

renewable energy technology.

The ceremony on Friday celebrated the installation of the solar panels at V6AH Radio Station, funded by the New Zealand Embassy, which will provide clearer and more regular public information messages to outer island communities into the future. Keynote speaker, Gov. Marcelo Peterson expressed his gratitude to IOM and NZ Embassy for making the technical upgrade possible, speaking on the importance of infrastructure and communication systems to the people of Pohnpei. IOM Chief of Mission Mr. Stuart Simpson spoke on the value of building and maintaining strong partnerships be that between V6AH Radio Station, IOM and the NZ Embassy. Ryan McVey reflected on the strong partnerships central to the project, and IOM is proud to have worked alongside the Pohnpei community and the NZ Embassy. A sakau ceremony followed the speeches.



**IOM handing over the plaque commemorating the technical upgrade to V6AH radio station on behalf of NZ Embassy. Credit: Bridgette Hogan, IOM, 2019.**

# FSM DOJ conducts Anti Human Trafficking Conference

Alvie B. Cabañez

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Department of Justice (DOJ) conducted a Human Trafficking (HT) Conference at the College of Micronesia (COM) National Campus Gymnasium on July 17-19, 2019. The theme this year was, "Through Unity and Collaboration: We Can Combat Human Trafficking."

The conference aimed to bring stakeholders from all four states to one place to discuss the issues and to think of solutions. "So, it's a really great moment in FSM. All of the stakeholders can come from all the states to meet one another, discuss to one another, and share challenges, and learn from these trainers that we have in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)," said Assistant Attorney General Abigail Avoryie, Director, Anti-Human Trafficking Programs.

The participants come from a very diverse background. They included service providers and law enforcement officers, women's groups, educators, counselors, doctors, lawyers, Prosecutors, and State Senators.

His Excellency David Panuelo, FSM President, delivered his Keynote Address, "This conference is not just a meeting. Through this theme and through this conference we will send a message to the people of the FSM and to the world that if you come here to exploit our youth and our vulnerable individuals, you've come to the wrong country. If you come here to rob us of our future by taking our people away against their will you've come to the wrong place. FSM will investigate you. We will find you and prosecute you in our court of justice, and to the victims, we are here to support you. You are cared for and we value you."

"So, what's going on here is just 50% of the conference. The other half is police and investigators from all the four states learning investigative techniques, how to conduct interviews with children, the best ways to perform different types sting operations, police work. They are learning the best practices from the US Federal police on how to do these things. So both sides are working at the same time and DOJ's hope is together we could combine and do better work in the FSM in all four states," Avoryie said.

The participants had focus group discussions and shared their challenges in dealing with human trafficking. The Service Providers were divided per four states. Each state shared how they deal with HT in their respective states. They

also had the opportunity to mingle and network with other stakeholders and hear their stories.

"Our police are doing an excellent job, however it's the teachers, pastors, women's groups that interacts with the public in a more intimate basis that can therefore give us the tips," Avoryie said. "So that is why the task force is so important. If we have members from the task force in many different areas in the private sector then we can get better serve the community. This is also a chance for us to put those networks together and help them get strong. Some of them disbanded a little bit so we want them to get tight again and to really get energized about these issues because we need them in order to do our jobs."

Participants under the Law Enforcement track had their sessions on the second day and the third day at the FSM Government Central Facilities. They discussed Forensic Interviewing of HT Victims, Adolescent Dynamics and Evidence During Interviews led by Karen Blackwell, FBI Child and Adolescent Forensic Interviewer; Case Studies, Initiatives, and Task Forces led by Melvin Gonzalez, FBI Supervisory Special Agent. Mr. Gonzalez also talked about Labor Trafficking Investigative Techniques, Hotel Sting Operations, Incorporating Money Laundering and Key Facts in Building a Successful Case.



The field specialists from the FBI discussed specific topics relevant to each sector. The Service Providers talked about: Overview of FBI Victim Assistant Program; Working with Human Trafficking Victims, conducted by Monica Rowsey, FBI Victim Specialist; Wellness & Resiliency Practice; Building Sustainable Program and Human Trafficking Investigator Practices, conducted by Dr. Deborah Richardson, FBI Clinical Coordinator; Introducing Anti-Human Trafficking Program, Human Trafficking in FSM, States Dialogue- Challenges, Successes and Visions; Creating Networks of Service; Panel Discussion: Best Practices for Coalition Building and Community Awareness in the FSM; and a Breakout Session: Creating National Action Plan for HT Awareness, Prevention and Intervention.

The conference ended with a reception dinner at Hide-Away.



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## ...Crash Report

*Continued from front page*

Their fact based statements included this one. "During the final approach, a total of seven Glideslope and six Sink Rate aural alerts were issued. Although conditions around these aural alerts were obvious, no corrective action was taken by the pilot-in-command (flying pilot), nor was corrective action imposed by the copilot (supporting / monitoring pilot)."

Glidescope warnings tell the pilot that they are not on a safe trajectory for landing. Sink Rate warnings let the pilots know that the rate of descent is too fast.

The equipment aboard also warned them that they had reached and descended through the minimum altitude by which time they should have a visual sighting of the runway or to otherwise execute a go around. At the minimums call the co-pilot called out "one red three whites", indicating that at that time he could see the PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator), four lights at the side

of the runway that help a pilot acquire and maintain the correct approach in the vertical plan to a runway. What color lights the pilots can see depends on the angle of approach to them. The report said that in this case, the approach was incorrect.

The system warned them to "pull up" but as recorded in flight simulation video of the crash based on cockpit recorders the captain says, "That's fine. I'll go just a little bit more."

"If the crew had made the missed approach at the MAP, they would have avoided the heavy rain," the report says. "The investigation determined that when the aircraft entered the rain, all visual reference, if established earlier, would have been lost. The PIC (pilot in charged) informed the AIC that visual contact with the runway was lost in the final 30 seconds of the flight."

"Under the circumstances where the PIC's attention was channelised, and the copilot was not effectively monitoring the displays and was lacking vigilance, that visual cue PULL UP was missed by both pilots. There was no aircraft generated

aural hard warning to alert the crew to the approaching disaster," it says.

It continues saying that from the time the auto-pilot was disconnected at 677 feet, the aircraft was never in a stabilized position. It says that the co-pilot was completely unaware of the hazardous situation and did not attempt to take over the controls and execute a go-around as company's instructions require.

"The PIC's actions were consistent with him being trapped in the condition called 'fixated on one task' or 'one view of a situation even as evidence accumulates'. He intended to land the aircraft, and in doing so disregarded the alerts (EGPWS) 'Sink Rate and Glideslope' indicating an unsafe condition."

"There was no evidence that the high rate of descent (leading to the crash) was caused by environmental forces", the report said. It also includes a graph that shows that the rate of descent actually increased as altitude decreased.

The report said that on the previous  
*See "Crash Report 2" on page 14*

# Sowing the Seeds of Prosperity for a Sustainable Micronesia: 24th Micronesian Islands Forum Held in Chuuk State

*FSM Information Services  
Press Release*

**WENO, Chuuk**—From July 10th to 11th 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), attended the 24th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF). Formerly titled the Micronesian Chief Executive's Summit until 2016, the MIF—whose membership is comprised of the Republic of Palau (ROP), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the U.S. Territory of Guam, the FSM National Government, and the FSM State Governments of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, and Chuuk—meets annually to discuss issues of regional importance and significance. The Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Kiribati remain formally invited to join as members, so that the MIF represents the entire Micronesian bloc.

Some of the outcomes from the leaders' discussions included support for the creation of a Standing Gender Equality Committee within the MIF, and the declaration that September 13, 2019 is to be the first Micronesian-wide Environmental Cleanup Day, an activity to be orchestrated simultaneously on all Micronesian islands to promote and maintain a healthy environment.

Beyond the remarks and discussions amongst the leaders themselves, a significant component of the MIF is reporting on the work, and recommendations for future initiatives, conducted by the MIF's various committees. These committees are comprised of individuals such as Ministers/Secretaries and their associated staff within the Governments that participate in the MIF, with examples such as the Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC), the Regional Health Committee, and the Micronesian Challenge Committee, among others.

For one example, the Regional Health Committee reported on significant achievements and improvements throughout the region, such as the implementation of new and expanded electronic health records, and expanded health workforce development opportunities and pipelines. The Regional Health Committee also recommended for endorsement two

resolutions by MIF leadership—the first concerning equitable access to quality and comprehensive healthcare services for Pacific Island Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and the second concerning U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands' health department capacities and systems to effectively address the health security threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Citizens of the FSM and other islands in the Micronesian family are strongly encouraged to read through the Joint Communiqué, which can be found here: [http://gov.fm/files/Joint%20Communiqués/24th\\_MIF\\_Joint\\_Communique.pdf](http://gov.fm/files/Joint%20Communiqués/24th_MIF_Joint_Communique.pdf)

After the official opening ceremony, each Head of State, Head of Government, and/or Head of Delegation provided their opening remarks. What follows is a mixture of these opening—and, on July 11th, closing—remarks, and relevant outcomes of the MIF.

The first and last to speak was President Panuelo, who emphasized amongst other topics the FSM's initiatives to turn the Nation into “a global preserve or sanctuary,” and the need for genuine collaboration in the Micronesian bloc to tackle the threat of climate change.

President Panuelo also called for unity in action. “The issues we face are sufficiently real, sufficiently important, and sufficiently complex that they are true—and what's true is necessarily not political,” President Panuelo said, recommending that the 25th MIF—which he views as “the signature bloc for our sub-region [of] Micronesia”—be hosted by the FSM National Government.

His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the ROP—and former student at Chuuk's Xavier High School—spoke in large part on the recent entry of Okeanos and their Vaka Motu canoes into the ROP and the broader Micronesian region. “[The Okeanos vessel] sailed from New Zealand to Palau using twenty gallons of coconut oil,” President Remengesau said, noting the clear utility such a vessel provides in tackling climate change.

Representing Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the RMI, was the Honorable Amenta Matthew, Minister



*The Honorable Carson K. Sigrav, Governor of Kosrae; the Honorable Ralph DLG Torres, Governor of CNMI; the Honorable Lou Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam; the Honorable Henry Falan, Governor of Yap; His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; the Honorable Johnson S. Elimo, Governor of Chuuk and Chair of the 24th MIF; the Honorable Amenta Matthew, Minister for the RMI's Ministry of Culture & Internal Affairs; the Honorable Marcelo K. Peterson, Governor of Pohnpei; His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau*

of the RMI's Ministry of Culture & Internal Affairs and former resident of Chuuk State during her high school years. Minister Matthew spoke on several topics, but highlighted gender equality including its relationship to climate change. “[The Government of the RMI] is a strong supporter of gender equality, particularly in education and health...climate change, economic and social development, and human rights, are all cross-cutting in the context of gender equality.”

The leaders were presented information on this topic by the Honorable Molly Heikena, Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Culture & Internal Affairs, that may be shocking. “Studies have shown that 2/3 (66%) of [Pacific Island] women experience gender-based violence, and 60% of women have experienced violence from family or [romantic] partners,” Assistant Secretary Heikena said. “23.3% of the world's parliaments are women, but in the Pacific the number is 6.9%.” In other words, while some may take notice that Guam has a female Governor, a female Speaker, and females comprising the majority of its legislative branch, the key takeaway is that it's noticeable precisely because it is uncommon.

Minister Matthew noted that the proposal for a committee on gender equality is a “step in the right direction.” President Panuelo and all of the other leaders agreed, and a resolution to develop such a committee under the MIF was approved in the Joint Communiqué.

The Honorable Ralph DLG Torres, Governor of the CNMI, spoke next, and while he addressed several issues—such as the CNMI's need to increase its labor force—most of his opening remarks focused on his appreciation for the Micronesian family's outreach after Super Typhoon Yutu. “The CNMI was hit with the biggest typhoon in 85 years on U.S. soil...critical water and power distribution systems [were down]...leaving both [Saipan and Tinian] without power,” said Governor Torres. “And I want to go on the record today to express my, and the people of the CNMI's, profound appreciation to each and every one of you...when you have over 3,000 power poles knocked down, no water, and no light, and you get news from your neighboring islands...where there are FSM and Palau contributions, and RMI and Yap, I mean the whole Micronesia—and you see every

*MIF Continued on next page*

...MIF

Continued from previous page

morning the flags being waved...it gives you hope, but more so the love of Micronesia. And so from the bottom of my heart I thank you.”

The Honorable Lou Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam, spoke on numerous issues—from her Government’s recent executive order on developing a working group to develop and implement a Micronesia cruise liner to an executive order on establishing Guam’s aquaculture industry—but of perhaps most immediate resonance to the citizens of the FSM were her remarks on the environment and on FSM citizens living in Guam. “I look forward to working with [President Panuelo] very closely; we have a lot of FSM residents in Guam which we welcome wholeheartedly,” Governor Leon Guerrero said. “They are productive members of our community and I look forward to working with you on how we can provide opportunities to address [migration challenges].”

One of the outcomes of an Executive’s Breakfast Meeting on July 11th

was, first, agreement that the non-government organization(NGO) We Are Oceania in the U.S. State of Hawaii, and the NGO the Micronesia Resource Center in Guam, provide essential services to migrants hailing from across the Micronesia region; and, second, that the member Governments of the MIF will work to ensure that these organizations collaborate with one another, and in particular the FSM National Government will direct its Consuls General to assist in developing this collaboration, including tying this collaboration with the Compact of Free Association CANN, of which the FSM National Government \$25,000 annually to subsidize. More information can be found in the Joint Communiqué.

The Honorable Marcelo K. Peterson, Governor of the FSM’s State of Pohnpei, spoke next, and while his comments were brief he noted Pohnpei State’s continued dedication to regional collaboration and partnership in the spirit of promoting improved standards of living for all Micronesians. In particular, Governor Peterson noted that “We have important issues that lay ahead of us...such issues [include] infrastructure upgrades, and [addressing] crime.”



Governor Torres and Governor Leon Guerrero pose together

The Honorable Henry Falan, Governor of the FSM’s State of Yap, emphasized the need for action. “I motion against paralysis by analysis,” said Governor Falan, who suggested the importance of planning and the importance of thinking globally, acting locally, and using the most of limited time and resources to provide for citizens’ needs.

President Remengesau noted, in his closing remarks the next day, similar themes when he said “I have three things that I ask all of us to always keep in mind: one is follow-up, two is follow-up, and three is follow-up. I think with those three, we can certainly realize [our goals and vision for the future.]”

The Honorable Carson K. Sighra, Governor of the FSM’s State of Kosrae, was relatively brief in his opening and closing remarks—but profound in both of them. In the former, the Governor noted that “for the first time in three years”, the State of Kosrae was able to pay its MIF dues. (Each Government pays \$15,000 annually for MIF membership, which assists the Secretariat in organizing and implementing the MIF).

However, in Governor Sighra’s closing remarks, he said “I came to this meeting...not really knowing what transpired in the last MIF, and I was intending to criticize the works of the committees [thinking] that nothing has been done. But when I heard the reports and the updates...I was really impressed. I apologize...and I thank very much the committees for the hard work you’ve done.” Governor Sighra’s remarks were echoed by many of the

attendees new to the MIF.

The final opening speaker, and the first of the closing speakers, was the Honorable Johnson S. Elimo, Governor of the FSM’s State of Chuuk and Chairman of the 24th MIF. “Our resolve as Micronesia people should never be undermined at any time...we are strong, and we are resilient,” said Governor Elimo. “We must respect the wishes of our people first and foremost, and as leaders we must respect and carry out those wishes to the best of our abilities anywhere, anytime.”

“As your host, I especially thank all you esteemed Micronesia leaders for making Chuuk your home away from home; thank you and kinisou chapur,” Governor Elimo said.

On the evening of July 11th, immediately prior to the signing of the Joint Communiqué, both the Honorable Mark Mailo—President of Chuuk State’s Senate—and President Panuelo gave remarks.

“I would hope that the MIF will [evolve] in a different way than what we expect: that action speaks louder than words,” President Mailo said.

“I want to recognize the gentleman who arrived today: Mr. Bernard Grundler, Chief Secretary of Nauru Public Service within the Republic of Nauru,” said President Panuelo. “On our behalf, we look forward to welcoming you to the capital of the FSM and welcoming you and, we hope, [the Republic of] Kiribati in joining our MIF family.”



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
PO BOX PS-69  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Phone: (691) 320-8814/5 Fax: (691) 320-8936

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia’s (FSM) Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM) is soliciting bid proposals from interested qualified Organizations/Firms/Individuals for “FSM GIS Data Survey and Atlas Development Services.”

Interested qualified organizations/firms/individuals can obtain further information and copies of scope of work preferably by July 19, 2019 (Pohnpei Local Time) from the following email address: Snyther Biza, GIS/Data Officer, sbiza78@gmail.com

All bid proposals must be submitted to the address below at or before 3:00 p.m., 2nd August 2019 (Pohnpei Local Time). Late bid proposals will be rejected and FSM DECEM reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted. Bid proposals may be submitted by email, courier or delivered by hand to the address below:

Acting Secretary  
FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management  
Attn: GIS  
FSM National Government  
P.O. Box PS-69  
Palikir, Pohnpei 96941  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Telephone: (691) 320-8814/8815  
E-mail address: climate@mail.fm and copy to sbiza78@gmail.com

## Integrated Coconut Processing Facility construction making “Great Progress”, President Panuelo calls for added focus on Tonoas and other islands within Chuuk State

*FSM Information Services*

**TONOAS, Chuuk**—On July 13th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), visited the Integrated Coconut Processing Facility on Tonoas to see how development of the facility was proceeding.

Former President Peter M. Christian had visited the site immediately after the conclusion of the 2019 Pacific Partnership in April 2019, and noticed at the time that there were few clear signs of construction. By contrast, President Panuelo’s visit was witness to clear evidence of substantial work in the past few months, including the setup of containers, generators, trucks, and whiteboards in offices filled with status updates. Of these recent updates include the application of a remediator to the sludge retention pit and the active implementation of the site’s environmental and safety plans.

“I am very impressed visiting this island, you’re making great progress,” President Panuelo told staff from FSM Petroleum

Corporation (known as Vital throughout the rest of Micronesia) and members of Chuuk State and Tonoas Municipal Governments. “I understand from the surveys PetroCorps has done throughout all of our islands that the Nation has the potential to produce about one million gallons of coconut oil for export annually.”

One staff working at the site, who asked to be anonymous but was keen to have his or her professional opinion otherwise quoted, advised that “If the weather is good, we can have everything complete by the end of year.”

The President advised that, while overall progress for the facility has been slower than originally anticipated, that the pace at which it’s picked up in recent months is a positive development. “When I return to Pohnpei I will work with FSM PetroCorps and the leadership of Chuuk State and the National Government to make sure this development is not slowed down,” President Panuelo said. “This is a really good sign of development.”

The President also expressed his enthusiasm to see the richness of the soil in Tonoas. “This is a place with a lot of agriculture, where people grow [coconut and more] for their own livelihood...[offering farmers the opportunity to sell their coconuts when it’s convenient



*The Honorable Joses R. Gallen, Secretary of the Department of Justice; Mr. Myron Hashiguchi; the Honorable Innocente Oneisom, Speaker of the Chuuk State House of Representatives; His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM; Mr. William Kostka, Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust*

for them] is exactly what we need to develop this region.”

President Panuelo also highlighted that, in his view, it may be useful for Chuuk State Leadership to consider prioritizing the regions of Faichuk and Tonoas for economic development initiatives over the course of the next several years. “The Office of the President is open to you,” President Panuelo said. “I want to make a difference. I normally don’t promise anything, because I believe to deliver is better than to promise.”

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*The FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs encourages all parents to ensure that their children have received all their childhood vaccinations. To get vaccinated or for more information, please make a visit to Public Health or call telephone # 320-3144.*

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- (a) To be able to enter the gate to the event, an individual must present a minimum of 5 tickets to the cashier. Tickets will also be on sale at the gate.
- (b) A ticket holder of a booklet (25 tickets) can bring five (5) additional guests to the event
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 Amy Santiago at (691) 320-8766*

*Proceeds of this activity will go to the College's Endowment Fund*

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The Fall 2019 admission application is now open for Baccalaureate Degree in Elementary Education

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**Where to get applications:**

- Office of Admissions Records and Retention
- Division of Education (National and State Campuses)
- Online ([http://www.comfsm.fm/national/oar\\_forms/](http://www.comfsm.fm/national/oar_forms/))

**Third Year Certificate of Achievement in Teacher Preparation - Elementary**

Fall 2019 admission application is now open for the Third Year Certificate of Achievement in Teacher Preparation - Elementary.

**Requirements:**

- Complete the AA in Pre-teacher Preparation-Elementary or other two-year degree in education (excluding the degree in Early Childhood);
- Earn a minimum CumGPA of 2.50 at end of the two-year program;
- Score at least an average of 15 on an entrance essay w/no individual score below 3
- Pass the Language Arts, Math, and Science sections of the National Standardized Test for Teachers (NSTT)

**Where to get applications:**

- Office of Admissions Recruitment and Retention
- Division of Education (National and State Campuses)
- Online ([http://www.comfsm.fm/national/oar\\_forms/](http://www.comfsm.fm/national/oar_forms/))

Applications may be submitted in person or electronically to:

Maria Dison (mdison@comfsm.fm)  
 Dean of Academic Programs  
 College of Micronesia-FSM

**Application deadline:  
 July 12, 2019 at 4:00 PM**



**Registration for Fall 2019**

**Fall 2019 Regular Registration is scheduled on August 14 - August 16, 2019 for all campuses.**

*Contact us for more information.*

National Campus

P.O. Box 159  
 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941  
 Phone: (691)320-2480  
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Chuuk Campus

P.O. Box 879  
 Chuuk, FM 96942  
 Phone: (691)330-2689  
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P.O. Box 1056  
 Colonia Yap, FM 96943  
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P.O. Box 37  
 Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944  
 Phone: (691)370-3191  
 Fax: (691)370-3193  
 E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm

Pohnpei Campus

P.O. Box 614  
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 Phone: (691)320-3795  
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# FSM Congress celebrates 38th National Law Day

Alvie B. Cabañez

On its 38th Year Anniversary, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Congress celebrated the National Law Day (NLD) last July 11-12, 2019. It was held at FSM-China Friendship Sports Center, College of Micronesia (COM), Palikir-Pohnpei.

This year, a Panel Discussion was added to the program along with the annual National Debate. It was held on July 11, 2019 at FSM-China Friendship Sports Center. The discussion topic was, "Women's Roles and Influence in Society." It served to recognize and celebrate the leadership roles women play in Micronesian business, government, and society. It was attended by the debaters together with their coaches, guests, relatives and friends, and COM students.

Panelists agreed that their biggest challenge is balancing the role of being a mother while also being an employee. One panelist said that her biggest challenge is, "accepting that I can only give and do so much", considering the drastic changes in our society.

The panel members were Ms. Liwiana Ramon Ioanis, Chief Clerk of FSM Congress; Ms. Danally Daniel, Directing Attorney, Micronesia Legal Services Corporation; Ms. Maria K. Donre, Vice President, Pohnpei Women Council; Ms. Lina Ruwan, Coach, Kosrae Team; and Ms. Alice Bridge Ehmes, FSM Finance Compliance Officer.

One of the highly anticipated events of the National Law Day each year is the National Debate. The topic this year was, "Be it Resolved that the Federated States of Micronesia Shall Adopt Temporary Special Measures to Ensure Each of the States has at least one Female Representative in Congress." It was held on the second day of the program in the same venue. It was attended by COM students, guests, sponsors, donors, and friends and relatives of the debaters.

"We have a Law Day Committee every year that the court designates. The committee consists of staff members of the National Judiciary as well as representatives from the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch," said Ms. Emeliana Musrasrik-Carl, NLD 2019 Chairperson. "Basically, our role is to ensure that we have the funding, from funding to organization of events, and the rules, scholarships and everything else."

The theme for this year was chosen from a list of fourteen possible topics submitted by the four states. The topic with the most number of votes from the four States was the debate topic, though that particular topic had been debated at a previous Law Day Debate. "The themes are relevant to significant events that are happening in this nation. The issue on having women in Congress is an ongoing issue." Ms. Carl said.

The debaters won their respective State debates earning them the right to

represent their States in the national debate. Each team was composed of two main debaters and one alternate. Each team was required to argue both for and against the proposition. The debate followed the standard tournament format with six main sections that had time limits.

"As a Micronesian, I believe that women should be given the opportunity to work their own way up into Congress. They should be able to show everyone that they are just as capable, intelligent and competent as men," said Felicitas G. Sahn, a debater from Pohnpei Team. She prefers to go against the proposition. Likewise, Hope Mori, a debater from Chuuk Team said, "Micronesian women don't need the Temporary Special Measures. They are capable to run for office and have a seat in the Congress."

Alexander E. Agapito, a debater from the Yap Team, shared the significant lessons he learned throughout his journey as did all the participants. "The two most significant lessons I learned was doing research and time management. I often find myself procrastinating sometimes and I learned not to do it."

PICS debate team Coach O'Jones Penias only had one idea in mind after the competition was over; the idea to share an awareness of public speaking. "I personally believe that each high school should teach public speaking especially in public schools to increase their skills in public speaking," he said.

The awards ceremony was held at Cupids. Yap Team won 3rd place with 504 points. This year two teams won 2nd place. The Chuuk and Kosrae teams each earned 607 points. The 1st place was won by Pohnpei Team with 612 points. Each debater received a plaque, certificate, t-shirt, and mug. The two main debaters on each team received a check worth \$2000 scholarship award.

The Pohnpei Team was represented by Pohnpei Islands Central School (PICS) composed of Felicitas G. Sahn, Jayleen B. Joel, and the alternate Mermilane Johna. The team was coached by Mr. O'Jones Penias. The Chuuk Team was represented by Chuuk High School composed of Daniel Masao Nakayama, Hope Mori, and the alternate Rexan Arongaw. They were coached by Ms. Raisa Chiwi. The Kosrae Team was composed of Ann C. Timothy, Stoney J. Tolenna, and the alternate debater, Jamie Lucy Palik. They were coached by Ms. Lina Ruwan. Lastly, the Yap Team was coached by Mr. Joshua Terence Libyanfinelab Tun and was composed of debaters Nicholas Untun, Alexander E. Agapito, and Danielle Dugwen, as alternate.

The National Law Day Debate Judges came from branches of the FSM Congress namely: Ms. Carolyn Crump, Esq., Ms. Catherine Allen, Esq., Ms. Tammy Davis, Esq., and Ms. Carleila Carl-Edgar, Esq. (alternate).

Ms. Carl expressed her gratitude to everyone who made the event possible especially the sponsors and donors. Etscheit Enterprises, FSM Development Bank, MedPharm, Caroline Fisheries Corp., Ramp and Mida Law Firm, China Star restaurant, and Kaselehlie Diner were among the sponsors. Mr. Seth Forman, Esq., Mrs. Nora E. Sigrah, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. Atarino Helieisar, Ms. Lorina Pernet, and Annie Hasgiulbung were among the individual sponsors.



# ...TIP Report

Continued from page 2

close the court and providing a screen for the victim to sit behind during the victim's testimony.

Each of the four States' had anti-trafficking task forces that continue to regularly meet, with Chuuk's task force being the most active. The government reported that it is following its 2014 National Action Plan and that it also conducts monthly community awareness programs throughout the four States.

The FSM government made many advances in the fight against human trafficking during the reporting period. During that time many people from the FSM expressed the opinion on social media sites that human trafficking was on the rise in the FSM. In fact, what was on the rise was prosecution of cases that might not have been prosecuted before.

While simultaneously lauding the FSM for its increased efforts at the attempt to eradicate human trafficking as the scourge on human rights that it is, it also points several shortcomings that need to be improved. It points out that while the government did establish a standard operating procedure for victim assistance, those procedures did have provisions for proactively identifying victims or referring them to rehabilitation services. "Insufficient (victim) identification efforts may have made victims vulnerable to law enforcement actions against them, such as deportation," the report said. "The government did not provide legal alternatives to the removal of foreign trafficking victims to countries where they may face hardship or retribution."

"Deportation" isn't always a government action. Some workers from other countries have alleged that after reporting to FSM law enforcement officers what they thought to be human trafficking violations against them by their FSM employers, they have found themselves with a cancelled contract and a ticket back to their home country, along with an employer provided escort to the airport.

The government did not report any efforts to monitor foreign labor recruitment or preparation of Micronesians women and girls leaving to work in other countries. It didn't report any efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts or forced labor.

The report says that despite significantly increased training opportunities, "some

judges lacked specialized training and consequently some judges lacked sensitivity to trafficking issues and the trauma victims experienced. In previous years, the absence of judicial training and Micronesian law, which allowed for penalties of fines in lieu of imprisonment, regularly permitted judges to apply penalties that were disproportionately low to the severity of the crimes."

On policing activity, the report said that "The government's police academy training for new cadets included a mandatory training on investigating trafficking cases and how to interview potential victims. Observers stated police still required additional training on sex trafficking and sophisticated investigation techniques. The insular nature of the small island communities at times protected traffickers and impeded investigations. Police did not frequently investigate or charge traffickers whose role was to facilitate rather than impose exploitation, such as hotel owners, taxi drivers, and family members. Authorities did not report any investigations, prosecutions, or convictions of government officials complicit in trafficking offenses."

The TIP report contained a number of suggestions for further progress in the FSM on eradication of human trafficking:

- Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict traffickers and sentence convicted traffickers to significant prison terms.
- Finalize, disseminate, and train officials on procedures for the proactive identification and referral of trafficking victims to rehabilitation services.
- Increase resources for protection services for trafficking victims.
- Increase and institutionalize anti-trafficking training for police, prosecutors, and judges, including on how to implement a victim-centered approach.
- Provide legal alternatives to the removal of foreign trafficking victims to countries where they may face hardship or retribution.
- Strengthen efforts to implement the national action plan (NAP) and state-level plans, including through staffing a governmental anti-trafficking secretariat.
- Monitor foreign labor recruitment for trafficking indicators, including the coercive use of debt.
- Strengthen efforts to conduct anti-trafficking awareness campaigns targeted to traditional leaders, health care professionals, and the public, including those citizens of FSM who might migrate for work overseas.



Commissioner's Office

Office of the Pohnpei Election Commission

P.O. Box 1180

Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Tel: (691) 320-3469 Fax: (691) 320-8907 Email: pohnpeielection@yahoo.com

## TIMETABLE

For November 12, 2019

PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE POHNPEI ELECTION CODE	IMPORTANT DUE DATES (DEADLINES)	EVENTS/ACTIVITIES
<b>Legal Residence</b> 10 PC §1 – 103(6)	Close: Nov. 12, 2018	A person registering to vote may only be designated as his or her legal residence if the person was born in the local jurisdiction or he or she has actually resided in the local jurisdiction for at least one (1) year preceding the date of the next election.
<b>General Election – when held</b> 10 PC §6 – 102	November 12, 2019	General Election for the Governor, Lt. Governor and the Legislators shall be held simultaneously every four years, on the <b>second Tuesday in November</b> .
<b>Time for filing Nomination Petitions</b> 10 PC §5 – 111 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: July 5, 2019 Close: Aug. 14, 2019	In the general elections, nominating petitions for candidates to elective office shall be filed with the Election Commissioner no more than one hundred (130) days or less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date of the election.
<b>Request for Absentee Ballot Off Island</b> 10 PC §6 – 116 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: June 15, 2019 Close: Oct. 3, 2019	Request for absentee ballots shall be made to the Election Commissioner in writing not more than one hundred fifty (150) days nor less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the election.
<b>Request for Absentee Ballot On Island</b> 10 PC §6 – 116 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: Oct. 13, 2019 Close: Nov. 11, 2019	Request for absentee ballots by reason of Travel shall be made to the Election Commissioner in writing not more than thirty (30) days nor less than one (1) day prior to the date of the election.
<b>Voting by Confine Voters</b> 10 PC §6 – 115 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: Oct. 13, 2019 November 11, 2019	Any registered voter qualified to vote at any general or special election who is physically present in the state but who is confined or hospitalized because of illness or physical disability as will prevent him or her from attending the polls shall request for an absentee ballot with the election commissioner not more than thirty (30) days nor less than one (1) day prior to the date of the election.
<b>Marking and returning of absentee ballots:</b> 10 PC §6 – 117 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	October 3, 2019	Not less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the election, the election commissioner shall send to persons who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot outside the state and who request the same, a ballot envelope, affidavit and a covering reply envelope.
<b>POSTMARKED ballot envelope</b>	November 11, 2019	The ballot envelop and the affidavit shall be enclosed and sealed in the covering envelop and shall be postmarked <b>NOT</b> later than <b>MIDNIGHT</b> on the day before the election.
<b>Absentee ballots Must be received</b>	November 21, 2019	Absentee ballots must be received by the Election Commissioner prior to the close of business, no later than seven (7) working days after the election day.
<b>Substitute Candidate</b> 10 PC §5 – 115 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Five (5) days after a vacancy is declared	If a candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor or other singular elected position dies, withdraws or disqualified after the deadline for filing nomination petitions resulting in either not candidate or an unopposed candidate, substitute candidate may be nominated following the same procedure as the candidate who died, withdrew or was disqualified.
<b>Recount</b> 10 PC §7 – 101(3)	One week (7) days after certification date	Petition for recount must be filed within one week (7) days of certification of the result of the election.
<b>Run-Off Elections</b> 10 PC §6 – 103	December 10, 2019	Runoff elections shall be held 28 days after the date of the general election. In a runoff election, there is no write in ballots

Emilio Eperiam  
Pohnpei Election Commissioner  
Pohnpei State Government  
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

June 6, 2019  
Date

# Team FSM Participates in 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa

*FSM Olympic Committee  
FSM Information Services*

**APIA, Samoa**—The 2019 Pacific Games are being held in the Independent State of Samoa from July 7th to 20th, 2019. Of the 27 sports being played in areas such as archery and weight-lifting, Team FSM is competing in Track & Field, Boxing, Volleyball, and VA'A (Outrigger Canoeing). Managed by Castro Joab, Alik Jackson, and Loatis Seneres, Team FSM is comprised of Gold Medal-winners from the 2018 Micronesia Games held in Yap and other esteemed athletes, including 2015 Pacific Games Gold Medalist in Boxing, Jennifer Chieng.

The first week of competitions included VA'A and Volleyball competitions, with the FSM Men VA'A competing in V6 (six-men canoeing) in sprint, middle and long distance events. The FSM paddlers are all from the FSM State of Yap, coached by Stanley Magholyalor. The paddlers are: Joseph Mariana Fagoireg, Destry Nakui Yaiungelpiy, Ezer Haleyaeyur, Joeider Luglith, Raymond Fal, Jayven Tachibelmel, Chester Piyerigyal and M'kenzy Mochgel. The men's V6 sprints (500 meters) preliminaries were held on Tuesday, July 9th and the FSM Men's team finished 4th Place in their heat

behind Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, and the Cook Islands.

The FSM Men's Volleyball team, from Chuuk, began with their first match vs. New Caledonia on Thursday, July 11th. Coached by Anthony K. Bualuay and Haster Aritos, the FSM athletes are: Franson Lee Aritos, Brandon Lee Aritos, Am Albert, Thorn Aritos, Inet John, Lasty John, Simson John, Canory Masaichy, T-Ranito Thomas Narruhn, Gabriel Saladier, Jayheart Orichiro Siren, and Junior Serious.

Boxing and Athletics will be held the second week of the 2019 Pacific Games. Coached by Erick Divinagracia, FSM Olympian Jennifer Chieng will be the only FSM Boxer competing.

The FSM has six sprinters competing in Samoa. The FSM coach is Rendy Germinaro, and the male runners—all from the FSM State of Chuuk—are: Scott James Fiti, Kiudone David, Francis Rigat, McMahan Oneisom, and Benoni Kin. The one female runner, from the FSM State of Pohnpei, is Darla Jonah. The FSM runners will compete in 100 meter, 200 meter, 400 meter, 4x100 meter relay and 4x400 meter relay.

The FSM National Government provided \$150,000 for Team FSM's airfares, accommodations, insurance, stipends, and uniforms. The FSM Olympic Committee provided over \$120,000—funding the Men's Volleyball team five-week pre-games training camp in Chuuk and FSM Athletics training camps in Guam (10 days), Townsville, Australia (7 days) and Nadi, Fiji (10 days). The FSM Olympic Committee also funded the airfares for



*The FSM Men's VA'A team pose for a photo prior to the 2019 Pacific Games competitions*

the Volleyball and Athletics athletes and coaches, and paid a \$10,000 first payment to the Samoa organizing committee for per diem costs for Team FSM for accommodation and meals at the games village at Samoa Methodist College.

The FSM National Government is dedicated towards producing positive and peaceful relationships with all countries and peoples throughout the world. The Government is particularly proud to assist the Nation's athletes, who represent the FSM's values of respect and cooperation in people-to-people competitions. The Government wishes Team FSM the best in their competitions.

## Vacancy Announcement

### Administrative Officer I – Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Energy Division, Department of Resources and Development Federated States of Micronesia

The Department of Resources and Development is responsible in supporting and managing the development of the nation's economy and utilization of its natural resources in a sustainable manner. The Department is also responsible for assisting/coordinating with the States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap to develop their economies by focusing on the four priority sectors of Agriculture, Energy, Fisheries, and Tourism.

R&D's Energy Division is looking for an energetic person with excellent organizational skills and a positive attitude to provide administrative support to its Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Candidates should be able to assist PIU management by handling office tasks, being well prepared and responsive, making reservations or travel arrangements, and generally being a helpful and positive presence in the workplace.

This is a contracted position for a one-year duration with the possibility of extension. This position is equivalent to the National Government's classification Administrative Officer I with an annual salary range of \$12,060.36 to 16,303.56.

#### Administrative Officer Duties:

- Maintain and organize records and filings of all administrative actions
- Assist with the development and completion of procurement documents
- Coordinate work with the CIU to process financial requests and invoices
- Make travel arrangements for members of the PIU and Energy Division
- Assist with the collection of data and the drafting and editing of reports
- Other administrative support duties as assigned

#### Administrative Officer Requirements:

- Associate degree in related field, Bachelor preferred
- At least 3 years of experience in office administration
- Excellent computer and Microsoft software skills
- Strong writing and communication skills
- Detail oriented and well organized
- Desire to be proactive
- Fluent in English

The Department of Research and Administration now invites eligible candidates to indicate their interest in providing the above-mentioned services. Interested candidates must provide a resume and a covering letter briefly explaining their interest and qualification. This is a local recruitment and preference shall be first given to qualified citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Interested Persons may obtain further information including the terms of reference, during office hours from Beulah Daunakamakama at the address and contact details provided below.

Expressions of interest must be delivered by email to the address below with Administrative Officer in the subject line by midnight August 09, 2019 (PONT).

Attn: Beulah Daunakamakama (Mrs) Program Manager, Central Implementation Unit, Investment & International Finance Department of Finance & Administration Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Email: [worldbankpni@gmail.com](mailto:worldbankpni@gmail.com); and [CC.charlie.sedap@gmail.com](mailto:CC.charlie.sedap@gmail.com)

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**Terms and Conditions:** Campaign starts July 15, 2019 at 12:01am (Pohnpei local time) and ends August 28, 2019 at 11:59pm (Pohnpei local time). To participate in the JACKPOT SMS GAME, the customer will need to text the keyword JACKPOT to short-code 505 to collect points. With a chance to win promotional and eventually win the grand prize, customer will need to play the game on a daily basis to accumulate points. Each text (correct or incorrect keyword) sent to short-code 505 will be charged 0.40/txt (GST incl.). For more information call customer care at 691-320-2740.



## President Panuelo signals FSM's support for Human Rights & Good Governance to Miles Young, Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On July 15th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) received Ms. Lara Studzinski, Regional Director for Micronesia within the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and Mr. Miles Young, Director of SPC's Regional Rights Resource Team, in a courtesy call. The purpose of the meeting was to update the President on SPC's collaboration with member states—the FSM is such a member—with a particular focus on human rights initiatives.

“[There is] a growing appreciation for human rights in the Pacific,” Director Young began. “It's not just the FSM—it's across the Pacific.”

“We are doing a lot of work in the FSM—and the states are interested in exploring the idea of setting up a National Human Rights Commission,” Director Young continued.

Director Young described how increasingly human rights issues are being seen as development issues as well. “Gender equality is a development issue and... violence against women is a development issue...because there are costs,” Director Young said, complimenting President Panuelo and the other entities within the Micronesian Islands Forum for agreeing to setup a Standing Committee on Gender Equality.

International studies that have undergone the scientific peer review process demonstrate that countries with high levels of women in education programs, full-time employment, and engagement in the legislative process are significantly less likely to suffer from domestic violence and other forms of abuse, earn more pay, and broadly report having happier lives. Additionally, as the standard of living improves for women the standard of living improves for men, too.

“So how are we doing?” President Panuelo asked. “How would you rate the FSM? I understand that it takes a lot of time because some [of the issues may be] culturally related, or life-style related, or socio-economically related, or a combination of these factors.”

“Well, the [Republic of the Marshall

Islands] has been the leader [in the North Pacific]...they've applied to the [United Nations] Human Rights Council. But we have a lot of support from the FSM—including from the National Government and from the FSM States. Like anything, there's room for improvement—but we're here to support that,” Director Young said.

“The next step is how [the FSM] implements the recommendations that come from [human rights] reports, and that's where we can help,” Director Young continued.

After additional discussion on how SPC can work with the FSM National Government to improve not only human rights data reporting but, also, the implementation of recommendations—such as through a centralized reporting and measuring tool—Director Young wanted to discuss a proposed Good Governance grant with President Panuelo, which SPC has applied for at the U.S. Department of State.

“So what does that entail?” President Panuelo asked.

“Good leadership, transparent leadership, open leadership—strengthening the legislative process, and...addressing corruption issues,” Director Young said. “If we do win it, we'll make...consultations [with the FSM National Government and FSM State Governments]. We said we will not proceed unless member countries endorse [SPC's proposal] and agree with it.”

“Well...I am all for that,” President Panuelo said. “I want a very effective and efficient Government, and I want to be transparent and accountable...I'm sure the [U.S. Department of State] will want to fund this.”

“Any Government that thinks it's already performing at the very best can still improve, and still benefits from guidance and objective, impartial advice,” President Panuelo continued.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with President Panuelo thanking SPC for their continued promotion and technical assistance in implementing human rights projects that benefit the people of the FSM with respect to the Nation's unique cultural perspectives and history.



*Mr. George Isom, SPC Country Focal Officer; Ms. Neomai Maravuakula, SPC Senior Human Rights Advisor; Mr. Miles Young, Director of SPC's Regional Rights Resource Team; Ms. Lara Studzinski, SPC's Regional Director for Micronesia; His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia*

## ...Crash Report 2

*Continued from page 5*

day's landing in Pohnpei, the pilots also talked over and ignored even more alerts than they ignored on attempting to land in Chuuk. In that case, they apparently had a visual connection with the runway in Pohnpei when they reached the minimum altitude that was not interrupted as it was in Chuuk and that landing did not end in tragedy.

“The Air Niugini Simulator training and checking policies and procedures did not require training and testing in the practical application of the challenge and response requirement for the monitoring pilot to take control of the aircraft if a challenge to an unsafe situation, including EGPWS aural alerts went unresolved”, the report said.

Once the plane had stopped and was floating on the surface of the lagoon, a sort of stunned, bewildered pandemonium broke out as passengers came to grips with the fact that water was rising at their feet coming in from great gashes in the side of the plane. I was in seat 24F, the last occupied row in the plane. The young Indonesian fisherman who had been returning home was sitting one row in front of mine. Autopsy results revealed that his seat belt had not been fastened and that on impact he sustained fatal head injuries that likely would have resulted in death within three minutes. It found no evidence of drowning.

The report concluded that the fasten seatbelt for landing announcement was made and the seatbelt signs were switched on. I have no memory of a flight attendant making a check of the few passengers that were aboard to verify that seatbelts were in fact fastened as I have experienced during all of the many flights on other airlines I've been aboard in the past. The report could not conclude whether or not that check happened nor did it mention whether that is part of the procedure in preparation for landing.

AIC made mention that several

passengers reported they could not find life jackets, which was true in my case. The report made no determination of whether or not life jackets were where they were supposed to be. When I exited the plane and was rescued by Chuukese boaters, I had none.

Based on questionnaires that were apparently handed out to passengers who were able to continue on when the rescue flight to Port Moresby came, and on the testimony of the flight crew, for the most part the report found the behavior of the crew members during the evacuation to have been acceptable. It says that only one crew member removed a bag, that their pushing was gentle and only when needed, and that their shouting was necessary to motivate action.

As a passenger, I could not reconcile that portion of the report with the actions I witnessed. As mentioned earlier, I was in the last occupied row in the plane. As I was evacuating up the center aisle toward the center port exit, a flight attendant strongly pushed her way past me toward the rear of the plane, opened an overhead bin and retrieved a bag. Since I had lost my passport I could not board the rescue flight to Port Moresby so was not given a questionnaire to fill out and was not contacted to do so.

The airlines and the Chuuk Airport have made safety changes after the crash in the Chuuk lagoon. Air Niugini no longer operates the Boeing 737 on the Chuuk and Pohnpei routes and is now operating the smaller Fokker 28-70 for those flights.

“The primary consideration for all parties throughout the investigation has been safety and putting measures in place to prevent an incident like this occurring again,” wrote Alan Milne, Managing Director of Air Niugini in a press release. “All of the safety recommendations have been implemented prior today's report being finalized.”

“Now the report has been released, Air Niugini looks forward to continuing to be a safer airline the nation can be proud of,” he concluded.

# Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration updates President Panuelo

## FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received Mr. Stuart Simpson, Chief of Mission for the United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the FSM, Republic of Palau, and Republic of the Marshall Islands in a courtesy call on July 2nd, 2019. The meeting began with Mr. Simpson updating President Panuelo on recent IOM activities in the region and concluded with the President requesting IOM to provide whatever assistance it can in promoting, developing, and implementing environmentally friendly activities, including individuals or organizations who can remove derelict vessels that litter parts of the FSM.

"We do a lot of work with [the Department of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management] on disaster preparedness at a national level, and also a state level," said Mr. Simpson, who gave examples such as IOM's involvement in Super Typhoon Maysak and Typhoon Wutip relief. "After [Typhoon] Wutip, we

checked the houses [built after Typhoon Maysak], and they were all very good."

Mr. Simpson explained how IOM's staff, including temporary project-specific employees, live and work in their target countries, procuring goods and services from within local communities. "We work on counter-trafficking initiatives," Mr. Simpson said, "and we'll [be able to] work with the Freely Associated States to ensure [labor standards in the fisheries sector] are complementary."

"We've upgraded the Pohnpei Radio station, put solar panels on it," Mr. Simpson continued, "And we have developed the [Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk-Reduction & Education/CADRE] program with the Department of Education." Mr. Simpson noted that the State of Kosrae has adopted IOM's climate change curriculum, and has been assisting schools across the nation with emergency evacuation plans in the event of typhoons, tsunamis, and other disasters. Emergency evacuation plans specifically are also one of many requirements for schools under the FSM School Accreditation procedures.

"We're really comfortable and appreciative that we're partners working together," President Panuelo said. "I'd like for you to be thinking about initiatives...ways for our country and [regional allies] to protect our environment."

In particular, the President was keen to know if IOM would be able to assist in any way with the removal of derelict vessels whose continued presence in the FSM's waters risk the safety and beauty of the natural environment.



"We have ships that are like a graveyard, staying around Dekehtik and polluting our islands. I will work with the Congress of the FSM and the FSM State Governments but... if you have any people you know, or organizations you know who can help [to partner with us on these environmental initiatives]."

"I can certainly inquire," Mr. Simpson said in response.

The FSM is enthusiastic over the success of its relationship with IOM, and hopes that the partnership between the nation and IOM can become strengthened even further.



**The Pacific Community (SPC) invites quotations for: Preparation of a video on the challenges of water security in the outer islands of the North Pacific (RENI Project)**

(RFQ/SUV19-012)

The European Union (EU) – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) regional project, implemented by SPC, is about communities working to secure food and water resources ahead of drought. The three-year (2017 - 2020) project is funded with € 4.5 million from the EU and implemented in collaboration with the governments and peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau.

SPC is seeking consultancy service to prepare a short (7-10 minutes) video that can be used in various communications platforms to feature the challenges of water security in the outer islands of the North Pacific (RENI Project). Using existing footage collected by SPC, and an outline storyboard already prepared, this video will feature: (i) the water security work done in Fais Island, Yap State, FSM, between 2012 and 2015, and the 2019 consultation on the long-term impact of the water security measures in Fais Island; and (ii) the key findings from the consultations and how these findings can be applied to the design and implementation of future water security projects in Pacific outer islands.

The delivery of this consultancy will require in-depth knowledge and experience of working in video production in the Pacific Island countries. The consultancy will require regular liaison with the SPC-RENI project team in Suva, Fiji.

For more information on this consultancy and how to submit a quotation: see

<https://www.spc.int/procurement/micro-public-tenders/rfq-suv19-012-preparation-of-a-video-on-the-challenges-of-water>

**The closing date for quotations is 4pm Fiji time on 2nd August 2019.**

**Yap State Government  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Office of Planning and Budget  
Project Management Office**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
(RFP No. RFP-DHS-2019-001)**

The Yap State Office of Planning and Budget/ Project Management Office (PMO) is soliciting proposals for the supply of Furniture, Furnishings and Gym Equipment for the Dept. of Health Services-Colonia Wellness Center Project, to be received until 4:00 p.m. on August 15, 2019, YAP local time. Interested parties are requested to get in touch with the undersigned on the contact details listed below for the RFP documents - List of Furnitures and Equipment.

Arch. Samuel E. Luzano,  
Project Manager- PMO  
YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970  
Colonia, Yap State FM 96943  
Tel. Nos. (691) 350-2324/2576  
E-mail: [pmo@yapstategov.org](mailto:pmo@yapstategov.org)



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## Chuuk's Premier Traveler's Destination



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"I've stayed at L5 for quite some time now and am always impressed by the customer service and how the staff are always up to ensuring your stay is more than you would expect." - Sep 6, 2016

"My family and I have stayed here 3 times during our visits to Chuuk. The staff welcome you with gleaming smiles and are always helpful and upbeat. Our take away from this hotel is the feel of its family atmosphere." - Jan 22, 2016

"So glad this place has re-opened and is where I will stay from now on in Chuuk." - Apr 6, 2016

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